

Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage

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Mr. Paul Taylor Oral History Vanishing Culture Project
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Interviewers: Mr. Mike Jepsen/Mr. Wayne Nield

I 1: Mr. Taylor, first we ask you to tell us your full name and your address.

R: 12408, that's my house number. Of course, by box number at the Post Office is 15.

I 1: What street do you live on in Cortez.

R: 124th Southwest Street isn't it. Right here on this corner there.

I 1: 124th Street Court West?

R: Yeah.

I 1: Ok. And what is your full name?

R: Paul Thomas Taylor.

I 1: What is your date of birth?

R: 1912, January the 20th.

I 1: And you are married?

R: Yes. Married 58 years.

I 1: What's your wife's maiden name?

R: Ivez V. Bennett.

I 1: What are your parents' names?

R: My father's name was Alvee F. Taylor. Alvee Franklin Taylor. My mother's name was Betty Guthrie. She was a Guthrie.

I 1: Are your parents alive today?

R: No. They're both deceased. My wife is too.

I 1: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

R: I have one brother, Earl Taylor that owns Hawker's Fish Market there in Bradenton. Then I have one sister that lives in Jacksonville.

I 1: And what is her name?

R: Olla Posey.

I 1: You had one other sister, didn't you?

R: Dorothy.

I 1: She's deceased at this time?

R: Yeah.

I 1: Now, Earl is your step-brother. Is that correct?

R: That's right. Half brother.

I 1: Because your father remarried.

R: That's right. Married Julia Foreman.

I 1: And he had two children with that marriage.

R: Right. One was Christine and Earl.

I 1: And Christine is no longer living, is that correct?

R: That's right.

I 1: When did she pass away?

R: Oh, son. That's been a good while back. I couldn't exactly tell you right now myself.

I 1: What about Dorothy. When did she pass away. Do you remember?

R: Oh, she's been ... I'd say 40 or 50 years ago.

I 1: 40 or 50 years ago?

R: Yeah. I know it's a long time 'cause I can remember back when she got killed. My wife was on a trip to South Carolina. We just had our two small kids then. But she got killed in an automobile accident.

I 1: What about your wife, Ivez? When did she pass away?

R: The last day of August, this past year.

I 1: In 1992?

R: Yeah.

I 1: Did you have any children?

R: Two girls. One of them is named Geraldine Taylor and the other is named Cheryl Taylor.

I 1: Where do they live today?

R: One of them lives in Seattle, Washington, that's Geraldine.
And Cheryl lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

I 1: What was your father's occupation?

R: Just commercial fishing.

I 1: He was a commercial fisherman. And when did he come to
Cortez?

R: He came to Cortez when he was a young feller. 90% of the people in Cortez come from North Carolina. Practically all of 'em tar heels. It's a fact. I heard them talking about that my father and my mother was mighty young when they came to Cortez.

I 1: What type of fisherman was your father?

R: The way I understand it, and what I heard about it, he was a pretty good commercial fisherman.

I 1: Net fisherman?

R: Commercial net fisherman. That's the way he made his living. I know at one time back in them days, they must have been pretty good 'cause he used to own all this property here himself at one time. Of course, our home place, that one right there where Trigger Mora lives. Your know where the preacher lives that goes fishing?

I 1: Yes.

R: He owned all that property in there one time. I was born right where Trigger's house is at.

I 1: But not in that house.

R: No. Not in that house. The house that I was born in burnt down after Trigger got it.

I 2: And your family lived in that house where Trigger lives before they lived in this one behind us?

R: Yeah. There was a house where Sturga's house is at. Our house was a little bit south of it. It was a wooden frame home and in them days heck, a woman had a child always with a midwife around to deliver the child. And Old Lady Mans, they used to be a family right across from the Church of Christ on the property there, where this here feller owns that fish business ... used to belong to the Mans. Roy Mans, Arthur. There's about four or five of them Man children. Their mother delivered me whenever I was born, Old Lady Mans. They tell me they all moved to St. Petersburg after that.

I 1: Was there another midwife then after she left?

R: Oh, Lord. Miss Nola Taylor. She was one of the main ones around here. Them old country doctors in Bradenton all knew her too. Yep. You take my first child, Miss Nola Taylor

was right there to deliver that baby. Born down here in this community hall at the trailer park. That's where my first child was born.

I 1: It wasn't a community hall then?

R: Oh, no. It was just a wooden frame home there, I mean building. And I rented it from Old Lady Lula Fulford from Tampa. I rented it from her for \$5.00 a month. And at times it was hard to get that \$5.00. Once in awhile I think about the times how we rented that place for two or three years from

her and one day her and her daughter came down for something or the other and she wanted to sell me the place. Told me, says well if you want it you get me \$1,800 and you can have it. Well then we didn't even have \$18.

I 1: When was that?

R: Oh, Lord. That was 60 years ago. No, it was not that long ago. I been married 58 years and I had just been married whenever she told me that.

I 1: So it was in the '30s.

R: Yeah. Man, back in them days you could go to Friendly City Store in Bradenton and get \$10.00 worth of groceries that'd last us all a month.

I 1: What was the name of that store?

R: Friendly City. Old Friendly City done more business, that and Pin Cash Grocery Store, than any store in town in them days.

I 1: Would you travel into Bradenton to buy your groceries most of the time?

R: Sometimes. Sometimes the fish trucks at the fish houses ... every Saturday and during the weekdays they would barrel up fish and put the fish in the truck, carry them to town, put them in the express office, put 'em on the train and ship 'em. Maybe five or six barrels of fish, 200 pounds in a barrel. And maybe we'd get a check Saturday, Mr. Willis Adams who used to live right there in that house there who worked for Tink Fulford in them days at Fulford Fish Company, and there'd be four or five of us and we'd get us an old fish box, throw it in the back of that truck and we'd ride to town with Mr. Adams. He'd go right around and put us off at Friendly City Grocery Store. He'd go on around maybe two or three more blocks to the express office and take his fish off, then he'd come back and get his week's supply of groceries. Then we'd all come home. There'd be five or six of us do that.

I 1: Tell me about the first house that you were mentioning here? Is that the first house you remember growing up in? The one over on Trigger's property?

R: Yeah, Trigger's. That one and this one here.

I 1: So how old were you when you left that house? The first house?

R: Well, I tell ya. We had a house right here. A one story house. I don't know who my father bought it from now, but we in it. So one Christmas my mother had some friends up here at Tarpon Springs and she wanted to go up there for a Christmas visit. So she did and while she was gone we had a lady by the name of Aunt Fanny they called her. Mamie Fulford's mother. She come up there to stay with us kids while my mother was gone. And what it is, the house caught afire and burnt down right there. Well, after that my

father went right to work and had this here one built. A two story house.

I 1: What do you remember about your father? Can you tell me a little bit about him? What kind of man was he?

R: Well, I tell ya he was a pretty strict man. He didn't take no foolishness. If he told ya something or other, he meant it. He got along good with most everybody that I know of. Of course, I believe he had more temper than I have. He wouldn't take ... he'd tell you something or other, you'd better do it. If ya didn't he'd look you up about dusk to dark to find out what was wrong.

I 1: Did you ever fish with him?

R: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I fished with my father whenever I was 15 or 16 years old. And I fished with him after I got married awhile. We got along good. And my brother used to, Earl, that runs Hawker's Fish Market. Every once in awhile we get to get talking about when he used to fish with his father, which he did.

I 2: Your father was one of the ones that came from North Carolina?

R: Yeah.

I 2: Do you remember him talking about why fishermen came to Cortez from North Carolina?

R: Well, I tell ya. It wasn't nothing to be made up there in North Carolina. Very little. It was hard diggins them days and they come down here ... well it was in their blood to fish and they wanted to do that and after they got down here found out that things was easier, real easier on 'em than back there in North Carolina where they was at. They was right on the coast. They had to farm and fish too.

I 1: That was in North Carolina?

R: Yeah. Yep.

I 1: In what ways was it easier in Florida?

R: Well they just, a person just actually made more money. I know myself, I've heard talk about Lord, there was Old Man Billy Fulford and St. Augustine Willis used to own a place the other side of Fulford Fish Company and Old Man Nate

Fulford, Gus MacDonald, he used to fish. All of 'em there. Old Man Nate Fulford, of course a lot of these here old people right now are just about all gone who first come down here.

I 1: What can you tell us about Nate Fulford?

R: Well, I tell ya, Old Man Nate Fulford, in his day and time he had a large family and he was a good commercial fisherman. And of course, naturally when a person gets older he starts slipping back. Of course, he ended up bad

there, is what he done. The old feller, he tied an engine head around his neck and pushed it off the boat and drowned hisself. Of course, there was Old Man Nate, there was Billy Fulford and Sanders Fulford. There was a bunch of them there Fulfords.

I 2: Did people ever figure out why he might have wanted to take his life?

R: Well, I tell ya. His mind started going, slipping. It did.

I 1: So were people surprised when he did that?

R: No, at times he got where he was called a pretty sick feller.

I 1: What can you tell me about your mother?

R: Well, the only thing I know son is she was just a housekeeper and of course at time she did have four or five boarders way back there years back. Some of the boys that was fishin' around here they would sleep ... they used to have little buildings all up and down this shore here and the boys would keep a little bunk in there to sleep on. And they would come up to the house and get their meals at the house there. And my mother used to have three or four boarders like that. Fix their lunch for 'em, you know, to carry fishin' with them.

I 1: Would they eat with you? Would they eat with the family?

R: Yeah. At times they would come in. They would eat with us. Yeah. My mother was a good cook and they'd pay her so much a week ya know, like that.

I 1: So she was basically a housekeeper, but she would take on boarders at different times.

R: Yep. At times she would take on boarders.

I 1: Was she ever employed anywhere else?

R: No. After awhile my mother and father separated. Whenever I was real young. And she did work down here at the Albion Inn ... her first cousin owned that. His name was Joe Guthrie. Of course, my mother and him was first cousins and she went off for several years, she come back here and she went down there and got her a job with them down there at the Albion Inn and just was a regular helper in there, ya know?

I 1: Right.

R: I used to even work down there myself. I was young, had me a room upstairs and used to do all the cooking on great big old wood range. My job was even to take a wheelbarrow and haul wood in to the back door of the kitchen and Lord how I used to work down there. Help 'em clean fish every evening. Always had a fresh fish to serve there. Come in there and eat all ya want on the table for \$1.50. Lord, I can see 'em right now. Joe Guthrie had a great big meat block about that big around and people would call up for reservations for a

Pompano supper. Joe would go buy Pompano ... he wouldn't buy no small ones ... he'd always get a pound, three quarters, two pound Pompano like that and they'd broil them Pompano and they'd serve you half of a Pompano with all the stone crab claws you wanted to eat and everything else on the table for \$1.50.

I 1: That's quite a meal!

R: That wasn't yesterday, son. People doing that.

I 2: How did you feel when they tore the Albion Inn down?

R: Well, it was alright. It suited me just fine. 'Cause I figure if the government was gonna put something back there it'd be a way yonder better than what was there. The termites was takin' that one down.

I 1: What else can you tell us about the Albion Inn? You said your mother worked there. How old were you when you had a room there?

R: I was around about 12, 13 years old.

I 1: And you had a room to yourself.

R: Yeah. I had a room upstairs. I'd stay upstairs in that room, mornin's I'd get up, come down, build a fire in that old big giant wood stove, big as this here, see that the reservoir was filled with water. Joe Guthrie owned all that property from the Albion Inn right on down to the highway. Right along about there and down the other way we had these here great big old Muskogee ducks. I bet four or five hundred of 'em.

I 1: Really, that many?

R: Good Lord, we raised ducks out there, built a little ole shack for the ole mother hen. She'd build her nest in there, put 15-20 eggs in there and she'd hatch them out and maybe that one over yonder would hatch out some more. And first thing ya know, we built a little pen about 10 by 10 and put 40-50 little ducks in there till they get raised up, then we'd bring 'em down here and put 'em in there. Had little houses for 'em to go into. And on Saturday evenings, Joe had a long fishing pole with a big hoop on the end of it. We'd get out there and it wasn't nothin' on Saturdays sometimes to kill 8 and 10 of them Muskogee ducks and scald 'em. We put an old feed sack over 'em and a tub and pour hot water in there. Made a steam.

Then we'd pick all them feathers out and Mabel Guthrie, she was the head cook there. She used to live right on the other side of that house right there. Mabel did. And me and Mabel sometimes, I can look back and it'd be 8:00 or 9:00 Saturday night before we'd get through fixin' all them ducks and bake 'em for Sunday dinner.

I seen times served 40 or 50 people on the weekends. People would call in, ya know? Wanting a duck dinner.

I 2: Did they raise anything else there besides ducks?

R: Had a few, I can remember, we used to have a few Rhode Island red hens. But not very many.

I 2: We heard that Mr. Guthrie also raised rattlesnakes. Is that true?

R: You'd be out there Sunday mornings and you'd see him comin' by with a sack. I'd call it a feed sack where corn come in, ya know? He'd have him a long pole, long as from here to that ole kitchen sink over there. He'd go out in the woods prowling around worse than an old hermit trying to locate them rattlesnakes. So he caught this rattlesnake and he had him a galvanized mash, I judge it must have been about like that, box built. He brought that snake home and he put that rattlesnake in there and on the east side of the old Albion Inn that's where him and his wife's bedroom where she could sit there in her chair and she'd rock and she could look out her room there during her rest period from say after dinner till time for the night lunch. And Joe had that box sittin' over yonder and I can't remember now what he ever fed that snake, but Joe would get drinkin' that home brew and he would start talkin' to him. Of course, he chewed beechnut chewin' tobacco. And actually I seen him go there and put his hands on the crate like that, the ole rattlesnake would stick its head up and he'd spit that tobacco juice in that snake's eyes.

Of course that snake would be strikin' and poor Aunt Bessie, she was my Aunt by marriage, she'd say Joe. She was a nice woman. Joe, will you please quit doin' that. Please quit doin' that. Well there was sightseeing people comin' around goin' in there lookin' at that snake. So one evening, Aunt Bessie got after Joe so and told him he had to move that. Well, across the street north of the old hotel there, that's where we had our big wood pile there to use in the wood stove. So he carried the rattlesnake out there in that box and put it across the road. He went over there the next morning and them little devils about that long was dartin' everywhere. And she did start raisin' some sass. Of course I was goin' to school in them days too and he got somebody to come there and get the box and the snake and carry 'em out there in the woods somewhere or another. But boy she used to give him a fit about that, Aunt Bessie did.

I 1: Do you remember any important people coming to the Albion Inn?

R: Well, no I don't.

I 1: Who were the usual boarders that would stay there?

R: I tell ya, they had an old man there, they called him Uncle Right and what his name was I could not tell ya. And there was some doctors from up north, Billy Everheart was one of 'em. He used to come down and he had a Cadillac automobile. It had a rumble seat in it. I can remember that Cadillac and he used to come to the grocery store. One night, sittin' around there, me and another boy, somebody said something about goin' to the picture show in Sarasota. And Tommy who used to work with Joe in the grocery store business, Post Office too and Tommy said it's too late to go there. Billy said oh, no. I got a Cadillac. So Irv and I got in the

rumble seat, Tom and Billy got in the front. And one time I seen Tommy pointing down to the speedometer. He was makin' 75 miles an hour goin' to Sarasota to go to the picture show. I was about 12, 14 years old then.

I 1: Was that a pave road then?

R: Like a hump back gopher. Boy, I tell ya it's a wonder we hadn't got killed in it. Old Dr. Miller was a doctor from up north and used to come down and stay at the hotel too. Of course, there was other people. Lord, Mabel and I had about 20 rooms there we rented out. We would, mornings as soon as breakfast was over, go in every one of them rooms in them days, take the pot, empty it down to the big ole bathroom at one end of that building. All them ole water pitchers on the wash stands, fill it full of water so they could have some water to wash their face in in the morning. They even carbide lights in that ole place one time. I imagine some of the pipes were still in the ole building whenever they tore it down.

I 2: There's some photographs of the Albion Inn taken from the south side and it looks like work boats tied up to the porch of the building. Did Joe Guthrie keep his boats out there?

R: Well, Joe had a boat. I can remember I used to run all underneath that ole hotel there at first. I guess that thing was that high off the ground.

I 1: Enough that you could get under it pretty easily?

R: Of course, after the 1921 storm Joe built some more on it, see? And he had a drudge come in there and fill that all in then. Of course that '21 storm sunk boats and things, the boats was up there on the edge of the ole building.

I 2: Do you remember anything about that storm?

R: Well, I can remember a little bit. I was right over here and I can remember my father was in bed with malaria fever, sick and couldn't do a thing. He had an outfit, fishin' outfit, boats. It was five skipjacks they called 'em in them days and he had two motor boats with ole Miandis Engines in 'em. And we heard about the storm comin' and I never will forget it. My father's house, building and his net racks was right next to Ole Man Nate Fulford's. And my father told me, he says son go down and round up my crew and tell them I said to put all my nets and skipjacks and tie 'em in there. Well, Ole Man Nate says, there ain't no need to do that. Just tie 'em

on the spreads and they'll be alright. Well they were. They went to sea.

I 1: They were gone, huh?

R: Yes sir. But my father laid there in that house right there. Every shingle on this side and on the south side blowed off. It had shingles on it kind of like them there.

I 1: On the roof?

R: Yeah, roof. Of course, there's a set of stair steps that

goes up in the attic. And my step mother and my oldest sister, she would stay up there in that attic mighty near all day long with ole blankets and quilts to catch the water that was comin' through the cracks in the boards. And she would carry the water in a tub to them windows, there was two windows upstairs. She'd raise that window up and pour the water out. But see that house over there is plastered inside and that water come through it and it cracked the plaster and dripped on the top of his bed. I can remember we had a great big piece of paper we put over the foot of his bed where the water would run off his bed onto the floor. Well, boy I'll tell ya right now, that was something.

I 1: Do you remember, were you scared at all during that time?

R: No, I wasn't scared. No, we had chicken and rice that day for dinner I know that. Had an ole kerosene oil stove in them days, ya know? And we had a four-burner kerosene stove and right over there we had a chicken yard. It had a chicken house where the chickens roosted. That next morning, at just the crack of daylight, Julia my step mother said go out there and get them chickens and bring 'em in here. Well, the ole closet upstairs, and we must have had 25 head of chicken, hens. I went out there and brought them chickens in and put 'em in that closet and that day Julia cleaned one of 'em and fixed us a pot of rice and chicken.

I 1: What do you remember after the storm? What can you tell us about what it was like?

R: Well, son I tell ya. Boats was all up along these here ole streets them days, stuck there. Some of 'em was full of water. It was a mess. I'll tell ya right now. My father lost everything he had except his boats. His two motor boats was way up there where the ole fire station is over there. They were way up in there. Sunk, turned over on the side, the next morning at daylight.

I 2: Did you tell me once a story about that storm that involved a pig?

R: Oh, Ole Man Perry who used to be the mail carrier. He owned this lot here then and he had a pig. A hog. I guess it must have been 160, 175 pounds. And when that water begin coming up, it must have got about a foot high, that place out there was just a porch. There wasn't no door there or nothing then. Just an open porch and the water lacked just about an inch comin' over that. I got an ole axe and post here, right over there by the fence, and I kept chopping, chopping, and finally

I broke it off. And I led that pig up on that porch and that pig stayed on that porch too till the next mornin'. Yes sir, Ole Man Perry he had that pig there. That same porch right there.

I 1: Did a lot of people in Cortez have gardens and animals that they kept?

R: Oh, cows. They had cattle, chickens. Of course, the cattle went back out in the woods durin' the storm and I don't know for sure what other people done about their chickens. But I know what we done with ours.

I 2: A few minutes ago you mentioned your father's skipjacks. Can you describe a skipjack?

R: It was built kind of round, the bottom round. And it had natural crooked timbers in 'em, cut out from a tree root or somethin' like that. And they used to could put what they called a mast in the center of 'em and them ole skipjacks way back in them days, they had a sail. They would shove off from the fish house, get off there aways and they'd want to go on down toward Sister Keys. Well, they'd raise up that sail and sail along with them ole skipjacks.

I 2: Did you seen them sailing?

R: I can remember whenever I was real small, there was a fella by the name Jim Guthrie. You know Audrey. Her daddy, Ole Man Jim Guthrie. I can remember Audrey had a brother by the name of Irvin. He died here a little over a year ago. Him and I was the same age. He died in Sarasota. That was Audrey's youngest brother. Ole Man Jim Guthrie, I can remember bein' at one of them fish houses and I seen him comin' home that day and he had a sail. He'd raise it up. Some of 'em would go fishin' and didn't even have a motor, like a gasoline motor. In them days way back there.

I 2: Were those boats built here in Cortez or did they bring them with them?

R: Some of 'em was built here. Yeah. I know I had an uncle that he built a skipjack one time.

I 1: What was his name?

R: Neary. Neary Taylor. My daddy's brother. His place is still down there. Next to Star Fish Company. But he was a good boat builder, Neary was. Oh Lord, son. That man, it might take him all day to put one board in, but whenever he a board like he wanted it and everything most of the time you didn't have to cork it behind him. He was a good boat builder. What ruined him was his whiskey too.

I 1: That'll do it to a lot of men.

R: Yes, sir.

I 2: Did you ever hear of any boats being brought here from North Carolina?

R: Yeah. Two or three. Yep. I couldn't exactly tell you where,

and I know my father had five of them skipjacks. To tell ya the truth, I'd be tellin' ya something that I wouldn't really know for sure, but I don't know exactly where most of them boats was built at.

I 1: Did a skipjack have a rudder on it, on the back?

R: No, I didn't see none. Just the keel part.

I 1: I was wondering how they would steer it.

R: Well, to tell ya the truth, they had them ole long poling

oars and they could set back there in the stern, feet down in the well there and put them ole oars back there and could guide it around a little bit like that.

I 1: So they probably used the poling oars to steer with.

R: Yeah.

I 2: So you remember when they started motorizing boats then?

R: Yeah. I can remember them hole Miantis Engines with 5 horse they called it and then what they called a 7 1/2 horse. My father had two boats. On the smallest one he had the 5 horse and he used it more than he did the other one. That was an old boat. Finally ended up one time puttin' a 4 cylinder star motor in the boat. It was kinda like a 4 cylinder, like a T Model 4 engine.

I 1: What are the Miantis Engines?

R: That was the name of 'em.

I 1: Was that an automobile engine?

R: No, it was just a regular ole engine. Wasn't no spark plug. It was electra or some kinda name like that. In the front there were three screws, I can remember. Every once in awhile they'd take 'em an ole spring out of a curtain rod. They'd pull them springs out of there to keep that electra so the points would hit even. Used an ole spring. Boy, I'll tell ya right now them there engines, they would vibrate. My Lord, you'd be sittin' on the stern of her runnin' and you butt would get shakin' so until it started trembling and you'd have to stand up.

I 1: Do you remember any of the names of your father's boats? Did he have names for them?

R: No, he didn't. But a lot of 'em did.

I 2: When did they start motorizing them?

R: Well, I tell ya son. That's kinda hard to say. Just as soon as the first two or three got 'em into Cortez, everybody started gettin' 'em then. And of course they just kept improving and improving, up, up.

I 2: But they still used poling skiffs didn't they?

R: Oh, yeah. Used the poling skiffs. I tell ya, it a commercial

fisherman today had to get back fishin' like we used to with our poling oar skiff, they'd be better off.

I 1: Why do you say that?

R: Half of 'em right now, they go fishin' one day and tomorrow they know everything about fishin'. So they don't know nothin'. And I'll tell ya right now, some of 'em talk about oh, fish are scarce, fish are scarce. No, it's just they way you go at it. Boy, you did find me one didn't ya. Son, I'll have that tomorrow for me and Earl's dinner. Thank you.

No, I tell ya, I used to fish and me and another fella by the name of Farmer Capo. Well, he was along about the wickedest man there was in Cortez. And me and him fished together for 10, 12 years and people used to say, Taylor how in the hell do you fish with Farmer like you do. I said, I just don't pay no attention to him. I say yes and no and that's it. And I says why I like to fish with him because when he steps in that boat to go out on that Bay, all foolishness is back of him. He'd go out there to try to make a dollar and that's why I like to fish with Him.

Well, me and him fished together until I had to quit fishin'. I was 62 years old when I had to quit fishin'. And him and I was fishin' together then. But I'd go off summer time up to north Florida to my wife's folks on the farm for a couple weeks, come home, go down to the fish house. Some of 'em said Taylor what in the hell are you doing back here? There ain't no fish around here so nobody ain't been doin' nothing. I wouldn't say a word to nobody. I'd come home and tell the wife, I'd say honey lets have supper early tonight. I'm goin' out tonight to make groceries this week.

And son, I'm not braggin', but it's true. A lot of 'em don't know how, and some of 'em is lazy, don't want to make a strike unless they see the black of the fish out there. Tar black bunch. I'd come home, get my cup of coffee, my thermos bottle, go down to the skiff and I'd go down the Bay. I'd come in in the mornin' and I'd have me 4 or 5 hundred pounds of fish. Some of 'em would come lookin' at my boat and they'd say how in the hell did you do that Taylor? I'd say I don't know, I just heard 'em jumpin' so I'd strike 'em. But I didn't have no trouble, it's a fact boys. Whenever I was fishin' the last year I enjoyed fishin'. Now that was my hobby, was fishin'. And I would actually come in there sometimes to the dock and some of the old fellers who had been fishin' here all their lives would say, where in the hell are you gettin' them at? All such as that. It wasn't nothin' for me to go out there at night and if I fished this week, two or three times, I'd make me \$125, \$130. I'd quit, get in my car and me and my wife and kids and we'd go up to Georgia on the farm for two or three weeks. We'd come on back and it wasn't nothin' for me to get in my boat with my net, go down to the Bay down yonder, look around where the fish was supposed to be at and boys, it's a fact I'd have me \$50, \$75 made.

I 1: What's your secret?

R: Well, a lot of it is you gotta know where the fish use and

where the tide makes. That has a lot to do with fishin'. Gettin' together at certain spots, places. And I tell ya right now, some of 'em has asked me that question a lots about that whenever I was fishin' there. No sir, I had a good time fishin'. I know a feller right here, John Fulford, used to live right over there. Supposed to have been one of the best commercial fishermen in Cortez. He used to come down there to the fish house mornings whenever I'd come in a lot of times at sunrise. He'd come there, stand there and look and I'd see that man actually get mad. I'd have me 400, 500 pounds of fish when the rest of the boys had been fishin' all week and they'd have hardly caught a mess to eat. Yeah. And

some of 'em are scared, I don't know, about wanting to put their overboard and that's what I say. You take these here _____ boats, I call 'em. Aft blowers. These here mercury motors and all? One of the worst things that ever hit the coast that's a fact. I admit you can take one of 'em, put 500, 600, 700 yards on the tail end of 'em and you can get out there and just run, run and run and scare the fish to death. Yeah, you can catch a fish like that, but that's when the fish is plentiful during roe season. But just let the fish get scarce. They don't even know how to act to get out there to try to catch a fish.

I 2: So when you fished you just used a poling skiff?

R: Yeah. I didn't want nothin' else.

I 2: How far down the bay would you go in a poling skiff?

R: I'd have a motorboat to pull the skiff along. And I'd go to a place way on the other side of Sister Keys down here. If I see a mullet jump here, one jump there and one here, I'd keep goin' on down. Out there to the place where there was little white sail _____, or we'd call 'em dog holes or a deep hole. Well I'd know good and well, tonight high water I'd say well, be a good place to come back here and some of them fish will be in that hole. Yeah, I had a lot of fun fishin'.

I 1: So you had to know that Bay pretty well?

R: Yeah. As far as all of them ole beacon lights and things out there in that channel, they worry me.

I 1: Why's that?

R: I don't have to have 'em to know where the deep water's at. No. Them there channel markers.

I 1: Did you have names for some of these places where you'd fish?

R: Oh Lord, son. Yeah. You take just like down there on the other side of Moore's Seafood Restaurant, a place down there they call it the Bishop Bayou. Down there near the Buccaneer Inn, we'd go down there to Sister Keys and you take up here, they call it the Kitchen up here. Down at Bollee's Creek, places down there we would go to all of 'em down there. It's amazing how some of the places like that, the names that people give 'em and all. There's a place down there they call Buck's Hole. That's where I had an uncle got drowned in that hole and they named it after that, Buck's

Hole. Ernest Buck.

I 2: How did they come to call it the Kitchen?

R: Now that's something you know just about as much about as I do.

I 1: Could you tell us for the tape?

R: I don't know son, exactly how come they ever start calling it the Kitchen. Just like them two islands down there called Sister Keys. It's just two islands there with about 30 feet between 'em see, and they call 'em Sister Keys.

I 2: Did they call it the Kitchen when you were a boy?

R: Oh, yeah. I can remember back, the Kitchen. We used to stop it. And some of 'em would ask where'd you find all them at? Oh, we found 'em up at the head of the Kitchen, like that. I used to fish with a feller here by the name of Miller Brown, one of the best commercial fishermen that there was around here. He used to stop-net some. Of course, we'd start over here where Chester lives. We'd let go right there by where Chester's house is at and go right straight across the Kitchen. And one time we stopped that thing. I was fishin' with him. Well, Miller was the type of feller on ebb tide, if there was a lot of grass floatin' he would stay up and roll it over the _____ line so the net wouldn't sink and lose his fish. And that night when that tide started out there at the Kitchen, I never have known it to happen before. It happened this one time. Miller started pulling up and down his net and the flounders begin coming down on ebb tide and he finally got it on board and he'd flip 'em in the skiff. And son, he flipped around close to 1000 pounds of flounders in his skiff and he had to get back in his boat and come up there to where the rest of his crew was at because the tide was down and the mullet was gonna settle in this here hole up there in the Kitchen. And he had to come in there and take that hole in when the tide got down low to catch some mullet. But he flipped around 1000 pounds of flounders in his skiff. And I never have known that many flounders ever bein' caught like that.

I've done mullet like that when there was a lot of red tide around. Just throw 'em in the boat to beat the band.

I 1: Do you remember red tide when you were young?

R: Oh, Lord son. Heck yeah. I can remember one time when this whole Bay here, the only place we could catch any fish in, was across over here to Mullet Key. Wasn't nothin' wrong with the fish if you could put a net across from one aisle to another. The tide was goin' out and those mullet was comin' down there against that net, he'd still be alive and we'd just roll 'em over in our boat.

I 1: Before I forget I wanted to ask you something. You said that Farmer Capo was one of the most wicked men in Cortez. Why do you say that?

R: Well, he had a temper like an ascetiline torch. And cuss! Man, that man used to do some of the most ridiculous cussing. I used to calm him down once in awhile. I says, Farmer if

you don't shut up that cussin' the way you do, I says God Almighty's gonna let something happen to you or your family. He didn't care what he said. Even his children, he'd talk to 'em like that. I'll tell ya, I could tell you some things that happened. It was ridiculous. And it ended just like I told him it would end too.

I 1: Things like what?

R: The way he used to cuss at his poor wife and his family.
Yeah Lord.

I 2: What happened to him?

R: He ended up left here and he had a son up here to Cross City. I know you all heard about that dope doin' and all. They called him Little Bubba Capo. That was Big Bubba. He used to own a fish business. Well, this Little Bubba was up there at Cross City and he was the one they got in there for that marijuana doin'. They put him in a federal prison up there in Atlanta, Georgia for I don't know how long. He got out, come home and Farmer went up there and kinda stayed with him. Helped him fix his nets. He had a fish business at Cross City. And Farmer went up there. And it was just a mess the way things went. They caught Bubba the next time and railroaded him again up here in Louisiana or somewhere or another, some prison up there. He's out though now. But his daddy ended up in a rest home up there around Cross City. He died up there.

I 1: Let's go back to talk about when you first started. Did you first start fishing with Farmer Capo?

R: Oh, no. I used to fish with Tink Fulford, Miller Brown, Ole Charlie Guthrie, and John Fulford. I even fished with John some.

I 1: What do you remember about Tink?

R: Just give him a pot full of coffee and he was alright. He'd stay awake a whole week. Tink Fulford was a go-getter. He was. And if you needed anything, help in any way, and Tink Fulford was around he'd see that you got it. He did. I helped build that fish house he's got down there. Heck I worked there with him for I don't know how many years there. He used to have a fish house out in the water there. Just wide enough for one truck out there. We'd have to pull one truck off, back out there and unload some ice, then come and back the fish truck out there again. That's what it took to make a little bit of money on the side. Finally, he decided to build this one. That fish house where Ralph's in now. Son, let me tell ya something. I have weighed up many, a many thousand pounds of fish in that fish house there. I used to block 'em all with cakes of ice in the middle of that floor there. Nothing but solid mullet.

And the front of that dock? I'll never forget one time someone asked, Taylor where ya gonna put 'em at? I says well just give me some blocks of ice and I'll make me a rail around here with ice and pour the fish in there. But Tink Fulford was a good man to you. Anything that I wanted I could get

from Tink Fulford. That's a fact. I know one time my father got sick with kidney stones. Had to carry him to Tampa Hospital up there. Tink come around and he says, Paul do you need any money. I'd say yeah, I need so and so. Alright, here. Don't worry about it. Well it ended up when Farmer had to quit fishin' and he had some nets and so Tink says well just give me a gill net in place of it. No sir, he was alright. Anything Tink Fulford had. He told me any time you want a boat of your own, come over here and start fishin' for me and I'll get it for ya if ya want it.

I 1: Did you ever take him up?

R: No because I didn't see where I was at I'd better myself, so I just didn't.

I 1: Who were you fishing for at that time?

R: Me and Ole Farmer Capo was fishin' together.

I 1: What fish house were you with?

R: Big Bubba, his son.

I 1: You were telling me earlier that before Bell's Fish House was there, there was a fella from Camilla, Georgia that came down and opened up that fish house.

R: Camilla, Georgia. He bought that from Jim Guthrie. The place that Bells' at now? Of course, that was an old fish house there. He got me to run it for him, which I did. I guess I worked there 10, 12 years. One time, talk about fishermen. Lord, Lordy. I had 'em there one time.

I 1: What was the name of that fish house?

R: J.O. Fish Company. Jim Guthrie owned it then.

I 2: When was it called the Royal?

R: It never was called the Royal. It's still under the name Bayshore right on.

I 1: And you said that your wife worked down there for some time?

R: Yeah. She was the bookkeeper. Yeah. Royal, one time was about the biggest fish buyers there was in Camilla, Georgia. Now there's another case. Wild women, ruinin' him.

I 1: That fella from Georgia?

R: Yep. Sure did.

I 1: What did you do after you worked at the Royal Fish Company?

R: I went right back fishin' then. I should have never stopped. I should have never worked at the fish house.

I 1: Why do you say that?

R: Well, I had anything I wanted and all like that. But it was too much responsibility. Lord, son whenever you start a fish business and try to satisfy a bunch of commercial fishermen like I did. Sunday mornings I'd open the door down there. Seven days a week. Yes sir.

I 1: Keeps you busy?

R: Of course, he paid me. But I stop an think back. I've seen times when I wouldn't come to this house for two days and nights, handlin' fish, boxin''em up. That ole boy Chester.

See he was runnin' Bell Fish Company himself. It was all in the family. His brother Bub took it over and has been there ever since.

I 1: When you started back fishing, what were some of the boats that you had?

R: We just had a skiff and just one small marine boat. Just had a motor in it.

I 1: Did you do mainly gill net fishing or did you do stop netting?

R: Well I done all of it. We'd mackerel fish at times. Ole Farmer, he had a bigger boat. A 28, maybe 30 foot boat and he had a mackerel net and we would mackerel net fish some out in the Gulf ya know.

I 1: Tell me about mackerel fishing. How is it different than like fishing for mullet?

R: Usually with mackerel fishin' you'd wait till dark nights and steer to where you knows the mackerel usually use and you'd see the phosphorous in the water. You could nearby tell how many fish you run through. Just as soon as you'd get through 'em, you throw your net over and circle back around. Yeah, man that there mackerel fishin'.

I 2: I wanted to ask you about a couple more buildings if I may. There's some buildings standing out in the harbor that they call Curt John's ...?

R: Yeah. Curt. Hambone. Ham. That's Farmer's brother, Ham. They had another brother by the name of Joe. Joe Capo. All three of 'em died kinda young like. Joe especially. He died of a heart attack in his sleep one night. He was gonna get ready to go mackerel fishin' that night. I know my wife was talkin' to him at the dock, putting gas in his tank and he made a remark to my wife. He says, well Ivez, do you think I'll catch enough mackerel tonight to pay for that gas? Just like that. He went home, went to bed and I guess he thought he'd get up a certain time to go mackerel fishin'. He had a little bottle of pills that he'd take and put under his tongue. They said he was reachin' for 'em and it fell over.

Ham, his brother. Him and Curt fished together in that shack that's out there in that Bay there now. That's the one that Ham built. He done most of that work himself. Built that thing. And Ole Curt. Him and Curt, there was two fellas

that went together as partners that was really buddies. And there was another couple like that in Cortez. Manley Bell and Gilbert Morey. Gilbert Morey's house is right down there across from Sue's there, just south of you. That's Gilbert's house. Well Gilbert and Manley Bell had an outfit together. They fished, stop-netted and did a little gill-nettin', not too much gill-nettin'. But they worked together until after awhile they went into the shrimp business then. Both of 'em done good shrimpin'.

I 2: The house that I live in was Ray and Francis Guthrie's. Can you tell me anything about that?

R: The only thing I know is that they just had one boy by the name of Les. Lester. He lives down there toward Sarasota now somewhere or another. I understand he stays with his daughter.

I 2: Ray Guthrie was a fisherman?

R: Yeah. Commercial fisherman. Gill-netter for mullet. Ray was a good fisherman too. In his time, fishin' and everything, he was a good net fisherman.

I 2: Did he build that house?

R: I couldn't tell ya that.

I 1: Paul, tell me. What type of fish is the hardest to catch would you say?

R: I'd say a pompano myself.

I 1: Why is a pompano hard to catch?

R: Well, one thing they are not plentiful and just certain time of year them things run on the beaches and certain times they ... you can't go out there and catch them like you can mullet. Like mackerel. A certain time of year mackerel runs. After that run is over, it's all over. But mullet is a fish that's all year round. You take it from now on, this is February. February, March and April and May. About four months mullet's gonna be scarce. Yes sir. They're scarce now. That's why I say a lot of these here young fellers think they know how to fish and all. They don't know how to get out there and fish this time of year from now on and catch fish.

I 1: What other types of fishing nets did you use besides stop nets or gill nets? Did you do any haul seining?

R: Yep. In the fall of the year. Of course, there's two or three seines around here now. But there's so many these here fellas with these outboard motors now, with these here deep dips that's 75, 80 meshes deep, heavy-leaded. They'll strike a bunch of mullet now where used to they'd rather do on around the beach or like down at Anna Maria Pier. That's a good place there to fish. Well these boys now got these here _____ boats and all. You ain't hardly got a dog show unless you tell 'em, what about lettin' 'em get outside so we can haul 'em? They'll kinda mate up with ya then. Boy they made some big hauls with seine. They used to across that

Bay there at St. Petersburg, the Sunshine Skyway, the far end. Fish would come out of old Tampa Bay, come around there. Shoot man, it wasn't nothin' for them to catch 75, 100, 150 thousand pounds of mullet there, hauled.

I 1: That's a long way to go find fish.

R: They'd go there and park and the fish would come to 'em out of Tampa Bay. Come on around underneath them bridges. And of course, they sold most of 'em to Harry Bell Fish Company over there.

I 1: Up there?

R: Yeah. _____ seafood.

I 2: Charlie Guthrie's place down here. There are three houses? And then that shed that has the railway going into it. Did those houses used to be out on the water?

R: One of 'em did. The one that's next to the seawall there. They called them camps. They'd store their nets in there and they'd call them camps. Charlie had this here out on the water, that one there. Well, he decided to put down a well there which he did. He put a well down there. Then he built them other shacks on there. Two or three of 'em. Well then he used to stay in that camp over the water. Had him a little old two-burner gas stove in there that he'd make him some coffee mornin's. Set up like that. And he'd go home up here to his wife and she'd fix his lunch for him and a quart of coffee. Sometimes you'd see him come by here goin' on down there and he had him a cot in that old camp. He would sleep in there. Maybe he'd decide he wanted to go fishin' in the mornin' at 3:00 or 2:00 at night. Well, he'd just get up, lock his camp up and go on.

After awhile he decided that the water made too much noise for him. He couldn't sleep good. And he moved that camp up on the seawall further. Somebody talked him into buying a boat there one time, kinda like a mahogany boat. It was brown, painted up. It had a good motor in it and I thought Charlie had more sense than that. He always made a success of everything he did go at. But he bought that boat and decided he'd put railroad tracks down there, put a cradle on it where he could pull the boat up higher. Finally, he closed it all in with galvanized tin and made him a shed there where the boat would be completely out of the water and out of the sun. Well, that ended up that his son that he adopted talked him into lettin' him take the boat to Jacksonville and that was the end of that.

I 2: Was this Charlie Guthrie's house back here? This one on the corner?

R: Right there? Yeah.

I 2: Did that building used to have a big water system in it?

R: Over thataway further son. Back over thataway further. Yeah. There was a water tank there. They used to pump water in there and they served a dozen or 15 houses around here with

water.

I 2: Is that the tank that's in Calvin's yard?

R: Yeah. Calvin got that.

I 2: And did they sell that water?

R: Yeah. So much a month. You'd pay Susie, that was her name. You'd pay Susie so much every month for water. She would walk around the streets at night with a great big flashlight and

you'd see a flashlight shinin' on you spigets to see if you was lettin' it run. That's no lie. Just like that well right there. That's a _____ well. I got that water runnin' from right there to there to right there. And there's a pipe that goes right on through here, back over there to that house over yonder. From this well right there.

I 2: Behind my house there's a water tank that hooks up to the rain spouts. Did people have many of those around here?

R: Rainwater tanks? Oh, yeah. I used to have one right there. I had a 1,500 gallon one. And my daddy had a 3,000 gallon one sittin' right over there.

I 2: Did you have enough water all the time?

R: We were pretty lucky. We wasn't wasteful with it. Ya couldn't be. That there rainwater tank, we'd use it to wash with, cook with and of course for drinkin' water ... down there where the ole ... this here girl that's got that ole Parrot Grocery Store that used to be down there. Well right straight across there, there's a _____ well there covered up. That's where we used to get water for the hotel down there. That there place right over that that Susie and them had, they put down that well there themselves and Joe had that one down there. My daddy put a 3/4 inch pipe from that well right on down through there and you can see the spigot and the pipe right yonder. At the corner of that building there now. That thing's been there a long time, son. I was about 6, 7 years old when that was put there.

Ya see they had it just left a wash tub underneath there and they'd turn that water on and a little trickle of water ... about as big around as your little finger ... would run in there all the time and fill that tub full. Yes sir, that spigot's been there ever since.

I 2: Is it true that this house next door to us here was an ice house?

R: Yeah. Used to store ice in there. Ya had a front porch there and there was a cooler there. And they would stack 300 pound blocks of ice in there. You'd come up there with your truck. Every fish dealer had a key to the ice house. You'd come there, like you'd want to get 10 blocks of ice, you'd come there and get it and they had a pad on the door that'd you'd write it down. Like Bell's Fish Company, 10 blocks of ice. Well, the next mornin' the fella that run the place and delivered ice, he'd come down and check at the fish

house with ya.

I 1: To check to see if you had those blocks of ice?

R: Yeah. We used to have an old Fairbank Morris Motor sittin' right out there. And that thing'd go choo, choo, choo, choo, choo, all night long. Big ole wheel on it about that big around. Belt. And they had to have cool water to cool it. They run water from that well to that ole Morris Motor that set over there. You'd be surprised, the way that place is fixed up. That ole boy there, he was a worker. He fixed that place up. Got two bedrooms here. At one end down there there's another kinda little room for 3/4 of a bed. Fixed up pretty nice.

I 2: There's one more building we can almost see from here. On the other side of it behind Kenny's house. Is it true that was a jail? That little building?

R: Yeah. Right here. The next house. That used to be the jail. Used to be a woman here by the name of, Jess Williams' wife. And Orrie, he's still livin'. He's 83 years old now. 83 or 84. And his mother was about half Indian. And one day I don't know what it was, but we was always doin' something mean. She grabbed ahold of Orrie and she got her a piece of rope, tied it around his wrist and she drug him over there and put him in that jail and locked the door on him. Kept him in there for two or three hours.

I 2: Did you ever hear any stories about when it was actually used as a jail?

R: No. I never did.

I 1: Do you remember much about the tourists that came down here? They used to call them Tin Can Tourists?

R: Son, I tell ya. Some of 'em would come down here and they would get some lumber and they would build a floor first. Then they'd come up with rough stuff about that high on the side, but the rest of it was tin. Tin. Tin. Regular ole canvas tin. They would sleep in there. Had a little ole iron pot stove. Used to be a feller by the name of Ole Man Stafford at the other end of the ole wooden Cortez Bridge here. Ole Man Stafford had a piece of property there and I bet ya there was 15 tourists, Yankees we'd call 'em, ole Tin Can Tourists, in there. I tell ya. I can remember goin' over there and meetin' a lot of 'em.

Ole Man Stafford had a two-story building there. And he lived in part of it and he rented spaced to them fellers that would build their own little tent places. And they'd all stay there the whole winter.

I 1: What would they do while they were here?

R: Nothin'. Just fish off the bridge.

I 1: Did they ever buy fish from the fishermen?

R: No. Once in awhile some of 'em would maybe get more fish than what they'd need. Well, they'd take 'em down there and sell some of 'em to the fish dealers. Yeah, they'd do that.

I 1: Were they kind people?

R: Yeah. They were just as friendly. I can remember Ole Man Stafford had a garage there. I judge that garage was as long as from here to that road out there. And he had tables sittin' in there, had shavin's on the ground. Just a bunch of shavin's and tables. And they'd sit there and play cards at night. Had an ole wood stove in there. They'd kindle that up once in awhile for a little bit of heat. And they were friendly people, now. They were. Of course, you'd run into some of 'em sometimes that wasn't, but.

I 1: Do you remember when they put the bridge in?

R: Which one, the first one?

I 1: Yes.

R: Oh, yeah. I remember that. I can remember goin' down there after the storm to see where some of the pilings were knocked over and everything. Yeah, I can remember that.

I 1: So people wouldn't go to the islands much before then.

R: They went quite a bit with boats. There was a feller by the name of Dave Fulford. And Joe Guthrie down here, he had a boat. And there was a feller by the name of Tommy Fulford had a boat. And two or three ole platforms over on the beach there for docks and they would charge you \$.25 to carry you over there. Come back and get ya at a certain time.

I 1: Then would they just go over there to sit on the beach?

R: Go in swimmin'. Maybe have picnics some of 'em. Yeah.

I 2: So what kind of a road was out here then before there was a bridge? Was it much of a road?

R: I sure wasn't, son. Mostly oyster shells.

I 2: When did it become a hard surface?

R: Oh, Lord. It was about the time they was buildin' on this bridge here. The 1921 storm we had took part of that bridge away and everything. Well, that's when they sort of started fixin' that road from there to Bradenton. And it was built like a hump back turtle.

I 1: Do you remember when they started building on the islands?

R: Son, they started that just as soon as they got that bridge across there where ya could go across it in Model A's and Model T's.

I 2: So that bridge made some difference around here.

R: Oh Lord, yes. Yeah sir, it sure did.

I 2: How about when they put this newer bridge in. That was I think in the 50's. Did you notice much of a difference around here at that time?

R: Well, yeah. It brought in more people and everything. Yeah.

I 1: We're about to run out of tape. So we kind of end it by talking a little bit about Cortez and what you think of this community.

R: Well, Son I'll tell ya. I've been he 81 years and I don't regret none of it here. I raised two girls. I believe two of the nicer girls to be raised here at Cortez. And I've always had three good meals a day ever since I've been born.

That's one thing, during the Depression. I heard 'em talkin' about it. People talkin' about, saying Cortez was the only place in the State that didn't ask for relief, ya know? During the Depression there to get people by.

I 1: Do you think that's true?

R: Yep. Cause, I tell ya. Whenever a person say they won't do this and they won't do that, well that's all it'll call for 'em to say something like that. Because during the Depression there, we had plenty of fish to eat. We had plenty of clams. And along them days we had plenty of scallops. Plenty of oysters. And you could go to the store for \$2.50 and get all the good blackeyed peas and whiteside bacon and a sack of flour and a little bit of lard and you was fixed. You could eat for two or three weeks now.

I 1: Is there anything about Cortez that you think is special?

R: Well, I wouldn't know myself exactly.

I 1: What do you like about it?

R: Son, I'll tell ya. What I like about it, it's just not everybody tryin' to run over ya here. Yes sir. It's just a place I can say one thing about it. I went off here awhile back for three weeks. Give me ole Cortez. I come back to it. Yes sir.

I 1: Do you have anything that you'd like to say?

R: No, I enjoyed talkin' to you two boys.

I 1: Well, good. Like I said, we might come back.

R: Do. Ya know Doris Green. I get a kick out of talkin' to her. Of course, her and I. I always say we was born and raised right here. She used to live in this house.

I 1: She did?

R: Yeah. Her father bought this place. My uncles is the ones that had it built. He lived in it and my father owned it at one time and lost it. Mortgage. Way back years ago. That was yard times. My father along them days, if you wanted to mortgage \$2,000 or \$3,000 you went to the bank, you had to get a go-signer to sign for you. Well, my father signed for this man that borrowed some money. And he come to my daddy and told my daddy that he could not pay the mortgage off.

The bank taked it over and Ole Man Willis Adams got it through the bank. They lived in it for awhile. Well along then a house wasn't but about \$1,000.

I 1: That was awhile back.

R: Oh, Lord yeah.

I 1: Well, I think maybe we ought to get Paul and Doris together some time.

R: Before she wrote her book, she come here, got out of the car and we set here. I bet ya we was talkin' here an hour. First thing ya know I heard the blind and looked and my wife says, what are ya all two doin' out there? Yeah.

I 1: Thank you Mr. Taylor, we appreciate it.

R: Yeah.

