

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM
ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION**

INTERVIEW DATE: February 28, 2008
TIME: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
SUBJECT: BOYHOOD MEMORIES, CAREER AND
STORY OF HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS AS
AN OYSTERMAN.

NARRATOR(S) CLYDE ADRON PHILLIPS, JR.

LOCATION: 803 Glenside Rd., Millville, NJ
(Home of Pat Moore)

INTERVIEWER: Pat Moore, Volunteer BDP Oral History Program

TRANSCRIPTION
COMPLETED:

TRANSCRIPTION BY: Pat Moore, Volunteer BDP Oral History Program

ACCESSION #: 2008.02
CATALOGUE #: 2008.02.01

BEGIN TAPE 1 OF 2 – SIDE A

Meter: 007

Pat: This is an introduction for an oral history to be conducted with Clyde A. Phillips. Today is February 28, 2008. My name is Pat Moore, and I am a volunteer at Bayshore Discovery Project Oral History Program. The oral history will be conducted at my home, 803 Glenside Rd., Millville, NJ.

Pat: Okay, I guess we can get started. I'm here with Clyde and we are about to begin our oral history story. So Clyde welcome.

Clyde: Thank you.

Pat: Why don't we begin with at the beginning when you were born in....

Clyde: I was born. Well, like my brother always said I was born at a very early age and I wanted to be, and I was right close my mother because I loved her so. Bridgeton, born in Bridgeton, only because that is where the hospital was. (laughter) That's what I tell people. I'm not a Bridgetonian, I'm a Port Norriser, raised in Port Norris and that was back in 1933, tail end of the year.

Pat: Oh you are just a youngster.

Clyde: And that was where I was born. Are you going to ask questions or am I going to ramble on.

Pat: No, I'd like you to just ramble on. Just easier that way.

Clyde: Get right down to the details, the first house I remember we lived in was across the North South St. right on Brown St. but also across from where James P. McClain out on the west side of town. Then we moved very early, very soon after that because I only remember one incident there. And our next house was on the corner of Market and I think it's Chestnut. One block south of Main St and one block and one block west of the Millville or the Bivalve Road, which I think is what, High St. Isn't it.

Pat: High Street, yes. Are either of those houses still there? Or have they....

Clyde: Yes, I think they are both there still. I know the one is, the second one that is Andy(Eddie?) Horseman used to live there until he built a house in Millville, after he retired. And that was I believe right next door to his grandfather. And Eddie's father was Sunshine, they called him. I don't know what his name was. Sunshine Horseman a good friend of my dad and I got an idea if as friendly as he was with dad and dad always made sure he got hold of him if he ever came to town and Sunshine always made sure he came visited dad. So I had an idea they had they both came off the islands down in the Chesapeake. They kind of stuck together even clear up to the end. (laughter)

Pat: I was just doing a transcription for another oral history with Billy Bradway..

Clyde: Oh yes, how is he?

Pat: He, I haven't heard in the past couple of months. But I met with him in October and he was doing really good. And but it was funny, he did a whole segment on nicknames. And how everybody down in Bivalve and Port Norris,

Clyde: Got nicknames!

Pat: Got nicknames and he said he was guilty for giving a few. (laughter).

Clyde: Did he tell you about "froggy Dagastine"?

Pat: I don't know about Froggy, he may but go ahead.

Clyde: Now this came from Froggy's brother, Lou. Lou was one of the charter members of the Port Norris Rotary and I belong there now. Lou was very active when I first started 25 or so years ago and Lou told the story about he and Froggy when they were kids, real little and I think it was their uncle that used to drive down in a horse and buggy and taken them for a ride out on the farm or whatever to do things and the old man would sing them the song "Froggy Went a Courting" and I declare,

Pat: Yes, yes

Clyde: You know that song? And Froggy liked it so much that they started calling him Froggy. (laughter)

Pat: I had shared with Bill, I said Meghan was with me and she had asked well you know how did they get you know that particular nickname and he said you know sometimes it's just best if you don't ask for the explanation.. (laughter) Now what was Froggy's first name?

Clyde: I haven't the faintest idea.

Pat: And that is what I'm running into. In talking to Bill he shared with me his mentor teaching him the mechanics of the marine engines and things was "Boob" uh, begins with a "c".

Clyde: Camber.

Pat: Camber, yes. But no one knows

Clyde: No one knows his first name.

Pat: No one knows his first name so you don't even know his first name.

Clyde: I knew him well, but I don't know his first name (laughter).

Pat: Oh, it's just a phenomenon that we will just have to leave unsolved..

Clyde: I often wondered why Bill was such a good mechanic. I guess that's it. Bill was a good mechanic I'll tell you.

Pat: Yes, he was. When you were living down in Port Norris, you went to the schools there?

Clyde: Yes.

Pat: Graduated from high school there?

Clyde: Oh no, I went through after they moved the high school. I was I think in the second class that started high school in Millville.

Pat: Oh, okay. I was wondering when they had closed the high school.

Clyde: My oldest sister who was six years older she graduated from Port Norris, my

Pat: What year was that? Do you remember?

Clyde: Oh I have to work that back, just take six years so it must have been 1946.

And my next sister, and I don't know what class she was in, but she started there and I think my third sister who was a year and half to two years older than me, effectively in school she was two years ahead of me. At one point she lost a year because of her polio. She had, 16 operations. And she lost a year of school.

Pat: My goodness.

Clyde: And she was in Schriners' Hospital in Philadelphia did it and the, she says that she was in the first class that started there,

Pat: Started in Millville?

Clyde: Yes, which would mean that she was two years ahead of me, yes. So then the second class, I would have been in probably the third class. Started high school in Millville.

Pat: So Port Norris actually closed the high school then in 1946 – 45 something like that. Do you know why they closed the high school.

Clyde: Probably, too many students, I don't know. (laughter) Probably now enough teachers, who knows.

Pat: And that building was eventually torn down wasn't it?

Clyde: Oh I don't, no, the high school is still there.

Pat: The high school is still there?

Clyde: Yes, that's the brick building.

Pat: Oh and they have added on to that and that's now the elementary school.

Clyde: Yes, that's all elementary now. What they tore down was a 6 room frame building which was the first 6 years.

Pat: Oh

Clyde: Then they moved over to the brick building.

Pat: Okay, and that first wooden building was on Main Street?

Clyde: Right close on the corner. On Brown St and High Street. Right alongside the brick one. They were separated by a bit but they was right close by.

Pat: What did it feel like coming up to Millville to go to high school?

Clyde: Well by the time I got to it why it was old salt, you know. Scared me to death. (laughter). But if lived next to the high school in Millville it still would have scared me

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to death. Because we were one teacher classes in grade school and when we got up there you're on your own to get from here to there and find where you are going and all that kind of stuff. But

Pat: Did you find a lot of social differences with kids that you were meeting?

Clyde: No, no not really. Millville at the time was still South Jersey like Port Norris was.

Pat: And it was still very much a

Clyde: Country town you know

Pat: Country and there was still lots of farming and kids were farmers and kids of factory workers and yes it was a working mans town.

Clyde: Yes, down to earth people. And there was also a lot of sending districts. I mean Woodbine came and of course the Leesburg side of Maurice River township. Commercial Township so that was all country. So, nearly half the students you know still all country (laughter).

Pat: Yes I know when I started high school, I grew up in Millville and so went to grammar school in town and always had very small classes. And then you are right, you hit that high school and the students coming from areas that half of them I had never even been to and then all of a sudden you know I'm with two hundred and some kids in the freshman class

Clyde: In the one class.

Pat: And yes you were right it was very scary. I can remember couple of classmate, I can remember one, several of them from the Port Norris area that became good friends. Carolyn Cobb, now how she was related to E.B. the basket maker I'm not sure. But I know she was born and raised and lived in Port Norris and I also went to school with Elmer Warren who was Henderson's great grandson. Yes, the ole grandma Henderson that had the Bivalve Hotel.

Clyde: Right

Pat: This must have been her great grandson. And he was quite a character..

Clyde: Well I can tell you a story about him when he was right little we used to swim at Bivalve of course . This was back in the day when they were still under sail, and Elmer I don't think his head would come up to the top of this table.

Pat: He wasn't much taller than me?

Clyde: He was just a little kid. He might have been five or four years old or somethin' like that, and if he was that old. He couldn't swim a lick and he was out there swimmin with us.

PAT: That would be _____.

Clyde: Ha Ha He would put on a life preserver what they called then a life preserver and now they call them personal floatation devices so that in reality it's only used so that the widow can start getting her insurance. Keeps the body afloat so they can be found. Ha Ha! But they were called life preservers at the time. These were the cork ones and they were hard , canvas and sown around the cork pieces and of course little kid like that he put on one that was on the boat and of course I was _____ adult(?) and it would hang on his shoulders to where the bottom of the cork would come to the belt line of a man that was draggin the ground but he would climb out on the

bowsprit clear to the end of the bowsprit and I don't know how high those things had to be off the water and he would dive headfirst into the water

And that cork would hit the water and his feet would not disappear. He'd sit there like that and his feet would be kickin butt up in the air, you know, and he would eventually get himself up righted again and make his way over to the ladder and do it again. Time after time after time. That was my introduction to Elmer. He was alright though.

Pat: He was a fun guy.

Clyde: YEAh, he was alright. I didn't know him as even as a what we usually call kids . He was just a wee tike at the time.

Pat: How many siblings did you have?

Clyde: Three older sisters and a brother, younger brother.

Pat: What were their names?

Clyde: Jean, uh, the oldest, Joyce, Susan, the middle sister, and Juanita, my dad says he named her after his Mexican girlfriend. Ha! He said that in the presence of Mother Ha! Well he's probably had

Pat: I'm going to put this on hold a minute.

Clyde: ____? his Mexican girlfriend and I'm sure they talked, MOM and Dad talked about that or she knows where the name comes from, you know, I never heard her ideas where Anita came from. We called Nita, Pete, Skeeter. All kinds of things. She was a tomboy.

Pat: Your sisters were older than you?

Clyde: Yah! Dad wanted a, uh, to raise a baseball team. He loved baseball. He played for the Baltimore Orioles at one time, on a farm team. They still owe him a week's wages. Ha! Ha! And, uh,so he wanted a boys' baseball team and ____ (?) three of the girls so he decided to go for a girls' basketball team and then I came along and that just threw all that out the window. (Laughter)

Pat: Is your brother now living __ (?)?

Clyde: Yeah! He's a couple years younger. We're basically two years apart.

Pat: And what is his name?

Clyde: John.

Pat: John.

Clyde: Johnny. John Thomas. Named after my grandfather. John Thomas Phillips.

Pat: Um Hum!

Clyde: Who I think was named after, uh, John Thomas down on the islands. He was a preacher down there or.

Pat: What Islands are you referring to?

Clyde: Uh, Chesapeake Islands. Eastern Shore. Uh, Hooper's Island. There's a man down there named Joshua Thomas who was born on July 4th, 1776 and, uh, he grew up on Tangiers and there's a good book about him called " Parson of the Islands". Good book, good biography written by a man who knew him and knew all of the people who were the sources of the information who also knew him. He had a son named John, so it would be John Thomas but I believe he also had a son named John.

Pat: Uh huh.

Clyde: So it will still be John Thomas and I think my granddad was named after one or the other of them.

Pat: I see.

Clyde: And never been able to confirm it at all.

Pat: Was, uh, was it was Hooper's Island?

Clyde: Hooper's Island.

Pat: That your father was born on,uh...

Clyde: Jim Hooper came from there. You might have run across that name, some of your people might have mentioned him. He was an oysterman at one time.

Pat: I have not heard that name now.

Clyde: He was from there. And..

Pat: Well, was that in the proximity of Smith Island also?

Clyde: Smith Island. I'd really have to look at a chart to tell for sure and then it would have to be better than just a chart for the bay. It's gotta be something of the bottom, have the bottom formation as from one island to another. I'm not sure that Smith Island is not the next to the last islands (on Smith Island is always singular a set of islands)?

_____?

Pat: UM huh.

Clyde: And, uh, that one and Tangier may be the last two islands on the chain that starts with Hooper's Island.

Pat: Okay.

Clyde: Hooper's Island is very close to the mainland. Except the mainland there is all marshes and water_____ anyhow.

Pat: Now, uh, Hooper's Island and those particular islands, weren't they settled during the Revolutionary War or were there people there before?

Clyde: Before, yeah. Like I say uh, that's one of the islands that was, of that probable chain and Thomas was born on Tangiers in 1776 and it was well settled at that point. They were settled. The people who moved into those places and the mountains of Appalachia and to the Ozarks basically were the Scots that were chased out of England.

Pat: Yes.

Clyde: Either by force of threat or threat. They threatened to take over their land whether they did anything with them or not. They looked for the land that would, that they could survive on but wouldn't be so good that anybody would want it.

Pat: I see.

Clyde: My uncle who lived in Millville up until he died, he moved up here right after World War 11. He went to war and he said one time, oh, maybe twenty years ago, that he would love to move back to the island but he couldn't afford it. The house that my dad was born in,uh, ten years ago was on the market for \$175,000 and, uh, I'm sure if it went on the market now it would be \$300,000.

Pat: Isn't it something?

Clyde: It's because all the people around Washington and Annapolis want a place down there and they can get that kind of money.

Pat: Just a summer place or a weekend place. (196)

Clyde: Yeah! It's not because the houses are that valuable but they put the price on it and they can get it. Ha Ha!

Pat: Ah, Ah, Gosh I don't know it's gotta be 15 years ago Gordon and I took a trip down to the Chesapeake area. And we took a small boat from Cumberland County Virginia, uh, we were camping in that area, out to Smith Island and the gentleman that was captain of the boat, his name was Gordon. So,

Clyde: Huh!

Pat: And, uh, we were the only two people on the boat. At the time it was in the fall and what an interesting conversation we had with him in that it had only been in most recent years that there was really any kind of immigration to the island. And that for all these many years, hundreds of years, several hundred years, that Smith Island existed. That, you know that the families just kind of intermarried and kept a very close environment there.

Clyde: Oh, yeah!

Pat: And made their living as watermen and, uh, lived off the sea and things like that. Very interesting, very interesting man.

Clyde: Did you ever read the book Chesapeake?

Pat: No, I haven't.

Clyde: Oh, you ought to read that. Uh, there's a family in there that, it's kind of, I forget the comedian's name now that, uh, Foxworthy, Jeff Foxworthy

Pat: Yes, yes, Jeff.

Clyde: Jeff Foxworthy. He says his family tree is vertical. No branches. Ha! There's a family in that book, there's a family in that book and I forget the name, but they are, uh, that's the way they are. You know. They, they did worse than marrying their cousins. The cousin was probably the most distant relative that they had. Hah!

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Pat: It's quite an interesting, wonderful area. Uh! Tell me a little bit about now about your parents and start with your mom. Where was she born and raised?

Clyde: Well, she was actually born in North Carolina but that's because my grandmother and granddad were headin to Florida. Ha! And I can't remember if they were going down on boat or not. Granddad use to, he used to run down to Stewart, Florida on the boat.

Pat: What year was she born do you remember?

Clyde: Uh! '05 I think. 1905 and Dad was born the year before. If I remember correctly. And, uh, it's either '04 and '05 or '05 and '06. And, uh, that's one of the things I was going to look on the, in my computer today was to find Dad's, I got a picture of Dad's tombstone because I wanted to have one just like it for Mom. So I took pictures of it and took it to the man to get it made. But anyhow, it was '04, yeah, Mom was I think '05. February the 22nd, I believe.

and, uh, her name was Rae Dilehay Jefferies.

Pat: What was her name?

Clyde: Rae Delehay Jefferies. Her middle name was Dilehay.

Pat: Could you spell that?

Clyde: No. Ha! Ha! There's so many ways of spelling those.

Pat: Her first name was Rae?

Clyde: R A E yeah! Rae Dilahey.

Pat: Dilahey?

Clyde: That was my grandmother's maiden name.'

Pat: Okay. So it could possibly be Dillahey. _____ a phonetic spelling of that.

Clyde: That's probably right.

Pat: And her , that was her maiden name? Dillahey.

Clyde: Yeah! Yeah! Jefferies. Her last name was Jefferies.

Pat: Jefferies.

Clyde: Yeah! Uh, her father was, of course, a Jefferies because his father was a Jefferies. That's kind of the way it goes and his mother, Granddad's mother, my great grandmother was of the Lake family from the Ocean City Lakes if you ever heard of them. They were, there was a flock of preachers in that family that went around and founded towns and Ocean City was one of them. National Park, NJ was another one, Palisades Park was another one

up in north Jersey up on the Palisades.

Pat: And, uh -----

Clyde: They also _____(?)

Pat: There's one in Ocean County, too. Oh, I can't think of it now. There's a Lake there. I think it's part of the name, but anyway go ahead.

Clyde: They, they, somehow, I don't know how they did this but they named Saskatoon, Saskatchewan(Sp.?) They were involved in the (_____) of settling (_____) , although the little town was that of two or three families. You know. I think they moved in and developed it or something. I don't know.

Pat: Where did your mom grow up?

Clyde: In Port Norris.

Pat: Oh, she did?

Clyde: Yeah!

Pat: Now her father was....

Clyde: An oysterman. Yeah. He was an oysterman.

Pat: So that's where your mother and father met?

Clyde: Yeah! The eastern shore work opportunities fluctuated terribly. Not only by the season but, well by the season like Port Norris does now, you know, during oyster season they're oystering and during crabbing season they're crabbing, during farming season they're farming, you know, but they're employed all year round.

Pat: Exactly!

Clyde: But

Pat: But you've got to move around, but you've got to move around.

Clyde: You've got to move around. You have to _____, But you can do it.

And, uh, that's the way the eastern shore is but they had terrible fluctuations and they might go two or three years with a lot of work and two or three years with no work.

During one of those no work times why Dad came up as, I think he was 16 when he came up, and apparently he worked for my granddad.

He married the boss's daughter. You know how it is? I got an idea that's how he got started although as far as I know he didn't get started in the oyster business until the 40's, at least. And, uh, I don't know that he was, other than working for my granddad, he did not have his own oyster boats until he got one he called the Lady Rae.

Pat: uh,huh. I was going to ask about that in a while. Um! so your dad, uh, how did he come up here? Did his father bring him up or did he come on his own to, you know, work temporarily?

Clyde: I really don't know about that part of it. His dad may have, uh,

Pat: When did he come and stay here full time? When he decided to marry?

Clyde: That's. No, well, that's when he came up and stayed full time.

Pat: Oh, okay.

Clyde: Yeah, he came up then. He might have been 17 or so because he was captain of an oyster boat when he was 16 down on the Chesapeake.

Pat: Oh!

Clyde: And, uh, start young then when you're poor. Ha!!

Pat: Yes.

Clyde: He captained, it wasn't his own boat, I don't know whose boat it was. It might have been my grandfather's, I don't know, I never knew much about what he ever did. There used to be a comic, one panel comic strip in the Sunday papers. took up half the page and I think it was called Right Around Home and there was a character in there, I believe, his name was Malcolm Milk toast. He just kind of sat around the sidelines and never said anything, never did anything and that's, that was my granddad when I knew him.

Pat: Yes

Clyde: He'd had a nervous breakdown or something somebody said. Whatever that means and he rarely ever raised his voice. I often think of Jack Sprat who could eat no fat and his wife could eat no lean and that was the way my grandfather and grandmother looked. Granddad Philips was very slender. Skinny as a rail and Grand mom was always heavy, always heavy.

Pat: When you,uh, do you remember hearing stories about how your parents met other than...

Clyde: Never heard any stories. I got an idea, I just, just trying to figure it out. I'd say it had to be because Dad worked for her Daddy, you, know.

Pat: Yeah, for her father.

Clyde: Yeah!

Pat: Were they married in Port Norris?

Clyde: I believe so. I'm not sure where they were married. Their first house is in Haleyville and that house is still there and I believe occupied. I believe it is still occupied and last time I really looked at it to think about it. I drive by every once in a while. I don't really look at it. But that's where they started married life.

Pat: One of the questions I was going to ask you is, uh, you had mentioned one of the boats that he owned was the Lady Rae and I was going to ask you who was this boat named for?

Clyde: Well, Dad named her the Lady Rae named after Mother. That was his second Lady Rae. Lady Rae II but it never had the II on it, just Lady Rae. He had a head boat more or less, oh, like some of these party boats around here, picnic boats some people call them and he had one of those and that was named Lady Rae. That one was built by Bronsa Parks down in Wingate not to far from Hooper's Island. One of the best boat builders down there. He is also, I believe, the last one in that area that built skipjacks. In 1955 he built 3 of them, 2 of them now are in museums. One up in the head of the bay. I forget the name of the town right now but the Martha Willis still carries her same name and the Orville Parks was built by him which is at the Chesapeake Bay Museum. Fastest one out there. I watched him race all those boats. Oh, no, I didn't watch him race all of

them. He, he raced the winner of the Deals Island race. Because he was so good and beat everybody every year, they took him out of the race. Ha! So he always raced a match race against the winner of the _____ Deals Island race.

Pat: After your Mom and Dad were married was he a crew on an oyster boat or was he being captain at that time?

Clyde: Well, at one point he was crew on Granddad's boat the R & H Jeffries and that's for Robert and Hannah. That was their names. She, uh,, I guess it would have to be early in the year, maybe late in the year. No, it would be early in the year probably _____ the tomatoes from Yucatan Peninsula to New York. And, uh, it got caught in a hurricane off of Hatteras, of all places, and they were trying to put a reef in the main. And, uh, they were short crewed. They didn't have a very big crew. I think only 4 men and the wind got that sail out of control from the men. They, they couldn't hang on to it. The boom came down. My Dad was out, got wrapped up in the peak halyard which goes all the way to the head of the mast and it wrapped around his leg and broke his leg in 7 places.

Pat: Oh, my goodness!

Clyde: They were way off shore. They wrapped him up in a sail cloth and it took them 7 days to get to New York City. That's where they were going and going 7 days he was up there with a broken leg all that time. It must have been fun. He never limped from that.

Ha. Never saw him limp. Whoever did the work on it did a good job.

Pat: uh, Then he started, uh, I didn't realize that there was out of the Port Norris and Bivalve area and Port Elizabeth and Greenwich, I am now learning, that they were, there were ships that actually hauled freight to South America and

Clyde: Oh, yeah, they went ocean wide.

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Pat: I didn't, I didn't realize they went, uh,

Clyde: In fact they did that up until I was a teenager.

Pat: So, so your mother's father's boat he...

Clyde: Yeah! He used that for a freighter when there were off seasons which was... Oyster season basically for making money was only about 3 or 4 months old, long.

Pat: Exactly, Yeah!

Clyde: That means they had to make an awful lot of money in 3 or 4 months or they had to find other work. Ha!

Pat: Did Jefferies own beds?

Clyde: Oh, yeah! He had oyster grounds. I never knew how much.

Pat: Now did some of the oystermen, did they lease the grounds from someone else or did everybody own, have to own their section that they farmed?

Clyde: When they talk about they owned the land they actually were leasing it from the state. Ha! Everything under water belongs to the state. It was leased from the state. And they had to lease it every year.

Pat: I was going to ask you that.

Clyde: But they had first choice and I don't know if there is any kind of rule about it had to stay unleased for one year or so before it could be leased by anyone else.

Pat: Was that to let the oysters regenerate a little bit?

Clyde: No, the oysters had nothing to do with it. If you didn't have a lease you couldn't dredge them. That's my knowledge.

Pat: Okay.

Clyde: You couldn't do anything with it and you had to pay. But the lease wasn't all that much. I remember when it was real high it was \$1.50 an acre.

Pat: Wow! Oh, my. Isn't that...

Clyde: Didn't hardly pay for the book work., you know?

Pat: I guess. I guess. I'm going to switch over now to talk to you about the story you were sharing with me before about how and when your dad acquired the A.J. Meerwald.

Clyde: Okay.

Pat: You know, how long did he own her and what did he name her and....

Clyde: He didn't name her at all. It was the A.J. Meerwald when he bought it. I don't know how long it stayed, I know when it changed its name and that's when he had her rebuilt as an oyster boat cause she was originally a fire boat so as far as we're concerned. When we bought it from the Meerwalds it was a fire boat completely equipped with the equipment that the federal government put on it. I don't want to say that because I don't know whether it was _____?_.

Pat: And that fire boat was, the Meerwald first was purchased by the government, the Navy, and used as a fire boat and during World War 11 in the Delaware River.

Clyde: Yeah!

Pat: Okay.

Clyde: Where exactly I always thought that she was kept at the Navy yard up there in Philadelphia. Don't have any idea. That's the way we heard it. I heard a lot of things back then that people are telling me that's not the way it happened. I wasn't even old enough to be interested in it. You know. We got a boat and we got a boat.

Pat: That's right.

Clyde: You know. But when Dad, uh, of course he didn't keep her long before he took the rig, the fire rig off of it and put the oyster rig on because he had to have it. That's what he got it for, an oyster boat.

Pat: Yeah, you said he had it rebuilt in Dorchester.

Clyde: Yeah!

Pat: What ship yard?

Clyde: Well, it would be the Dorchester Ship. There was one yard at the time.

Pat: Okay. And that was owned by the Stowman family?

Clyde: Yeah!

Pat: Okay.

Clyde: There was maybe three Stowmans at the time.

Pat: Yeah, I think you said it was supervised under Charles Stowman, the rebuilding of the....

Clyde: No, Because I didn't know. I didn't say that, I don't think. Uh, Walton was there, I think. Walton was running the yard and of course there was Woody and _____ that was there, they were, may have corrected me at the time and I can't remember what they corrected me to. They would remember who it was, you know, both of them being raised by the Stowmans.

Pat: What kind of, how did they rebuild her for oystering?

Clyde: Well, to start with, the Navy had taken all the rails off of the boat so she was flush decked. Nothing above the deck around the edge. So they had to put holes all through the deck and the water way. There was a plank that goes around the edge of the deck that's called the water way. They had to put holes in there and put top timbers all through them.

The holes are always bigger than what top timbers are. It's not a real tight fit. Probably about an inch all way around them. Then they put cedar wedges in, uh, to tighten it up and close it up because cedar will swell up. It's never going to leak 'til it rots. But taken care of. They had to put top timbers around top walls and then put the oyster rig on.

Pat: Now what is the oyster rig?

Clyde: Well, everything pertaining to oystering.

Pat: Okay!

Clyde: Had to have winders put on. When the Meerwald _____ of course, it was rigged like the other sailboats were because she was a sailboat originally and the winding gear was on the deck with the deck engine.

Pat: Now, I'm going to interrupt you just for a second. I had just, when I was interviewing Billy Bradway, uh, it was mentioned that he had an invention, I think he called it an air winder? And that air winder is still used today and unfortunately he never patented it.

Clyde: You don't. When you're doing things like that you don't patent anything. You just do it 'cause you need it. Ha!

Pat: Exactly. That's exactly what he said.

Clyde: His, his air winder was not a winder necessarily. The winder was still run off the main engine.

Pat: Okay!

Clyde: But what it was is he hooked up the brake controls by air and he used the brake actuators off of trucks. And, of course, I'd have an air compressor so I'd just _____ on the main engine on most of the boats. And of course air is better than hydraulic at this point because you could use hydraulics but , uh, you get a leak in an air system, all your leakin' is air. You get a leak in a hydraulic system you might pump 50 gallons into the bilge before you even know it has a leak. And it's under high pressure which means it's going to splatter everywhere. I had that on the boat I was workin' on one time. luckily it leaked up on the deck so it just washed overboard. That hydraulic fluid is pretty light.

Pat: So when he was having this rebuilt, he had an oyster dredge or two....

Clyde: Yeah, two, two is normal. Now, back in the old days they might want four or more, but four anyhow.

Pat: Now....

Clyde: Now they are limited two to a boat, I think.

Pat: After she was rebuilt, is when he changed the name to Clyde A. Phillips?

Clyde: Like I say he never named it. No, that's when Mother named it. Ha!

Pat: I stand corrected.

Clyde: Dad was out in Colorado selling oysters, I guess, and I don't know what he was out there for but he was out in Colorado, Denver, and that was when the boat was on the railway being rebuilt. The customs officials had to come down from Philadelphia to measure the boat because things were being changed and the interior had to be remeasured to document it as a private boat and as an oyster boat or whatever and at that time then can change the name of the boat with no additional cost. Change it any other time there is an additional cost, not very much, not, you know, if you really want the name you'll pay for it. Paper work is what it is. And also they had to pay for the man driving down from Philadelphia. He was already there because he had to be there for that job and that job is, I imagine, I would imagine there was _____. They closed

the customs office in Port Norris and, uh, because there wasn't that much work for them. And, uh, they called the house to find out what the name was going to be. Of course, Dad wasn't home so Mother said it's going to be called the Clyde A. Phillips and that's all there was to it. Dad got home from Colorado and it had name boards on her. She was already named so two things he didn't want named for him and that was any children or a boat.

Pat: Isn't that interesting!

Clyde: Now Mother named me and the boat and Dad never held it against either one of us, I don't think.

Pat: That was good. That was great. How long did he own her?

Clyde: Probably ten years 'cause it was right around '47 or so when he got her, '48 and it was right around then when he died. '57, '58, I don't know. Recollection of dates have never been good because I've never been concerned. That's all documented somewhere anyhow.

Pat: Yeah, you had shared with me the year that your father did pass away. That was the beginning period of the MSX?

Clyde: Yeah, I would imagine it was the second or third year of the MSX, but it was the year that most of the bay was wiped out. It took a couple three years for that to happen. There's a small area down in Deepwater that was hit drastically, every oyster in that little area. but it was only in acres. It wasn't in square miles, it was in acres. And the following year it spread quite a bit more, but not that much. But the following year it hit everything. And, uh, that's the year that he died.

Pat: How old was he?

Clyde: 52.

Pat: Wow! He was a young man.

Clyde: Yeah, he'll never be as old as I am now.

Pat: Yes, you had Then what happened to the boat after, after he passed away?

Clyde: Well, it was tied up in collateral for a loan at the bank. Dad was doing something. One of things he was doing was building a shucking house down at the lower end of Bivalve. It's where, uh, wait I forgot his name now, that lower region had a clam house down there. Most of the people down that way knew where the bar was.

600 And I'm talkin' about the legal bar, of course, and, uh, it was built in a shuckin' house and had an apartment, a nice apartment built upstairs they were going to move to after they got it finished and that was never finished. And, uh, but it was, it was a reasonably small shucking house. He was going to continue in the business but not be as big as he was.

Pat: So he actually never opened the shucking house?

Clyde: No! No, it was not completed when he died. And he died from stress. He was heavily into the bank. Ha!

Pat: Wasn't that the story of everyone? It was so

Clyde: Well, you borrowed during the year to live because in the three months you had to get the oysters you could, you could pay it.

Pat: Yes!

Clyde: And, and the banks knew this up until MSX hit. That was, that was true and uh, Dad was three quarters of a million dollars in debt and that's a hefty debt, but he had the oysters to back it up until he went out. And he went out to try his grounds and every

place he tried they were dead. He was alright, apparently alright. I mean, he wasn't alright. Stress was gettin' to him. Uh, but he was thinking about paying that bill off which he had planned to pay off long before December.

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And, uh, he now he couldn't do it but he didn't have to tell anybody. Now it's getting up to the first day of the season. Everybody goin' to go out and start dredging. There weren't very many people knew they were all dead out there. Not too many people used to go out and try the grounds that close. They would try it during the summer sometimes just to see what was happenin', but not too many people knew it was all gone. Boats went out and they came back with nothing, you know, and of course Dad died at night before the next morning when he knew that he was going to have to show the whole world that there wasn't any oysters out there. YOU know. So stress got him. And there was one other man, Roy Yates, they have told me died the same way, the same reason and, uh, now Roy Yates was always known as a money man and if he died for the same reason, he was in debt, too.

Pat: Oh, absolutely.

Clyde: But then again he was a money man. He may not have been in debt, but he wouldn't be makin' the money he was plannin' on. Ha!

Pat: Um, huh!

Clyde: Still be stressful, you know. Still be stressful.

Pat: When your, before MSX and your dad was oystering, did he run just the Clyde A. Phillips or did he have

Clyde: Well, he had the Lady Ray first. We bought that tied to a tree in the lower part of Mauricetown on the Mauricetown side of the river sunk. I can remember on Sunday it was my job to go there _____?

Pat: You know what her name was before you _____?

Clyde: J.J. Saunders. She was named for J.J. Saunders who built the boat. She was built by J.J., uh, in 1901.

Pat: Where?

Clyde: In the Chesapeake. Soloman's, I believe.

Pat: Okay!

Clyde: I believe she was built at Soloman's. It's easy to check. Just get a book prior to our departure. Uh, one is, what do they call it, The merchant Vessels of the United States. And, that part of her history will be there, Where she was built and when. And, uh, the nearest boat I can find that looked like her used to be the watch boat on the Chesapeake. Smith Brown Jones her name was. Named after the governor, the treasurer and the commissioner of shellfisheries or somethin'. The Smith Brown Jones was her name. She was a beautiful (bug eye?). Still under full sail even when our boats were not.

Pat: So the Lady Ray was a bug eye?

Clyde: Yes.

Pat: Now.....

Clyde: Double ended like a canoe. She was a

Pat: What makes a bug eye a bug eye?

Clyde: A bug eye is, to be a true bug eye has to be an oyster boat. Now I say that because a bug eye is a, uh, newer version of the old word bucky which means oyster boat.

End of side A on tape one

Beginning of Side B of tape one 000

Pat: We are going to go back to talking about the bogeys.

Clyde: Where we left off. Anyhow the bogeys were named, uh, that area was one of those areas that was settled heavily by the Scotts. A lot of the builders, the good builders were Scotts. And, uh, the bug eye, what they called a bug eye then was a development really of the Indian log canoe. The Indians just hollowed them out with fire, put a little blunt end on both ends of them. I guess they handled quite well. There was one _____ . When the western Europeans came why they had boat building schools to start with. They just continued it. They just carved it out with adz, hatchets, and things like that and they carried that on up until, I think, the '30's. Even they were building the log canoes. But the log canoe was a smaller boat. They got to be about 27 foot long which would be an awful long one. The St. Michaels, I think that's what they called it, the St. Michaels version of them. There was three different classes of those boats. But, they wanted to go rougher weather and longer in the winter and all this kind of stuff and these, these first boats were undecked all. They came out with what they called a (brogan?) which is half decked. And of course, a brogan is a shoe. It kind of looks like a shoe. And sometimes had a (cuddy?) cabin forwards and they used them for crabbing and for tonging oysters. But, when they really wanted to do something, the _____ in use were either one mast or two masts. The brogans were all two masts, unsaid. NO stays on them. Then they got to stay on the main mast, or the foremast was staid because that was the biggest mast and the main mast was a smaller sail and that was last to be staid. Then they fully decked them. From about 45' on up they became bogeys fully decked with the cabin back aft and sometimes just a small cabin forward, cuddy. _____ they moved the cabin aft. This was the bug eye. Then somebody came up with what they called a patented stern 'cause they actually patented it. It was double ended like a regular canoe. Then when they wanted to put the davits on for hanging the boat over the stern they couldn't do it. There was no place to do it. You have to have two of them in order to hold the boat up, you know? So somebody came up with the idea of putting a transverse heavy beam right across the stern post and then two smaller beams from the rails back. That stabilized it and they could put the davits on and then somebody decided they was going to deck that over which they did. Was just a plank, they just filled it in with planks, but it increased the deck room back there. That was what they called a _____ and stern boat. So if you see one of those boats, the p____ and stern rigs almost look like a square stern boat. Underneath that ledge the old canoe stern is still there. They're a fast boat. They're a nice boat. I love 'em. That's what I started on. My first boat I steered when I was a kid was the Lady Ray. It was under power at that time.

Pat: That was a schooner?

Clyde: No, it was a bug eye.

Pat: How many masts?

Clyde: Two.

Pat: Two masts.

Clyde: Now the difference in rig, now although there was a boat down there by the name of the George B. Phillips. Rather or not that was a relative I don't know. That was what the Chesapeakers always called square rigged. It was rigged like our schooners are or were. Same rig on them. The masts were almost as vertical as even the Maine coast placement. Usually their masts were very straight up in the air. The bogeys have quite a bit of _____ (55) on them. We had a, here's another nickname, we had Gus the Geesle. He was a Swedish fella. He was the only man we had that would go up the mast and scrape it because it leaned back so far. He dropped a knife used for scraping where they put tar and oil on it rather than paint. They paint the mast head, the very top of it, but they would tar and oil the main part of it where the sails would go up.

Pat: What was his name again?

(60)

Clyde: We called him Gus. But we called him Gus the Geesle. Don't ask me why.

Pat: _____ was telling me about another guy by the name of, they called him Cecil diesel. I was wondering if it was the same person.

Clyde: NO, Cecil Diesel may have been Cecil and I don't know his last name but he was a captain. A black fella worked around the waterfront and he was a good oyster boat captain. I wouldn't say there wasn't any better but he was up there with the best, as far as I'm concerned. He always caught the oysters. I'm sure that's what they called him just because Cecil is so close to diesel. And somebody like _____ this might have been one of those names he put on him. _____ worked _____ diesel engines. He would have thought of that. Anyhow, Gus the Geesle was up there and dropped the knife and it went right down the smoke stack that was coming out of the cabin. Puts the mast head of the main mast which is the forward mast on these boats, on a schooner, the main mast is afterward, but it put the mast head further back than the other mast was even stepped. So it was stepped at a spot that that mast leaned back like that it was really past where the other mast was stepped.

Pat: Was the J. and E. Riggins.....

Clyde: No, J. and E., if I remember, She was a regular schooner. I have an oil painting of her by Hinks, Hingly, an old coast guard commander that came our way and started oil painting all the oyster boats and I got three of his paintings.

Pat: His name is....?

Clyde: His name was S. Kurtz. Skirts (Ha) if you read it real fast it would be skirts. S. -- -? Kurtz Hinkley. I think it was Hinkley. He came down in our area. He was from Philadelphia area and when he retired from the coast guard after thirty-five or forty years he went into business up there and he took up the hobby of oil painting. He was selling them so fast that he was making so much money that he sold his business.

Pat: The Bay Shore Discovery was presented with an original oil of Chillie McConnell's. Chillie McConnell did an original of the J. and E. Riffin and presented it to the owner of the Riffin, Oh, I can't remember his name off the top of my head right now. When he

won the Delaware Bay race and this was showing the J. and E. Riggin during the race. It's a beautiful.....

Clyde: The J. and E. Riggin was owned by the Riggins brothers, I think, and that would be

Pat: I think the boat was named after his sons John and Edward.

(100)

Clyde: Edward was the E. but the J. was, now let me work on it. No, it could have been Jacob or something like that. An old Biblical (name) who used to live right down close to the, uh, on North Avenue in Port Norris just north of the lumber yard. Not the first house, I don't think, but it could have been. I'm trying to think who bought that house and lived in there. I think they called him Jiggs, but I'm not sure.

Pat: Um hm, I think I've heard that.

Clyde: I think they called him Jiggs.

Pat: While Your dad was oystering was he selling his oysters directly himself or did he take them to a shucking house and sell them that way or did he deliver them?

Clyde: I never knew Dad in the oyster business without the shucking house. I don't remember him doing any oystering prior to

Pat: Remember which shucking houses he dealt with?

Clyde: Phillips' Seafood Packing Company. (laughter)

Pat: Was that a relation?

Clyde: Yeah, it was Dad. It was his business.

Pat: So he fished them and then he also packed them?

Clyde: Oh, yeah! He did the whole works. He had thirty-five hundred acres of bottom out there and worked that.

Pat: _____ 122? And so he did have a shucking house?

Clyde: He built his shucking house where the oyster lab originally was in Bivalve. It was at the upper end of the sheds and those sheds are _____ than what they are now. If you are familiar with where the oyster lab is now, there is a building that stands alone that goes out over a dock. That building covers the second dock of the entire shed area.

There's one more dock up river from that. There's that dock and the dock that has a shed on it and then another run down dock that, unless they've rebuilt it, you don't even walk on it or sneeze near it. But those three were Dad's. That's where the shucking house was and what is now that storage shed for the oyster lab was Dad's oyster bin. That's where he stored the oysters. Had a concrete floor.

Pat: Did he have his own can with his company name on it?

Clyde: Yes.

Pat: Do you have a collection of those?

Clyde: I have some. I don't know if the Discovery Project has one of them or not. I still have a few gallons. I've got several pints. if they don't have them.

Pat: I'll let you know.

Clyde: I've got an idea that I've already given them some.

Pat: Okay, I'll check on that.

Clyde: I took a gallon and a couple pints down to my cousin Sandy down in Maryland. She's an antique dealer. She said, "Did Uncle Clyde have a can of his own?" I says,

"yeah" . She said, "Tell me is this it?" She got one of these great big books on oyster cans and she knew right where it was. She opened that thing up and she said, "Is this Uncle Clyde's can?" I said, "Yeah, that's it" That can the first year Dad used it won. Every year they had this big convention somewhere for the , what did they call it, the National Shell Fisheries Assoc. or something like that, and that was a combination of the oystermen and the scientists. People were interested if you could open both ends. That year they compared cans and they gave prizes to the best. That one got the best two color, blue and white....

Pat: Who designed it do you know?

Clyde: Dad designed it.

Pat: He did? Because I heard Chillie McConnell designed many of the cans for the.....

Clyde: I think he was dead by this point. I'm not sure but I think he had already died Or he was an ancient old man. His son George was an ancient old man then but then I was real young. George was the same age as my parents. I don't really remember whether or not I met him. I knew George and his family. His daughter was in my brother's class.

Pat: Is that Olin's dad?

Clyde: Yeah, Olin has a sister named Pat, Patricia Ann, and she was in my brother's class. She was two years younger than me. No, let's see, One year because Johnny was one year behind me in school. Birthdays being as they were, mine was in December so I couldn't start until I was five which means I started years later. Johnny, of course this worked out well, I'm slower and dumber than Johnny. It worked out well for both of us. Johnny was born, the deadline for school was midnight of the 30th of September. Johnny was born early in the morning of October 1st. They decided that he could start school that year. So he did. He started a year behind me. Pat was in that class and I can't ever really remember, I'm sure I didn't meet him because we used to go around to Chillie's house, come to think of it, so I know I must have met him. But Dad designed the can and Dad came with the idea, I mean he had this idea in his head what to do with it. I drew it up. I wasn't a real artist but I didn't have any problem. I drew up the can on flat paper that would wrap around, fill up both sides, and did just what Dad wanted. I didn't color it because he only wanted white and blue. I just shaded the letters and things that were going to be blue I shaded. He sent it down to, I don't know which company made it first, Continental Can Company or American Can Company , one of the two. Their artist changed just one thing of it. I think I had Phillips on one side of a flag, a pennant with a "P" in it and seafood on the other side and it really didn't balance out well. There were more letters on one side of the flag than there was on the other somehow or another. They put the words in an arc across the top of the flag and just moved the flag to the middle. That was the only change they made but it was Dad's design. He was proud of it because I drew it. My only published art work.

Pat: My dad was a car dealer in the '40's and when I was, oh, maybe 12 years old, now we're into the '50's, I used to help him with his paperwork and have to go out and collect on Saturdays the money that people..... I did not like that job, but I got the money. I also helped him design a logo for his invoices so I know the pride.

Clyde: Exactly! I'm glad you understand.

Pat: Absolutely! I look at it now and it's like "okay". How many employees did your dad have in the shucking house?

Clyde: Gee, I can't remember. We had room for about 75 shuckers, I think, 80 shuckers. Room was never full but it was close to being full. Of course at one point had 5 boats running and some of those boats only had a four man crew but we had the Ray and the Lady Ray. Both of them were in the winter time but they both worked in the spring of the year but they both worked in the winter time.

Pat:?

Clyde: There's just named J. J. Her name was J.J.. Whether or not that was, then that was a party boat type. There were several of them and the other two I can't remember what boats they were. My boat was there. I had the, uh, what was my first one? The Sparkle. That was a New York boat. Looked like a tugboat. Trying to think of the name of it. I think the name of one George Gaskill had the Flora..... and I think she kind of looked like that one. There's another guy, an old guy, one time had a boat very similar in shape to it, round stern the house was on the back, the stern was low in the water, bow high, straight stem. It was a New York built boat (90) And it was named Sparkle and when Dad got it, bought it from New York, he also bought a big wooden barge so that he could use it to tow shells out in the bay, about seven or eight thousand bushels of shells. They towed it down, my brother-in-law Harold Peak and one other fella went up to bring it down. What they used the barge for first was Dad, the Soffron brothers, Pete and Charlie Soffron had the first clam shucking house in south Jersey, I think, and that was Dad's shucking house. He used it in the summertime and when they got done shucking, rather than putting the shells in shell piles, they just moved them out and put them on the barge.

Pat: What was their name again?

Clyde: Pete and Charlie Soffron. They're still known. Soffron brothers worked around here quite a bit, back and forth, different things. They were from Ipswich, I think it was, out on Long Island in New York.

Pat: And was their shucking house in Bivalve?

Clyde: They rented Dad's.

Pat: Oh, they rented Dad's?

Clyde: Yeah, and I don't know where they got their clams from but they sold to Howard Johnson. Howard Johnson always had those clams, minced clams and one of my jobs there was mincing the clams.

Pat: Did your dad actually work the boat when he had the shucking house? Was he the captain?

Clyde: He always had a captain and he always had a cook. He was one of the last boats that had a cook because Dad liked to eat.

Pat: What was the captain's name?

Clyde: One was, well Charlie Abbott ran the boats a while but he usually ran the Lady Ray.

Pat: Charlie Abbott?

Clyde: Uh, huh! He was one of the eastern shore men. Tyler, his last name was Tyler, I can't remember his first name. I believe he also was an eastern shore man.

Pat: What boat did he run?

Clyde: He ran the Clyde A. most of the time and sometimes Dad ran it and sometimes he ran it. Dad would almost always be up the bay. He always went up the bay and I think what he did, he put Tyler on the Lady Ray up the bay and he ran the Clyde A. Dad was a

good oysterman. He knew how to handle a boat. I don't say that because he was my dad but I say that because I know how to run a boat. I've seen other people who couldn't. Captains that couldn't.

Pat: The shuckers. Where did you find the shuckers? Were they

Clyde: They found us. There were a lot of shuckers in Bivalve then. Shellpile still had people living there. Bivalve had people, a lot of people lived there in those row houses that haven't existed in years.

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Pat: Where were the row houses?

Clyde: Right in back of the shucking houses. Where Doc Sharp's shucking house was there was a whole bunch of them. They weren't all Doc Sharp's but they were all in that area. They rented the places. There were three sets of living quarters in each one of those houses. Probably only two rooms to the...

Pat: A lot of the shuckers were permanent residents down there, but weren't a lot of them seasonal that came up from Delaware Bay, I mean the other side of Maryland?

Clyde: Maryland, Virginia even there would be some come up. They all had connections up here and they came, like I say, we didn't necessarily have to hunt for them, they hunted us because that was work for them. They were looking for work. Things were different then. Now you can't find a shucker anywhere. You have to hunt for them.

Pat: I was talking to Renee Reeves. Her husband has just started a packing house in Bivalve and I'm trying to remember the name. It's a new place and they have two shuckers there, actually three. One of them is a woman who is in her seventies. The other one is a guy ninety-one years old and another guy is in his seventies. I'm working with her to see if I can set up an oral history weekend.

Clyde: Oh, that would be great. They can remember the old days, the old man in particular. One of the greatest things was the pre-war shucking houses was the place to go. I loved it. I remember going down to the big house, Port Norris Oyster Company, I think it was called, down Shellpile and they would almost to a person shuck the same amount of oysters. This was pre-war because they would be singing the spirituals. There is a process of shucking where they would lean forward, and I'm going to do this left handed to demonstrate this for you and these people behind the microphone won't know what I'm saying, but I'll try to describe it. They would lean forward and grab an oyster off the pile in front of them on the bench with their right hand and that's forward. Then they came back and as they came back to the edge of the table or the bench there would be a block of wood with a vertical piece of metal in it, maybe an inch or inch and a half wide, that they would lay the bill of the oyster, the thin end of the oyster on it. They would either crack it with their knife if they were using a cracker knife or they would have either a steel rod or a, probably just a steel rod but they would hit it just to break the bill off. Just a little bit. Just enough to get the blade in and they would hardly miss a beat doing that. They'd still be in motion going backwards and they would lean way back and as they came off of that block, they would put the knife inside of the oyster and slice on the bottom shell and cut that adductor muscle off the shell. Then they would drop that at their feet, have that thing turned over so fast you couldn't tell it. Cut the other side off and throw that shell over their shoulder or maybe or down at their feet at the

opposite side. It was usually on the opposite side they would swing to their prominent hand and drop that first shell and drop the other one on the way back down on the other side of them. They would also have that oyster now caught between the blade of the knife and their index finger and then they would throw it in one of the pots and there would be four pots on their shucking station. All the way back would be counts, extra select, select and standards. They would look at the oyster and say, "Well, that's a standard", they'd throw it in this pot.....

Pat: So the shuckers actually did the sorting too?

Clyde: Yeah! They also did, and this is what a lot of people couldn't understand when I tell them they go out to catch the bulk of oysters and they cull them on the deck. Back when they did it for shell trade they had to cull ones and cull twos which were two different sizes and the guys on the deck selected which one it would be. The shucker is the final person who culls the oyster. He would look at an oyster and if it doesn't look like it's going to be easy to shuck, he'll put it in the shell pile. He'll throw that oyster away because it would take too long to open it. About 35% of the oysters went on the shell pile. We did a study of that when I was at the oyster lab and it was just about 35%. We did a hundred bushel of stuff out of the shell pile and there would be 35 bushels of oysters. Because the shucker is the final culler of oysters, so when they looked easy to shuck they would open them because they were getting paid by the piece. They got paid by so many pints of oysters that they shucked. If they have to take a lot of time with those misshapen oysters and things like that, they got rid of them.

Pat: So they weren't hourly wages?

Clyde: No, no it was piece work. Before the war when they were singing these songs they would rock back and forth keeping time with the music. They'd all be singing.

Pat: That must have been wonderful.

Clyde: Oh, it was, I loved it. Therefore they came very close to shucking the same amount of oysters. After they got around the world and they say what that money could do for them, they got money hungry, and they saw that they didn't have to be what they are. They saw that there is an opportunity to do something else. So they did away with the singing and started shucking as fast as they could. Don't blame them. As long as everybody was making money, I guess everybody was happy. But it really surprised the shucking houses. They never realized how many oysters were being thrown out. I went to the Port Norris Oyster Company when Wheaton had it, when I was with the lab, and they did everything almost automatic there. They had automatic dumpers that dumped the oysters into the shucking tables and I think they had the wheelers to clean up around their feet. I think that still is the old style. But they didn't even wear them outside. They just wore them to the end of the hallway in the shucking house and dumped them in a conveyer. The conveyer took them out to the shell piles rather than(?) them all the way out and pushing all the way up to the top of the pile and dumping them there. It was very easy to stand by that

Pat: See that's what I remember. That's the sight I remember going down to Shellpile in those shucking houses. I remember those mountains of shells and those big tall conveyers that were up, going up along side of them. I haven't thought about them since.....

Clyde: I took a wire basket out there when I was working at the lab and I didn't time it but I wasn't there very long and I had I think ten bushels picked off the conveyer as it went by. I just picked them off the conveyers. Bob Morgan was general superintendent of Wheaton's outfit, shucking house and the shipyard, and he happened to be there and I said, "Hey, Bob, come out here and I'll show you something." I showed him the pile of oysters I had on the side of the conveyer. He said, "Where did they come from?" I said, "Out of the shells" I said, "Watch here!" I started picking them. It didn't take long. I noticed they hired another man and they him out there and they wheeled those things back in. Ha! Ha! There was an awful lot of money going out there in that shell pile. See that was in the 80's. How long does it take to learn something like that? Didn't take me long to learn it but then it was just a thought.

Pat: When I was talking to Renee she was saying that they are having difficulty getting shuckers and that the old shuckers, the African-American shuckers that are left, they are bringing in Mexicans from Bridgeton and they're teaching the Mexicans how to shuck . So that's the work force down there.....(?).

Clyde: The crab houses down in the Chesapeake now have a lot of Mexicans picking crabs. I noticed on television yesterday that show Dirty Jobs, he got into a shucking house somewhere, I don't know where it was, I think it was out West. They oysters as big as my hand, but the shuckers were Orientals. So these are oriental immigrants probably. She had a very definite non-American accent. It's hard to get shuckers.

Pat: Well, let's talk about you when you got married and had your family. I see you had three daughters. Yes,.....

Clyde: She's very much my daughter. She's four months older than my oldest daughter.

Pat: So you have Joy Diane, Suzanne D. and Cora Lou. When you were raising your family, tell me a little bit about the kind of jobs you had. Kind of start with the first one and go through it so we get some kind of work history on you.

Clyde: Well, I'm going to use this to recollect because that's almost in order. High school I was working for my dad, of course, He was still there and still working. I think I only worked with him then a year. I decided I wanted to go to college for some strange reason, I really don't know why. Went to school for 2 years.

Pat: Where did you go?

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Clyde: Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. I told my pastor at the time that I, seemed like I should be going to college. He says, "Well, we got to talk about what I was going to do with it" I didn't have the faintest idea. I just felt like I was supposed to be going to college. That wasMcNulton. He had a daughter named Patricia Ann who was the same age as Pat McConnell. McConnell and McNulton. I keep bringing Scots names up but then again...

Pat: There's a lot of them down there.

Clyde: That's what I claim is my heritage although I am only half Scotch. R. Gordon McNulton (spelling) was the pastor of the church then and I told him that and he said, "There are three schools I'll recommend to you and one is a new one, Bob Jones University, or Bob Jones College maybe at the time. I said, "Where's that?" He said it was in, I don't know I can't remember I think North Carolina. Eastern Nazarene which

was up in Massachusetts and then Asbury College which is just south of Lexington, Kentucky and I said, "Well, Let's see, I've been down through the Carolinas quite a bit going to Florida." My granddad always went to Florida every year and I later went there quite a bit. I

Went down there two or three trips with Mom and Dad. Massachusetts, I've been there with the Clyde A. running oyster shells out of New Haven, basically New Haven, also south Norwalk. So, I've been to Massachusetts but I've never been to Kentucky. So, I went to Kentucky and, of course, I met my wife there.

Pat: Now is that a Christian college?

Clyde: Yeah! It was founded by Methodists and most of them are Methodists there. Most of the professors were Methodist when I was there, although it was not classified as a Methodist school.

Pat: Did you take a theology curriculum?

Clyde: No.

Pat: There were arts things?

Clyde: Yeah! Very liberal in fact I think I majored in everything that was there. English in high school I flunked my third year, I think it was, so I had to take the third and the fourth year my senior year of high school. My high school education was very colorful because I always got these failing grades down in red. I didn't like English and somehow I got my way..... through it. Of course, I was out for just almost a year after high school when I started college. Asbury was on a quarter system rather than the semester system. They had a spring quarter started in March, I believe, so that's when I started college in March of '53. I stayed there until the end of the spring quarter in '55 and Mary and I got married in August of '55. She did her entire 3 years and 1 quarter it took her to finish school because she went to summer school.

Pat: Did she become a teacher?

Clyde: Yeah! She specialized and her mother was a teacher and she taught.

Pat: Did she teach back in Port Norris?

Clyde: Yup! Her first job teaching was in Port Norris School.

Pat: What grade? She was elementary?

Clyde: 5th, oh yes, very definitely elementary. At that time that's all they had in Port Norris. I think it was 5th grade only because of the students she had. I remember them being ornery kids about that age.

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Pat: So what did you do after you finished school?

Clyde: I came back with Dad for a year and then I decided our lives were real married for a year. There was a draft at the time and if I did anything else, if I started something new which I wanted to do, might have wanted to do, there was the draft facing me.

Pat: And Viet Nam.

Clyde: Viet Nam was '54 pretty much over. Oh, Viet Nam, that hadn't even started yet. That was a while coming. So I went in the army the fall of '56. Spent three years there, two years, four months, 11 days, 6 hours, 15 minutes and 13 seconds but who is counting. Two years, four months, eleven days that was on one of the forms you have when you got

out of the army. I looked and I said, "Wow!, I didn't know it was that long." I was a medical laboratory technician there. My oldest sister was a medical lab tech and I used to go to the hospital and watch her work and I was always interested in that. I joined the army rather than wait for the draft.....

Pat: You had better choices then.

Clyde: Well, you can choose then because you joined. Joining made me a member of the regular army and not the US Army which was a big advantage although I didn't know that until after I got out. Out of our class of 36, 29 of us went to Germany and out of the class of 29 that went to Germany, 2 of us flew and the rest of them took a troop ship. (laughter) The rest of them wore fatigues and played soldier the whole time they were there and I wore whites and served in three different duty stations. Our headquarters were in Garmish (sp?) where I think 1938's Winter Olympics were held. It's a typical German city, it was a city, Garmish, that's a long name but that's Garmish and Par..... but they are one city now. They just joined the names together and joined the city officialdom together and made one town out of it. Beautiful city. No big buildings, just spread out.

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Pat: After the service, you came home and did what?

Clyde: That's when I started in the shipyards. I don't really know dates without doing some searching. I think a total of ten years, but two different sessions. After I was in there, I was working in the shipyard for 4 or 5 years.....

Pat: What kind of work did you do in the shipyard? Electrician or.....

Clyde: I actually worked with the electricians. The electrician that was there when I was there was Elmer Anderson who in Port Norris was THE electrician and when he was working he had a store there and sold appliances and everything and went around to the people's houses.

Pat: What was the first shipyard you worked at?

Clyde: Stowman's.

Pat: In Dorchester?

Clyde: Yeah! I worked there maybe 4 or 5 years, yeah it was. It was in 1965 when Reverend Francis Patterson used to be pastor in Port Norris just prior to World War II, in fact into the beginnings of it. I guess he was drafted. They were at that time. He was drafted into the chaplaincy but he stayed in. Became a career soldier and he would never tell me why but he died young, reasonably young, more than likely a heart attack so I got an idea his heart condition got him out of the army. They didn't want somebody with that kind of problem that's going to cause them problems. The best trade union in the world is the ministry because they are guaranteed appointment. They will have a job. They will be put to work. When he came out they had to put him somewhere so they put him Hammonton and the next year they put three of the churches out in the pines under him and they was looking for an associate pastor to help him. Not three, one other church. They wanted somebody to fill that church to be under him. That would be a two point circuit. He came, looked me up for some reason or other. I guess he heard my name being bandied about some how or another. You know how it was in high school when the PA system come on and said, "Clyde come to the office.?" There at the shipyard the

loud speaker came on, "Clyde, come to the office." Of course everybody looked at me when I walked toward the office. "What did you do, Boy?" I didn't know what I was going to the office for. Never been called to the office, in fact, that's the first time I'd ever heard anybody called to the office like that outside of a boss when somebody needed him there. I went in there and Francis was out there wanted me to, Pat, we called him Pat, was out there wanting me to talk to him and he wanted to talk to me and he said, "Let's go outside and talk." We went out in the middle of the street in front of the office. He said, "I want you to come work with me. Will you do it?" I said, "Yeah, sure I'll do it." In the meantime...

Pat: and this was pasturing?

Clyde: Yeah. In the meantime when the DS, District Superintendent is the sub-bishop so to speak in our church, got together. There was just beyond, just a little further east of the one church where Pat wanted me to serve with him, was a three point circuit that they needed somebody there. This place had no parsonage and this one did. I don't know why they thought I was going to move into the parsonage, but I did. Nobody lived in that parsonage for fifty years when Mary and I moved in.

Pat: Oh, that must have been interesting.

Clyde: Everything in it was cedar. I mean the studs and everything in that house was cedar with the exception of the thresholds and that was made out of white oak. It was a nice house. I mean the wind blew right through it but it was a nice house. We enjoyed being there. That's where I started and I worked even after I moved there I was still working the shipyard. That continued and that's called part-time ministry. I was in and out of part-time ministry in that I was sometimes made a part-time appointment in a full-time church. I just quit workin'. I just served the church because I thought it needed it. That was that. I got twenty years in all together there but after a certain period of time, I don't know why, I went back to Dorchester again. When I first went there they were working on those Newporters, 40 foot sailboats, and I got in on that gang somehow. Didn't start there but I wasn't there very long when they decided to put me there. For a year I worked in the machine shop. They needed somebody to turn down 700 somethings' for their glass house because Frank Wheaton owned both the glass house and shipyard at the time and he needed some work done. They got a new lathe in there so they just thought that since they had 700 of those things to make and they didn't have but one machinist and they needed him for the shipyard, just teach somebody how to do those few motions. I got into more stuff than that. That was only about a month's job. For a year I worked in the machine shop and I was their rigger, wound up being their rigger, doing all their rope and wire work on those yachts, puttin' the sails on them, sailin' them, demonstratin' them, going to the New York Boat Show to sell them. I sold one to Gary Moore, television fame, except he didn't buy it off of us. He bought it off of somebody else. I sold him on it but he bought somebody's used boat.

Pat: And when did you go to the labs?

Clyde: I went to the lab, let's see, where had I been working? Oh, I had been working at the shipyard. There at Stowman's, I don't know, I was working first class money the first time I was there. Second time when I came back I didn't, new bosses, and I didn't get first class from them.

End of side B of tape one

Beginning of side A of tape two
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Pat: We have started tape 2 side A and we are continuing speaking with Clyde Phillips and he has been sharing his story of his work at the Stowman Yard and to tell us how he got involved in the oyster labs.

Clyde: We were . I just worked in a regular yard a time. No more Newporter sailing yachts because Ackerman, who designed the boat and finally came to Dorchester and was in charge of them there, under the guise of making new patterns and everything just and to store them so that just in case the place burned down they'd still have patterns. For safe keeping he put them in his basement on Penny Hill and then got hold of the old Menhaden Fish Factory property and built a building there to build the Newporters in. Then he took his stuff and went in business for himself. Then after he moved back to California that shop closed and the Whitehead Brothers Company bought the design rights to the boat and they set up a section of their yard to build the yacht.

Pat: Where were they located?

Clyde: That was the Leesburg Shipyard. Delbay Shipyard. The foreman at that yard had been foreman at Dorchester until something came up, I don't know what, but they decided to get rid of him for some reason or another, or he decided to leave, but anyhow he was over there as foreman of that yard. When it came time on their first boat they needed who knew how to build the mast and booms and that kind of work so he came over to the yard, over to Dorchester and talked to me and I think I was getting \$3 and hour, \$2.75 to \$3 somewhere in there and he said after your work here come down and work a couple hours every night and you should be able to keep up with us, 2 hours a night can't you? I said, "That's easy."

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I can just do all the rigging, do all the booms and masts and everything to start with and I could do that in half the time it took to build the boat. "Okay, how much do you want? Four dollars be enough?"

Pat: That was good.

Clyde: Cause the money I was getting was not first class at Stowemans and I went over there at \$4 an hour moonlighting so to speak and the boss of the shipyard came to me and said something about, " You know you got to make up your mind who you're gonna' work for. This business of working for our competitor..." I said, "They're no competitor of yours. You're not building boats, sailboats. No competition at all," Although they were doing other business. You, know they were doing oyster boats, too. Repair work. So I said, "Well, there's not much choice to make. You're not paying me first class and they're paying me more than first class. I'll go there full-time." They accepted me full-time when I went over there. After a while the foreman left that yard as well and I think that was their doin's. That yard was not managed very well at all. They got rid of him and I became the foreman of the yard. That's great! That makes me master builder of the Newporter and I don't even know how to make one. But we worked on it and we never did launch a boat under my jurisdiction there. We worked on it. That yard closed down. They closed down that yard so that left me without a job.

Pat: When was that? Do you remember?

Clyde: '76 maybe, somewhere in there. I was on unemployment for a while and then I just stopped being unemployed. You know, I was on unemployment so the state was paying my salary or my wages or whatever. Well, I stopped going because I got tired of going, to be honest with you. I called myself self-unemployed. Some people are self-employed and I was self-unemployed. Come up the bay season and my cousin asked me to run one of his boats for him for bay season, going up the bay for seed oysters. So I said, "Sure, man no way I'm goin' to miss that". I went 2 or 3 years with him, really. Went up and rode with him but this year because he needed it, I went up as captain of one of his boats. When I was foreman there actually he came over and said, "Can I talk to one of you men there?" and I said, "Sure". "Lou," he said, "can I talk with Lou?" Lou was a welder and general all around man. He could almost anything mechanical you would want him to do. I said, "Sure, go ahead." They were talking and talking. They must have talked a half an hour and I walked over to visit with them. I thought it was time enough for them to get talked out what they were doing, and they had talked it out. I didn't know what it was and I didn't know when I went over and I wasn't even goin' to ask. Luther looked up at me; he's my cousin, Luther Jefferies. He looked up at me and he had this smile that only he can get and you know something's up when he has that smile on his face. He said, "I just hired Lou off of you." I said, "Oh! Wow! You got a job for me?" It wan't long before he was hiring me to run Lou's boat. Lou had a boat and he couldn't run it, no. I guess Lou hired me to run his boat so he could work on Luther's boat. So apparently he was getting enough money to pay me and run Luke's. I don't know how it worked out but that's what he did. I run that little boat of Lou's, but I still was what you'd call self-unemployed. That was a job, that was only a four week job. I was coming away from the docks and somebody from the oyster lab came over and said, "Clyde, what are you doing?" I had told him, I think before, that I wasn't ever going to work for anybody else again. And that's the way his approach was. "I thought you said you wasn't going to work for anybody again." I said, "This is more or less working for myself, captain of the boat." That was it for maybe 3 or 4 weeks. I got a phone call and it was him again. He said, "Look, our research vessel captain's in the hospital." We don't know what's wrong with him but he's going to be out for at least three months. Can you come work for us for three months?" I said, "Yeah! I'll come work." That was the beginning of July, I think I started in _____ (?) right after the Fourth of July. By December I was appointed to that job. I even wrote out my own job description which I didn't do a very good job of. They needed a job description because they wanted me on that job but they had to advertise for 2 weeks locally and then they had to advertise 2 weeks everywhere else. Then they had to interview all who put in for the job, you know. I think there was 6 people who put in for it. I was over at the bench counting plankton in a microscope and right in back of me the supervisor of the lab, Don Kunkle and Dr. Haskin who was the overseer of all that work, director of that section of Rutgers, interviewing people who were supposed to replace me but they didn't know they didn't stand a chance because the guy at the microscope had the job.

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Clyde: I worked there thirteen and a quarter years all tolled. Actually three quarters because half a year was not on the record. That was prior to the appointment to the job.

So I got thirteen years plus there as captain of research vessels and two of them in a row, not together.

Pat: Did you ever get back to your ministry work at all?

Clyde: Oh, yeah. I was still in it. I never left it until my health got so bad. I also suffer from stress and ministry is very stressful. It killed Dad at 52 and it's not going to kill me. I knew I couldn't last much longer in it.

Pat: That's a lot of people to take care of.

Clyde: Well, it's a lot of pressure in that you are on, actually, you're on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Even when you're on vacation if they know where you are, you're going to get called. So that way no one every really knew where we went. Not just me ...

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Pat: So how long have you had the life of leisure?

Clyde: Well, I retired at 57, I think I was. I always wanted to retire early but I didn't want to retire that early. I really wanted to go until I was 66 because Mary would have retired at 65 and then we're retired together. I lost an awful lot of social security from that because I was retired and I forget the governor's name, some dear governor, cut 20 million dollars salary fund from, not salary fund but 20 million dollars from the university. There were two, three of us that were laid off at the oyster lab and they made a good decision. If they had come to me and said, "Look, we've got to cut somebody who would we cut?" I would have said, "Well, if you look at my job you might as well cut me." That's a good decision because you have to maintain the boat which is costly just to maintain the boat even if it doesn't do anything. With that boat we had at the time, I could do a week's work in a day. A long day, 12 hours, but I could do it in 12 hours in the summertime, particularly. In the wintertime we actually got rid of the little boat, the 40 footer, we didn't do any winter work at all hardly. Out on the bay we would go out with a crew of men on an oyster boat and rather than just 2 of us going out and getting samples and bringing them, maybe getting 13, 15, or 20 bushels, we could get up to 13 samples a day, usually ten and we had close to a hundred to get every year. Fifteen bushels would keep us busy for another couple weeks and we only went out maybe 10 days in the wintertime, anyhow. We would go out with a crew of men, put 4 or 5 men on each side of an oyster boat, get our samples there and move on and then inside of a week we not only had all of the work collected, we had it all counted. A good portion of it counted. We had a crew of men counting on the deck, couple men on each dredge or just on one dredge because they could dump one dredge and go dump the next. Two men, I guess, on the dredges, the rest of them on the deck doing the counting. We'd take home what we didn't do that day and put it in the cold room and do it later. That did away with the boat program really and it did away with another program, I think they should have been shot for. We had 40 years or more of constant data from the bay on bottom water temperatures, surface water temperatures, tidal temp things, all kind of things like that, plankton counts. We'd be out 3 and 4 days a week during the summer taking these samples and that was with what we called the shellbag program and the shellbag program told you how much set there is because the shellbag would have 20 oyster shells in it back to back so the shiny side is out in an envelope type, wire envelope that allowed the spat, Oh, man, been too long, To allow the oyster that has not yet set. They swim and when they get ready to set they look for a shiny surface and this would be just off of the bottom. They would attach themselves there and we would change them every week.

Then we would count these, not only how many spat were on the oyster but how many other things were growing on the oyster which would give us all the competitors for what surfaces for them to set on.

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Clyde: Like I said, we had about forty years or so of data, of constant data and whenever anybody, well Dr. Haskin and his protégé there was Ford, were the two who always went to these meetings around the country. It would be the scientists getting' together and discussing their data and everything. All these universities that did any work like this in maritime stuff and marine biology looked at Rutgers with awe because we had all that years and years of data which most programs only get if the programs eighteen months long they only get the eighteen months data. You can't see trends, you can't relate it to the weather, you can't do anything. They quit doing that the same time. I think they should have at least kept that program up even if they only did it with one or two men to go out in a small boat, you know. Doesn't have to be a forty footer or fifty-seven footer what we had at last. That boat was fast. They thing probably did twenty knots. We were lucky to get seven knots out of the other one.

Pat: Well, you have to answer me one more question before we end. You have to tell me where did you get your beautiful kilt and all its accoutrements.

Clyde: Well, the kilt's simple to tell you. I got that from Stillwater, place up in, right outside of Minneapolis in the little town of Stillwater. It's a suburb of Minneapolis and that's what they do. They make them. This is not a handmade, this is machine made one and it was reasonably cheap because a good kilt, handmade kilt would cost \$350 to \$400 and then on up. A good one of course would be made of 100% wool and this one's not 100% wool. This one, I've got six and I think I paid eighty dollars for the ones you've seen me in. Now I've got another one I paid \$120 or so which is all wool but it's made the same way. It's machine made and this company comes up with designs and they do a pretty good job.

Pat: What color is you plaid? I can't remember. It's black and.....

Clyde: Well, I have one that has a lot of black in it. That is the Stewart tartan and it is Stewart black. I also have the Royal Stewart tartan which is mostly red. I wear both of them. When I go out in public I wear either one of those two.

Pat: The Phillips? You don't have a Phillips tartan.

Clyde: What a lot of people don't understand is every clan doesn't have a tartan. Every Scotsman doesn't come from a clan or came from a clan but not the clan of their name. They're a sect of this clan. There's two and I forget the one. There's two McDonald clan, actually one is Mc Donnel or Donell or Donnell. Doesn't make any difference. They spell it all different ways. The McDonell of K_____ is the one I claim basically because the only tartan we come up with for the McKillips which is the old Scots name for Phillips. A McKillip tartan, the only one that they can find is virtually identical to if not identical to the McKillip of K_____. It's the same one, but the Phillips's seem to be have been a sect. In other words, they lived in the suburb outside of the castle. I have friends by the name of Stewart and I asked them if I could wear their family tartan and they said yes. There's no law that says you can't wear any of them.

Pat: Well, of course.

Clyde: I have a Black Watch. I have a Stillwater tartan. Stillwater was designed by the Stillwater Company that I buy from. Most of mine came from Stillwater.

Pat: Do you have a Skein_____?

Clyde: Yeah!

Pat: Did I pronounce it incorrectly?

Clyde: Well, it's closer to skein (?). Skein do(sp?) It's closer to skein. Almost like the skene(sp?). Spelled that way, but then again they don't pronounce things the way they are spelled. Almost like the French. You look at petit(?) and it's spelled with a "t" on the end. You don't hear it and if you want to hear the "t" you put a "te" and you get the "t" sound. The English would look at it and say, "That's petetie." My name is Phillips instead of McKillips because the English got involved at one point and tried to tell the Scots what they had to do and the Scots being lovers instead of fighters just kind of allowed them to do it, I guess. The name got changed for the ones that got moved down into England and there's a big family, a big clan of Phillips in Wales. The Welsh Phillips have their own clan or their own tartan and clan, but the Scots don't. My family may have come out of Wales, I don't know. I honestly don't know. They got chased out by

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Pat: You didn't answer my question. Do you have a skenedo(sp?)?

Clyde: Yes, Ma'am. I do wear it on occasion but it becomes a weapon.

Pat: Well, it is a weapon.

Clyde: No, it's a tool.

Pat: It's a tool?

Clyde: It's a tool. They use it for cutting their meat, for eating with, you do it. You use it for anything. Open cans. Now if you got into a fight you use it as a weapon but that's the only time it's used as a weapon.

Pat: I have a skinned(sp?) story for you. Twenty years ago I took a trip to Scotland and I wanted to bring Gordon back a souvenir and so while we were there we went to, what is the guy called who makes knives? Well, whatever he is, there's a name for it, and went into his shop and picked out a design and had one specifically made for Gordon. Went back three days later to pick it up. So, had a wonderful trip. We came down through England, wound up in London, and flew home. When we went to the airport to fly home, our tourist guide had indicated that it would be better and easier for us to get through customs if we put all of the things that we purchased and souvenirs in one bag as a carry-on and then you can just put it on tray and it just goes through and whatever. So, I put my bag on there and walking through and all of a sudden the guard raises his hand like this and about that time two other guards came out of this office, and blocked my way and took each elbow and started walking me into the office. All my friends are like, "What's happening? What's happening?" I go into the office and they have my back there and they take the skinned (sp?) out they said, "Explain that!". Well, I didn't realize that I was carrying a weapon onto the plane.

Clyde: See you probably would have been better to have that in your package goods because it would have been out of your control.

Pat: I should have put it in my, but I was listening my.....

Clyde: I know, I know.

Pat: So, anyway they said, "What is this?". I said, "Well, it's a skenedo(sp?). I had it made for my husband in Scotland and it's a souvenir and I'm taking it home and I'm not

going to do anything with it” They said, “Well, what’s a skenedo(sp?)?” I told them that it’s worn on a garter on the leg and it’s part of a full dress kilt and they said. “Spell it.” And I thought, Oh, my God, is spelling this knife going to keep me out of jail. “God, please, tell me how to spell this.” I spelled it correctly and they let me out but they took my knife and they put it in a big red bag and sealed it. They said, “We’re going to put it in baggage so you’ll be able to get it when you get to New York.” By this time everybody’s boarded. They are waiting for me to get on the plane. Everybody’s whispering. I am so embarrassed. We finally land in Kennedy and we are all gathered around the luggage thing and it starts and it just keeps going around and around for about fifteen minutes. Now everybody’s getting annoyed. “Where’s our luggage? We want to go home. We’re tired, blah, blah, blah.” About that time this package comes sliding down and it’s this big red package with my knife in it. I’m the first person to get luggage off and I didn’t pick it up. Everybody was so mad at me. But that’s my skenedo(sp?) story. Gordon has it and he still loves it.

Clyde: Well, he better.

Pat: I went through a lot to get it for him.

Clyde: If he wants his supper he better.

Pat: Well, this has been a pleasure, Clyde. I thank you so much for your time and the privilege of talking to you and learning more about the Bayshore area and I’m sure we’ll probably chat again another time.

Clyde: Did you want to set up or (tape cut off)

