

[background conversation] [00:00:00]

Matt McPherson: Okay, so anyway, we can sit and start talking and then at a certain point we'll want to, you know, reference the map. But just to start, I'll just say this is Matt McPherson, and it is August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and we are at in Panama City. What is the name of the fish house here?

Kenyon Ghandi: Buddy Ghandi Seafood.

Matt McPherson: Okay, Buddy Ghandi Seafood. And we're here with Mr...

Kenyon Ghandi: Kenyon Ghandi.

Matt McPherson: Kenyon Ghandi. Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: Gandy, G-A-N-D-Y

Matt McPherson: Gandy. Okay, Kenyon Gandy. Okay. And, you know, I guess just to get started, can you tell us a little bit about your experience fishing in this area, when you started and, you know, how you started?

Kenyon Ghandi: I started about 1948.

Matt McPherson: 1948, okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: Played in water, fishing, trout fishing and that kind of stuff. But I graduated out of high school in 1955 and bought my commercial fishing license went to work in the fishing business at that time. And then it was in St. Andrews which is a [00:02:00] subject for Panama City in the level street. And in about 1957, 58, they decided they wanted to build marinas in town and the city commission that proposed that idea didn't inform us of what they wanted to do. They just come down and says, "You just have to leave the dock. We're going to build a marina." And a lot of people around here didn't even know what a marina was.

And so we were fortunate because while we were in the process of taking, closing down the fish market over the gentleman that came by whose name was Wallace Copal, he was local celebrity here, he says, board of these is, I see the citizen. He proposed that. He says, "I've seen that the city fired you." So he says, "But don't worry about it." He said, "We've got something for you."

And he took me and my brother and my daddy home and we drove out to Thomas Drive and after where Treasure Island Marina is now. And it was not the parameters and on both sides of the road and it based and the man that owned the property was named Herbert Sap, who's a member of the Sap family and they had bought all of that land out

there in the early '20s and [00:04:00] they had not developed it until about that time that started to be profitable to develop land.

And he explained to us what he wanted to do. He had relief map on his desk and he had a little toolkit out there that like a construction site toolkit and he had his office set up in there and that's where he directed the construction of the first set of docks there.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Matt McPherson: And he hired me and my brother and my daddy drive the pilot. We've got the pilot driven and we started docking boats in there as soon as, and then in the process we were building a fish house along with it because it would call dock ran on the dock complex and we'd build a little fish house about 18 by 25 feet long to handle the party boat fish when they started coming in. And we started like in March when the weather started warming and by June the 1<sup>st</sup> we had 16 trolling boats and a couple of head boats docking in that dock and they started their tears season opened up then and they started picking fish and we've been in fishing business ever since.

Matt McPherson: So, you say trolling boats?

Kenyon Ghandi: Trolling boats, you know, that's the ones that has the passenger sit down in the seats and dragged the lines. That's the smaller boats.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: The larger boats, we call them head boats.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: That's where you pay your fare, get on it, ride like on the bus and everybody goes out there and fish and then they come back in.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: And our job was to process the fish for the tourists. And [00:06:00] at that time, Florida didn't have any rules on the fishery.

Matt McPherson: All right.

Kenyon Ghandi: So, we bought fish. If they didn't want to be bothered with them, we would buy and then we would sell them to the retail customers. And the ones that wanted to take the fish home with them we dressed them for them. We actually pioneered fish cleaning for hire in Panama City professional. Before that it was done by the deckhands on the boats on the docks and they would make and walk off and leave it and then the dock master had whoever was in charge had to come back and clean up the dock.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And so that's basically what motivated us to get into fish business. We charged the fee...

Matt McPherson: To clean the fish.

Kenyon Ghandi: 2 cents a pound to good head and 5 cents a pound good head and 10 cents a pound to filet.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: We had stages, address and some people would take them home. We'd have some downfall, sell them that. And they wanted, they'd just partial clean them. We would cut the heads off and got caught up in the bed and then we would filet the ones that they wanted to clean ready for the pan with the different stages.

Matt McPherson: Sure.

Kenyon Ghandi: And that's basically what motivated us to get in the business is we had that opportunity to service the party boats and in the interim we had a market created for fish and the party boats didn't [00:08:00] catch enough fish to fill that market. So, we started by commercial fish as well as a party boat fish.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And there was a distinction between them, you know, and it evolved in the license program. When they did come along and started license everything, the one that was in the commercial fish, they got commercial license and the ones in recreational fishing got recreational license, party boats six passenger, 10 passengers, and then unlimited quarter kind of boats you had.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: And that's basically the way it evolved over a long period of time.

Matt McPherson: But at that time there was...

Kenyon Ghandi: 1965 there was no license, no regulation at all.

Matt McPherson: So, you would just buy it from the party boats or from commercial boats.

Kenyon Ghandi: Anybody fish but we look at them I said they were good about it. They would rock me Knutson down a road. We had it and in the interim we were buying ice from an ice plant that's down here in St. Andrews where the Captain's Table parking lot is and it made block ice. You remember the big 300 pound block ice?

Matt McPherson: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: They did made ice. And the man that owned it was a little older than my daddy maybe five years old or something like that. Anyway, I was down there getting ice one day that all up the Treasure Island and he says, "How about me selling you this ice plant?" I said, "I don't know nothing about ice plant." And he says, "You don't need to know anything. I know all there is about it." He says, "I built this plant from scratch," and he says, "and I'm ready to retire." I said, "Well, I don't have any money." He says, "You don't need any money." He says, "I got the money." [00:10:00] He said, "I'm ready to retire." He says.

Anyway, we negotiated for about a week. He'd come up with arrangements for us to just take over and start running the ice plant, giving him a payment. At that time they made I think three payments a year June, July and August. And then we didn't coast it through the winter because at that time everything shut down in the wintertime. No fishing, the materials here it's just totally...

Matt McPherson: No commercial fishing either?

Kenyon Ghandi: There was a little commercial fishing, but it was a little bit heavy unless you had big commercial boats and bait. Usually we'd go to Texas and fish and unload down there and they'd come back and unload here and that was too slow with that range.

Matt McPherson: So, they were going to fish and other places.

Kenyon Ghandi: Oh yeah, they migrated with fish.

Matt McPherson: Migrated in the wintertime.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. Sometime a few of them would go as far as Tampa to fish there it show going down that way and fish back. But most of them like to go to West and that.

Matt McPherson: And they would fish, they would spend a time fishing over there and then they would sell the fish over.

Kenyon Ghandi: Sell the fish over there until you set up a system of trucks. There were several fish houses here at that time. I was not the only one. And they would send a truck over there and pick up a load of fish and bring back. And that went on for a while.

Matt McPherson: Now why in the winter here, whatever would they leave and go somewhere else is the fishing off of the interior?

Kenyon Ghandi: No, there's plenty of fish. I mean, except that migratory pelagics came along were seasonal, but you could catch fish year around out here snapper and grouper and that kind of stuff. But [00:12:00] the actual seasons that guide the tourism came as regulations in state county time until they completely took it over under the mangos act I think.

Matt McPherson: So, it was guides and the tourist season.

Kenyon Ghandi: The tour season.

Matt McPherson: And so there wasn't as much demand here for fish at the restaurant.

Kenyon Ghandi: But we had a New York market that called the fish market. And when we accumulated fish time that we would load them on trucks and send a truck load to New York. And so we could sell the fish. Sometimes we could sell some in Atlanta most of the time they have to go to New York until around 1970 it began to become gradually become more local. Now we don't have to ship fish unless we have customers that want some and we got some, but we are not forced to ship them.

Matt McPherson: It's a local market now?

Kenyon Ghandi: It's more of a local market.

Matt McPherson: Oh.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. So, you have a big fish market which is a worldwide market. They got fish from overseas and if it were fish to beef producers and then trucks all over the Eastern part of the United States go in there and take them up and distributed that way. And that was the central market for seafood. That's Silicon fish market in New York. But it evolved and it's thing is the economy developed and the demand in our tourism and explosion of population as the people began to build houses and move out there. So, it's like it is today we have more local market than they do.

Matt McPherson: And where you all fishing [00:14:00] as well in 1955, or you're just doing fish deal?

Kenyon Ghandi: We fish, we had to get on it me and my brother like we just to do it, but we didn't have time to do it deliberately as that business developed. And we had the fish house at Treasure Island Marina and then we got the ice plant and by then we were about as basic as you can get. And then we, the city decided that they needed somebody to ramrod that marina down there. And they talked to my daddy and the living in a fish market on air and he we had hired somebody to run it, so we eventually sold our interest

in it. But the marina is just like it is today. And then you drive down there the boats docked all around there but ain't no activity.

[laughter]

Kenyon Ghandi: I think it is on the highway.

Matt McPherson: Right. Now was your, had your father been, was he a fisherman?

Kenyon Ghandi: No, he was a dirt farmer out of Jordan moved down here in 1948 and he started driving a truck hauling watermelons and we had a fruit stand while we were still in school. And by the time I got out of school in 1955 I bought a commercial fishing license and I started the fish business because I didn't like hauling watermelon.

[laughter]

Matt McPherson: But you had gotten a boat as well?

Kenyon Ghandi: Oh yeah, little boats. They were nothing than 20-foot, 18 feet, something like that with air-cooled engines in them.

Matt McPherson: And where were you fishing for at the time?

Kenyon Ghandi: Mullet.

Matt McPherson: Mullet?

Kenyon Ghandi: Macro and then micro showed up. The macro is higher season mullet fishing about year [00:16:00] round. A different crop comes in I've ever saw.

Matt McPherson: And that's when you were put in a Gilman that thought...

Kenyon Ghandi: We put Gilman from mother.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then the micro season, we did a little micro fishing, but it was more of a burden to do that since we had the fish house. Now if I finally just stayed with the boats and not worried about fish house and sold another commercial house, I probably would've been still fishing.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: But I got into the opportunity to clean fish professionally and serve the public began at Treasure Island Marine and that's how we got in the business.

Matt McPherson: And what kind of fish were you buying back then primarily?

Kenyon Ghandi: Mostly red snapper, B liners, Vermilion snapper.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: We nicknamed them B liners for some reason, but I don't know remember who collected without air but they...

Woman: No, I'm actually wondering what a B liner was.

Kenyon Ghandi: You hear them referred to as VBs. They supported your case today. I did a little riff sniper about after they called or Megan snapper, they said VBs or B liners.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. And that you hear that word, that's what they're talking about. But the true name that sign is put on for millions now. Right?

Matt McPherson: So, red snapper for a million the two.

Kenyon Ghandi: Were the two prominent species that party boats caught.

Matt McPherson: That's what they wanted.

Kenyon Ghandi: And some of the commercial boats. Yeah.

Matt McPherson: And what else were the commercial boats catching?

Kenyon Ghandi: The grouper. If they could catch grouper [00:18:00] they could and as a general rule grouper was more prevalent than the red snapper except in the actual seasons you could go out about year round and catch a few groupers because they were reef fish. They stayed on the reef page. Snapper was semi-reef fish. They would go into schools and migrate and then land on the spot like grouper do but...

Matt McPherson: But they were more seasonal the snapper?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they were more seasonal. Yeah.

Matt McPherson: When was more or less the snapper season?

Kenyon Ghandi: They were easier to catch in summertime.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then the spring, they would open up, we call it the spring season, and then they would run through the fall season. In the wintertime it would kind of dried up and fishermen didn't like to go fishing in cold weather unless they made long, we call them long mega trips. They would go down to Tampa fish down there and then bring it back like that. But the short boats that wanted to stayed around the coast they kind of dried up for them in wintertime.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then later on as things got more modern, big diesel engines and stuff and the boats could move, they do it year round like they do it now.

Matt McPherson: Even in this area.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, go with it when they get customers.

Matt McPherson: Right. And they would do more fish for more grouper in the wintertime than snapper?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they would work out in that way. They could catch more grouper. Grouper is a reed fish, it kind of hangs around this territory. [00:20:00] They migrate some but they don't migrate as much as snapper do. And then toward the further west like Texas, they have more snapper down there than they have grouper. At least they did in the past, I don't know since the...

Matt McPherson: So, there were still going...

Kenyon Ghandi: Fishery had picked up in Texas too and Texas got a big coast out there.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: So, they have fish house all up in the coast. So, it's hard to know exactly how many fish is produced in an area unless the people who take up the weights like Florida Marine fisheries, it takes the weight of the fish and cumulative data. That's the only way you find out what's going on.

Matt McPherson: Well, that is it they might be catching it in Texas and bringing it and selling it to you here is that?

Kenyon Ghandi: We used to do that because they didn't have the markets in Texas.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: But Texas has turned around now. Texas is probably they're probably importing fish now with the population explosion in Texas.

Matt McPherson: Right, right.

Kenyon Ghandi: Especially on the Gulf coast. It's totally changed over the years. It's not a sparse population. It is growing beyond my imagination. I used to go down to pick up fish and the edge of Texas down there, call them back automobile on commercial truck and if they like a long drive trip. If you go down there now [00:22:00] there's full lane highways and get down there and get back.

Matt McPherson: Right. So, you actually go and buy fish in Texas to bring back here?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. The boats would what they like to do the boats the fish here would fish and they go in down there and unload. They call them long legged trips that unload down there and then they finish out and it's a thing for driving like in season, they might make one trip back in there and you pick up two loads truck them and then they would fish back and unload the backhaul here. And they did do that for the convenience of the fishermen.

Matt McPherson: So, you would go pick it up over there when they were dropping off over there and then they have the last haul they would drop it off, actually bring it back and sell it here.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. I mean we weren't the only ones that did that. The other fish houses, there were several fish houses doing that as an industry.

Matt McPherson: And they were fishing for red snapper primarily.

Kenyon Ghandi: Primarily for ribs, snapper and yeah.

Matt McPherson: Why do you think red snapper is so everybody wants red snappers. Why has been so important the red snapper?

Kenyon Ghandi: Well, it started when the main fishermen came down here in late 1800s, 1880 of our long run the first family landed in Pensacola that came from the Wells family yeah came from London. And they built a fish house there in Pensacola on the wall. And by the time they got it established, they came and did one right where the shrimp boat restaurant right then they're saying that the old man that they had hired was the secretary [00:24:00] at Pensacola, but he moved here to run the High Spot, I mean the fish house.

And then he stayed here and I got to meet him before he passed away. He would be Hilary and his son bought a print shop that used to print our invoices, books and we had out. We'd go and I'd talk to him about it and he'd tell me stories, daddy, tell him. But just before the old man passed away, I got to talk to him and he told us about how he evolved

and got down here. And when Sanders decided they wanted to expand down here they first opened up right at hand to Frank Cardone and they had a saw mill on one side ship lumber and they had a fish house, they could download the fish and they salted them and packed them in barrels and send them out by oxen and on the train. Anyway, that time I talked to him he was in his 90s and that was a probably 1969.

Matt McPherson: And they were the ones who started selling the red snappers out of his area?

Kenyon Ghandi: Oh yeah. But it was motivated by the Whales family, Pensacola. You know, in any volume now that there was people that went out the kit fish. Matter of fact, the farmers would come down and spend a week, go out and fish local boat, pack them, brown them down in salt, load them on the oxen and later on a horse and buggy wrapped the wagons. And then by the time that, and then a truck, they started calling them trucks. [00:26:00] And it evolved that way.

Matt McPherson: But they were salting the grouper, red snapper or any kind of fish.

Kenyon Ghandi: Any kind of fish they would take back and utilize them. It was a food source that they could preserve with salt and use it.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: Whether it was good for your health I'm not saying they didn't pay any attention to that killed them in their 40s when they started noticing and do that right after World War II.

Matt McPherson: But is there some reason that people prefer red snapper so much over seemingly over other species that...?

Kenyon Ghandi: I really don't know except for availability. It was available I think they would like them, but most people that eat or if snapper but most would eat a grouper. I do all of these things.

Matt McPherson: So, they don't mind.

Kenyon Ghandi: They don't mind whatever's available at the time and if you don't get burned out on it, if you need it.

Matt McPherson: It's just been more than red snapper was more available than anything else?

Kenyon Ghandi: And so the market they had before what we called the depression in 1929, 30 and on up till World War II, the farmers in South Alabama and South Georgia, North Florida, they South [indiscernible] [00:27:39] reserve and they would feed their

labors that went there and most of the big had big families and for farming, if you had to hire a crew to harvest your crops, they expect the meal easy to [00:28:00] bring out a fish, south fish so largely that about the time that laborers can get them to the field, hands coming to the table and then they'd go back and work. And then that happened all the way across the South, the Southern part of the United.

Matt McPherson: So, you all were from the first sort of generation that were selling the fresh fish on ice?

Kenyon Ghandi: About the second.

Matt McPherson: The second, okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: Who came in the '50s.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: I graduated from high school in 1955.

Matt McPherson: And so other than grouper and snapper, what other types of fish were you buying?

Kenyon Ghandi: American blue fish that heavy weight. And then Panama City expanded tourism. We have more local trade tourists coming here, spending their vacation, I cannot take it back. So, we sell a lot of fish like that that you don't have to ship.

Matt McPherson: So, people actually faculty you pack it up for them.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they come buy them.

Matt McPherson: And they just take it with them.

Kenyon Ghandi: We had some down that's got that ice machine out there. We asked their fish farm and they'd take them out. No, matter of fact they let us process the time. We thought he'd got to cut and run back there and they'll bring them and drop them, clean them up for them.

Matt McPherson: Still doing that business.

Kenyon Ghandi: A little bit. It's not like it was before, but we've still got it available for them. They can, if they wanted to, they could come down and stay two, three, four days, five days fish and drop off and eat today and then come back again or trip and they pack them out. They can [00:30:00] take them home. I still do a little bit of that and it's available but not as much as it used to be.

Matt McPherson: And how have things changed since the 1950s in terms of fishing in this area? And you've mentioned a few things, but what are some of the most significant changes you've seen sort of sent you all started?

Kenyon Ghandi: Well, the significant change, but when the regulations came that that's changed.

Matt McPherson: That's more or less when was that?

Kenyon Ghandi: When they have a national Marine, I mean the Florida Marine, they took over the management of that state waters and then they kind of mail it under the shelter of the national Marine fisheries who kind of overlapped them at the time, like working under two regulations.

Matt McPherson: And that happened more or less the same time they were the two regulations?

Kenyon Ghandi: I think the way it felt like me that when Florida realized that the federal government was going to regulate it, they jumped on it and kind of breathe or get there before the government got there. And, but anyway, they finally mailed it together, kind of work in harmony. We, the reports go to both agents, but the fish still go to the same track.

Matt McPherson: Right, right. And what were the biggest changes that, so how did it change your business and your life and sort of the fishing instruments in this area when the regulations...?

Kenyon Ghandi: There was, what I say made the biggest change some of the people went out of the business sectors but work under the regulations. So, we really lost some production and some people bought bigger boats, better boats and [00:32:00] electronic equipment and all that stuff that come along made it easier for them. And it just evolved to what like it is today. We still have a few commercial fishing boats, but they got electronic equipment. They can go out and find a spot fish. Matter of fact, they call them fish finders. They can actually tell if there's fish on the reef before they even put the hook down and other things. It evolved that way. And of course fishing under the regulation they have to do, it's not as easy to go take a boat and go out and catch all you want I've made the trip. You've got it very regulated.

Matt McPherson: Right. Now what was the way that it was introduction of regulations first influenced you all as dealers? I mean what was it that?

Kenyon Ghandi: It was the license process that you had to go in and buy.

Matt McPherson: So, before you didn't have to have a license at all?

Kenyon Ghandi: No fishing license.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then when they did that, that eliminated the hook and line fishing that the people could just go out and catch a fish and come back. And if they didn't want to take them home with them, they can drop by and settlement. Basically they can't do that.

Matt McPherson: And that used to be pretty common.

Kenyon Ghandi: It was common. Maybe like somebody all the way dam to the keys.

Matt McPherson: Is that right?

Kenyon Ghandi: And probably on the East coast too. I think some of the dealers over there on the East coast fish, the fish houses with free to buy fish from eight o'clock. Then when they put a license on it, the fish has had to have been specially licensed [00:34:00] even buy fish and the fisherman had to be specialized to even sell fish.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. He could go out on a party boat if you fish with stick with the bag and then you've got his bag of them and he had to go home like that.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: And that worked out to basically what it is today.

Matt McPherson: Right. The party boats, they couldn't sell the fish anymore.

Kenyon Ghandi: Not unless they had a commercial license and they I think some of that, but they made it harder to get to make it. So, the government regulation was in control of the production right down at the reporting. They used to have an agent that that was his job. He could come back once a month and take our books and get the production. And if that happens comp I don't know if they feel the same way lately. I think they can get it through the electronic trip ticket system that we have done.

Matt McPherson: Right. Originally they would come by, the 40 agents would come by and they would monthly they'll come you all would have a router and then they...

Kenyon Ghandi: Commercial production and get the weight of each invoice. I don't know what they did, but all of that data, how they processed it, I think they could tell how many boats we had fishing or what each boat and what species were prominent in certain codes and correct. And right here it was simple because of our base structure party boat can be out in 10 or 15 minutes by the time [00:36:00] they leave the dock, they can be at

sea and then 30 minutes they could be on a spot and then they could go out and stay all day or stay for three days or whatever I want. They set up a trip that they can be back in port, but they both and travel pretty good speed them.

Matt McPherson: When they first introduced the regulations, they basically got rid of all the small scale producers.

Kenyon Ghandi: They dropped out.

Matt McPherson: They just dropped out.

Kenyon Ghandi: And fish cleaning, you know, if the marinas we'd got dropped out too, if we'd have been had a regular fish house.

Matt McPherson: Is that right? So, did it, did some other fish houses go out of business?

Kenyon Ghandi: A lot got shut down because they were not in position to pay. Our best situation was if we had production Treasure Island Marina gentleman that built Treasure Island Marina did run the fish house and build a dock. And that's what started as an, and we got to go home. And when we bought the ice plant we find what they will furnish ice to all of the boats until everybody got these ice machine and then it went obsolete.

Matt McPherson: Oh really? So, you don't have.

Kenyon Ghandi: In 1988 it went obsolete.

Matt McPherson: And who started supplying the ice?

Kenyon Ghandi: They would get their own

Matt McPherson: They made their ice?

Kenyon Ghandi: They did have ice machine sit on your boat all night.

Matt McPherson: Ah.

Kenyon Ghandi: Buy ice machine put it on your back porch and take your ice machine when you go fishing. You buy ice machine 200 pounds, 300 pounds, 1000, 20,000 pounds, whatever you needed.

Matt McPherson: So, they got their own ice machines.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: But you all were able to stay in business as you continued [00:38:00] to clean the...

Kenyon Ghandi: We clean the fish and actually we went out of business when the ice plant went obsolete, and everybody had their own ice machine. We couldn't say of the block house that we closed that down and I went into the shrimping business. And then about the time my brother...

Matt McPherson: That's how you and he started.

Kenyon Ghandi: I've gotten rid of my best, I just started buying shrimp.

Matt McPherson: Oh, you started shrimp.

Kenyon Ghandi: By the time that the shrimping influxion here they came into this area, they found out it was a good place for them because they knew a little bit about shrimps.

Woman: That's in the '80s?

Kenyon Ghandi: In 1982, 83 when all that got up to about 1986 they were migrating but then.

Matt McPherson: Into this area of Panama City area there with Vietnamese shrimping business out there.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Woman: Are they still there?

Kenyon Ghandi: They all of them got into the nail business.

[laughter]

Kenyon Ghandi: I think it would make more money in the nail business.

Matt McPherson: The nail business?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. Medicare if you go into a nail shop in this town and then Thomas was Georgia, Tallahassee, Pensacola they could stick a nail shop.

Matt McPherson: Are there still any shrimp or is there any shrimping that takes place around here in this area?

Kenyon Ghandi: Not much. We buy most of ours at Pensacola.

Matt McPherson: At Pensacola.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: Okay. Are those Vietnamese fishermen [00:40:00]?

Kenyon Ghandi: I'm not sure how many Vietnamese is that. They shouldn't be something that they mostly evolved like they were other occupation. They found out that they could make money in other fields and especially the ones that got educated they got away from the waterfront. There's either still try to manage fishing because they like it.

Matt McPherson: Well, in Texas and Louisiana, there's still a large Vietnamese.

Kenyon Ghandi: Still in fishing I'm sure they did, but I hadn't been over there with a check it out.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: We bought a few fish, a few shrimp from bottle and battery and I'm not sure if they have any Vietnamese in there that the truck on and drops them off.

Matt McPherson: We can buy something by hour.

Kenyon Ghandi: We buy from the water street fish company and a couple other than standing back electrical.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then this businesses evolve to more like they're selling seafood photo, commercial production and ship. We don't do that much anymore. If we get a few extra fish, he can call another dealer. We try to have the bigger we buy them, the ones we need when we can't get them from the boat.

Matt McPherson: Do you have certain boats that you work with very closely or...?

Kenyon Ghandi: No, there's some Vietnamese board discussing our boats, three or four motors on it and they'd go out there and fish and [00:42:00] catch a few snappers and they'd come back in and we do it like that. But most of the time we buy from dealers, it's already got a pack because we don't have time to run in the retail market here with a skeleton crew to do all of that.

Matt McPherson: Oh, so now you're buying from other dealers basically. Those dealers have done that work or have more like that.

Kenyon Ghandi: They have exclusive water street, for instance, out on the main street in Apalachicola, it's called water straight right down the river. And the boats in dock on both sides of his face out and he got an unloading facility and he can load shrimp fish don't make no difference what that kid, he can process them. And then he's got trucks that he can send them to Tampa, Jacksonville or Pensacola, Panama City and I've heard Texas work and...

Matt McPherson: The fishermen use the dock space that they have and then in exchange they sell directly.

Kenyon Ghandi: Usually, if they sell for the big boat, the fish house sits on the dock wherever they're docking.

Matt McPherson: Okay, that's the normal.

Kenyon Ghandi: Unless they have a private dock and then they...

Matt McPherson: They dock themselves.

Kenyon Ghandi: They dock they sell.

Matt McPherson: So, most fishermen have some are docking somewhere where the fish house.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: And then they'll sell to that fish house.

Kenyon Ghandi: That's basically the way.

Matt McPherson: And you all never had that arrangement where you...

Kenyon Ghandi: We sold our interest in out, I don't know, St Andrews Marina long time ago and then we sold out the Treasure Island interest out there to younger people to run. And then my brother decided he wanted to be in the business and this service station in carwash as well business [00:44:00] became available and we thought it would make a pretty good fish market and it turned out to be a pretty good take on it. And then he decided he wanted to retire and my son came along and the though mother that he wanted the fish house because we grew up in it.

Matt McPherson: Ah.

Kenyon Ghandi: And my brother tried to sell it and he couldn't find anybody that would pay him what he wanted for it. So, my son was sold to him and his mother and I kind of looked at, we don't work, she does a little bit of bookwork and I just sit around here.

Matt McPherson: But in the past you did have some docks and you did have that sold to you?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, we did.

Matt McPherson: Yeah. More or less in what year did you all sell out?

Kenyon Ghandi: I think in the '80s.

Matt McPherson: In the '80s. Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: That's about the time the Vietnamese got over and on the other side of town and in the Bay area over there. And then the shrimp boats can tie up to the dock. I would unload them and then make some good friends with them. They're good people. They're real conscientious about their work. And I think that's what I do today. It's good in the nail say to their festival.

Matt McPherson: Yeah. So, what happened over the years? Have there been any [00:46:00] periods or years or anything that you remember where there have been like major problems with the fish supply like where fishermen couldn't fish or were there any crises in the fisheries that you recall around here?

Kenyon Ghandi: Not natural. I don't think of any natural curves. Most of it was getting used to the regulation. Some couldn't handle it. They get out of the business. Do you think would come in buy somebody out and it just, you know, as time goes along, it evolved to where it is today and you have to really be on the business to stay in this business. It's easy to go, bro. It's a specialty item.

Matt McPherson: And what are the things that can cause you to go broke really fast in this business if you're not careful?

Kenyon Ghandi: You have to make sure your bills are paid if you buy in production so you get more production that you can get tied up there, you can be out of it quick. So, we tried to kind of do that. And you have a good relationship with the other fish houses because they're customers instead of competitors.

Matt McPherson: Ah.

Kenyon Ghandi: So, we had like Greg Aprons over there. Well, I don't count him as a competitor, he don't count me as. We need something, I drive over there he's got a bus. However every upset it to me or if I had the version of whatever and the boys go over in

port St. Joe, they have their trucks pass by here every day we make something, they buy something from them every day. [00:48:00]

Matt McPherson: Okay. So, it matters throughout the years to maintain a pretty...

Kenyon Ghandi: We don't have compete we're customers to each other.

Matt McPherson: Customers to each other, okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And we support each other. That's the way you keep the business go with it. And since it's so highly regulated now, there's not a fly by night fish business there's don't get into business. He's going to be a fish dealer he's got to buy somebody out and get a license.

Matt McPherson: So, the only way you could get a license as the buy somebody else out. You can't go get a license.

Kenyon Ghandi: Oh, you can go get a license.

Matt McPherson: Yeah, but you'd have to get all your equipment.

Kenyon Ghandi: You have to roll up developing your customers, production customers and all like that.

Matt McPherson: Right, right, right.

Kenyon Ghandi: And it's just complicated and if you don't know enough about the fish business, you'd be hard pressed to get into business.

Matt McPherson: Interesting, yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: It's just...

Matt McPherson: So, you bought somebody out in some ways, you get their clients, you get some of their connections.

Kenyon Ghandi: And if you can stay with the program and learn it, you can get into the business, but it's not something you can walk off the street and get into business like you could in the old days.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: And you agree with the regulator usually we got the federal regulations, state regulations that we have to work with and they still get their reports. We have to file reports with each one of them.

Matt McPherson: Rely on state right now.

Kenyon Ghandi: Of course with the computer now that is easy from what it used to be. It used be they actually sent driver a person that car and he would sit in the chair, take up of this space and write all this stuff down in this book and take it back to Tallahassee.

Matt McPherson: Right, right.

Kenyon Ghandi: That's it's a little [00:50:00] bit different now.

Matt McPherson: Other than the beginnings of the regulatory period, which I think were probably like in the mid '70s more or less and that shock, do you remember any other particular regulations that took place that sort of, you know, had a big impact? You said, you know, really not natural phenomenon has never really like, I mean we've had the hurricanes and...

Kenyon Ghandi: We've had that all the hurricanes.

Matt McPherson: You had all the hurricanes.

Kenyon Ghandi: Including the great the one Michael.

Matt McPherson: Michael last year, right. Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: There has never been a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico illegal or did they call it the fun category five but when a 10 bill fields equipment failed at runway wind regression 177 miles an hour and the splinter equipment went away, we don't know what it was.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: If you could go after tandem and go to Apalachicola and flip it on both sides of the road and you can see the destruction from Apalachicola coming back, getting worse and worse, the you get the 10 million, you know, and if not every one of the buildings down on the runway and they had to refill it.

Matt McPherson: Were you all, did you all leave?

Kenyon Ghandi: I stayed in my house.

Matt McPherson: You're in your house. Oh, my gosh.

Kenyon Ghandi: They took the roof off at the shop and I got water, but we, it was like being in a bunker. We survived it.

Matt McPherson: And how about the, you said the commercial fishing and being able to it's come back?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, this building it except that it shut it down. No electricity. Matter of fact, when my son came back and started cleaning up, I think he run it for about [00:52:00] two months without any electricity.

Matt McPherson: Oh my God.

Kenyon Ghandi: It had the highest voice from Apalachicola and the other truck, but bring him ice and he can run over to Greg Havens and get some ice because our ice machine we had one this out there and now that we've had one similar to it and they put it out there in a concrete parking lot and vested on paces and we had to buy another ice machine.

Matt McPherson: What about the like the vessels, the fishermen, I mean, how were they able to, I mean, did, were there counsels destroyed because of the or how do they?

Kenyon Ghandi: I think they all that can, you know, put them in separate safe harbor and I don't know of any boat specific guys specifically got destroyed by that hurricane. There might've been some at the docks that got destroyed.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: But it was not as bad as you think it could have been because they usually put them in safe harbor and when they hear hurricane, the boats get tied up or they don't smash.

Matt McPherson: They know where to put them.

Kenyon Ghandi: They know what to put.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: And so they've been able to get back in the market and is more or less beveled back to that.

Kenyon Ghandi: They whole beveled back off pick Laos one 36.

Matt McPherson: So, what about in terms of the regulations, were there any other regulations or anything that you, period that you remember that particularly have like a major disruptive factor forced people to change?

Kenyon Ghandi: Not recently. This whole system changing the regulations, same regulation I think.

Matt McPherson: What about the net bound, did the net bound have a big impact around here? [00:54:00]

Kenyon Ghandi: It did for the people that within the business. But of course the fish dealers, we had changed over there were some model going out of business. I can't remember everything about the backyard they had to modify their fishing and dependent on buying fishing, selling fish and not producing the nets. It just...

Matt McPherson: Also there was some dealers that actually would put nets out and do their own production and they weren't able to do that anymore.

Kenyon Ghandi: Dependent totally on their fishing like down at the sea and some of those guys that put out of business and there might've been one or two around here but I can't remember right off hand they went out the ones that still go and do a thing like in Anderson have those boats those date. Mr. Miller, I think Anderson.

Matt McPherson: The Andersons have been here for a long time.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, it's a big family.

Matt McPherson: It's a big family, yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. They started in the cattle business in 1812.

Matt McPherson: 1812? Oh, so they've been here for a long time.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then they learn how to fish that they were crack our or go there and Charlie Anderson came here to say that the South Port where he loaded the cattle on the barge to take them to Cuba. So, they had to sell their [00:56:00] cattle to Cuba because the British wouldn't let the Americans ship the cows it was like second generation come along, they grew up out there and then the next generation then they got into the fishing business. That's the reason you'd have the Anderson name in the fishing.

The next generation the one that my dad's age and just before me fours brother wound up there two of Anderson's Marina, the other two came over on Treasure Island side and run their boats. They shifted and shifted out of the business. They're all passed away now.

Matt McPherson: But then there was still some of the younger.

Kenyon Ghandi: The younger generation stay in business and some got into other businesses. They got educated and did better.

Matt McPherson: But there are still some that are fishing.

Kenyon Ghandi: There are still a few out there.

Matt McPherson: Yeah. Well, we came, we had mentioned the, you know, red tide that we were interested in red tides. And you had started that just tell us a little bit about what is your, I know you haven't been out on the boats a lot in a long time, but did you ever, while you were on the water, did you ever experience red tide and what have you heard over the years about like from fishermen?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, we heard more than what I actually developed because the red tide never really affected the fish. It killed a few fish. They just retreat sites. We left that as the water was purified, red tide went away. And I think the information I had that it was a [00:58:00] large organism actually turned the water pink and it would suffocate the fish back and to get in the water with Kemp periods and everything was confusion. It would be prevalent it was free flowing water, oxygenated water would get gum and something that couldn't be regulated by the government and couldn't be prevented our health by what the government did.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: It's a natural course.

Matt McPherson: Right. And you never remember seeing dead fish on the beaches or...?

Kenyon Ghandi: No, not in an alarming way.

Matt McPherson: Or you never remembered it?

Kenyon Ghandi: I didn't go to too much out on the beach, but we never had people complaining that I ain't going back to the beach anymore because if they fish all over, we never had that problem.

Matt McPherson: And you never had the problem where fishermen were coming in and saying, I can't catch fish because there was all this red tide or pink water and we can't fish.

Matt McPherson: That's right. We didn't have as much grumbling about the red tide as we had about the regulations being imposed.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. I mean some of the regulations it's hard to get used to. I right out of the day there's enough people got out of the business and left and then the ones who

stayed we it like it is today. You still see the boat you're going fishing. Even dock down here in St. Andrew dock in Treasure Island because it's shorter to the fishing ground.

Matt McPherson: Treasure Island is the biggest.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, it's the biggest.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And of course [01:00:00] a lot of freelance boats now private boats you can buy a boat that can do for 30, 40 miles an hour with Apple's motor and get them run out there and fish and not have a...

Matt McPherson: Got license.

Kenyon Ghandi: Now they...

Matt McPherson: Those are just...

Kenyon Ghandi: I'm talking about people that were just want to go fishing.

Matt McPherson: They did right.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. Commercial fishing you got to buy the license and you just buy that I think you have buy somebody out because I don't know if they issue license right off the top.

Matt McPherson: And where are the, are the commercial fishing vessels out of Treasure Island or where are they mostly?

Kenyon Ghandi: There's a few out there they do an Apalachicola.

Matt McPherson: Apalachicola.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, the candidate thinking might be something good and Pensacola it always going to be some boats in Pensacola that's one of the biggest coast.

Matt McPherson: So, here in Panama City right now there are more, there are still head boats.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they still running out Captain Anderson's over Treasure Island they still got a couple out there and there's still a lot of individual boats owners own their own boats. They go fishing. And then you have your little cargo boats.

Matt McPherson: The Captain Anderson still have some commercial boats that go out of that work.

Kenyon Ghandi: Well, they're dock there but Anderson is the name, the generation that is named after they're all passed away but there's the assemblage is still there.

Matt McPherson: The assemblage.

Kenyon Ghandi: The assemblage.

Matt McPherson: Oh.

Kenyon Ghandi: They got it there.

Matt McPherson: But they still have.

Kenyon Ghandi: The big boat I've had that I was patting here in the Anderson boat [01:02:00] that he bought the Davis cars book David street was a different size and they had a queen fleet.

Matt McPherson: He's fishing out of that work.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they let it go, but mostly it's lack of sightseeing boat, a whole a lot of passengers in and everybody gets dragged down and let him catch a fish until you see that it's a good trip if you are thinking everybody over prior. Yeah.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: They think that the night ride one of the big boats.

Matt McPherson: Yeah. Now I have the a fish that you purchase at that, has that changed or is it still the same as it was before, you still buy mullet?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, we got him some mullet and only buy from other dealers. We don't, we kind of buy it for adults what we can sell, you know, we keep a stock and we don't over overbuy. If we can hit and we try not to run out by different species we handle but dominant product that we have in retail is the shrimp.

Matt McPherson: The shrimp. Oh it was all...

Kenyon Ghandi: All of the great local trends. Logan picked them and we consider that local close ratio, low neighbors down by brighten them, all of us. And then we have a couple of guys around here.

Matt McPherson: So, the shrimp is bigger than grouper, snapper or any of...?

Kenyon Ghandi: In volume.

Matt McPherson: In volume, okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: But we do, like I say, we buy grouper, snapper from the other dealers but we buy what we can sell.

Matt McPherson: Right, right. [01:04:00]

Kenyon Ghandi: But we don't have to depend on commercial boats that we got the financing and then go find them when they get dock in the round off.

Matt McPherson: Right. Do you have any...?

Woman: Where you have relationship with this fishers and with dock...?

Kenyon Ghandi: Different means.

Woman: Yeah. So, what was that relationship about?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. What happened, for some reason, Panama City, and I think it's the Catholic Church, they sponsored Vietnamese refugees of his dumb company this cause coats and the priest came to me because they knew and they asked me could I help those people that they know about shrimping, it says, can you help them? And I said, well, I have this doc and I found that everyone at least over there at the chairman shipyard, what's it called, the old chairman shipyard. But they get it going away and the Holmes family bought it and they had a little fish house there start with the scholar pounds. Did they show up scholar for the scholars play that they fish house stay in here. And I went to Ms. Holmes and asked her could I at least that and so she lease it. And I told him, I say, doc, at the dock [01:06:00] I would buy the shrimp. And so when I got about 20 or 30 boats in there, I had critical friends.

Matt McPherson: And they were able to get boats and everything. They'd go out.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they could go buy my boat. And I mean they would go out and things that you wouldn't even put your foot on it. They lived like the bad like the bad toe. Some of me built boats over time. They kept upgrading and then when they got money in the pocket, they get out of the business and leave to others. They would stay that the period of time.

But my ace in the hole was, I knew a man and Bon secure Alabama that I work with when I was revolting over Pensacola and he was manager of black Knight safety and that's New York place company and they a process for shrimp there and send them to New York or put them in the freezer over there. Then when they accumulated the box car

load, they sent them to New York and he told me that he needed all of his friends he could get, he said, you buy ever one you can buy instead of that. And I would call him and find out what the price was on a daily basis. And I would sell what I could sell to my customers, and what I couldn't sell, I'm going to sell to him and clean up ever day he might say.

Matt McPherson: That was the only time you had that kind of relationship was with the Vietnamese friend before that you didn't have a special relationship with any other fishermen?

Kenyon Ghandi: No.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: No, there was not that kind of production. It was a different kind of production. I had fishing fishermen fishbowl, but then it business evolve over so [01:08:00] many years, over five, eight, 10 or 15 years have made some kind of change fishing and other business too. It's not always couldn't drag the same way, but and especially fish production is seasonal and some years we have abundant crops and some years we'd have smaller crop. You don't even know what caused it to be that way. It just evolved that way.

Matt McPherson: So, you say sometimes you would develop a special relationship with certain vessels and they would, they would dock.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, those that needed a docking space and they were shrimping in the boat they would dock in my dock. But the only obligation I had with them for free docking space was they sell me the shrimp. And if they didn't sell me the shrimp, I'd run them off.

Matt McPherson: There was only with shrimpers that you've ever had...

Kenyon Ghandi: Only the shrimp.

Matt McPherson: Okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: And as soon as they had thought and there was got the noodle shops and I started supporting them.

Woman: That was more or less years ago?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, let's say in the '80s.

Woman: In the late '80s.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, well, my son was born in '80 and he was three to five years old during that period that I was unloaded post, he was raised up in this bit and then my brother decided he wanted a place to settle down. So, he opened up this fish market and we were able to rent, leased the building from the company. It was a carwash the first automated carwash in Bay Camp. [01:10:00] And it was a failure because when you put your car, you drive your car up and it took up and you get out and you go around the other way, paid a fee, gets car wash, and then you could drive it off on the other end. And it worked about two, three years and then they busted.

Matt McPherson: Why did they go bust?

Kenyon Ghandi: It was not designed right. Get up and I don't have, most people don't take the car and drive it into a place and get it polished every so often. If the idea that was ahead of its time and the building laid out for several years, matter of fact, the nearby restaurant that we had to do a lot of repair. And when my brother took it over and started selling shrimp my son would help clean fish here. He grew up in the business and then when my brother got ready to retire, we decided to buy.

Matt McPherson: You said in the '80s that was when you started already selling out in Treasure Island in those overload.

Kenyon Ghandi: We sold out over a period of time. I mean literally in the dock. Matter of fact with when we sold Treasure Island, we sold it out to one of the guys that we had managing. And when we sold out the one on the St Andrew's Marina it was the same money.

Matt McPherson: So, it was little by little.

Kenyon Ghandi: Little by little.

Matt McPherson: When were you completely out of those areas by the bat?

Kenyon Ghandi: By 1980, 83 and we were three of the other two and we put that down there at the checkout [01:12:00] and I closed that ice plant because it was obsolete.

Matt McPherson: Right.

Kenyon Ghandi: When people started being able to buy an ice machine that they could make 200 pounds of high shred a day. They didn't need to come by the ice plant and pick up any of that.

Matt McPherson: Right, right.

Kenyon Ghandi: And it was too laborious and we would use anhydrous ammonia anyway for the refrigeration gas. And it was a pain an app. I mean, I don't know any company now that uses anhydrous ammonia for free.

Matt McPherson: Old.

Kenyon Ghandi: Old and machine old equipment.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: I had four compressors in there two of them are six per six. That means six inch stroke, 1650 and two pistons, maybe refrigeration. And then I had one, two of them that was eight per eight run all four of them at the same time. I have a pretty good electric bill. And you had to make a lot of ice and effort and you had to sell a lot of ice and to keep them running. But it was interesting just to think about how the plant worked.

Dr. John Gorrie in Apalachicola in 1860 invented what's called artificial ice. And he did that because he had a yellow fever epidemic and he could not to leave Syria treated his patients with it. So, he built this apparatus and used sulfur dioxide as the gas [01:14:00] and that's lethal. And so you had to be real careful how it works. But anyway, he got a patent on it and over the course of time was a company in Baltimore, Maryland saw the potential because they used to have to buy ice and wintertime it's frozen in the wintertime, it all went down there and score mill acting.

Matt McPherson: For the whole summer.

Kenyon Ghandi: For the whole summer.

Matt McPherson: Wow. They would just get ice that was from the winter from the summer.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, they tried that. But anyway, when he, when that patent became available and that company started building ice machines and they have a little old town all over the United States ice plants. I was playing in 1940 we don't know if he did it in I think 1938 because the war started in 1941 and he ran that ice plant down here all the way to the war up until he sold it to me. And that was our experience with it.

But every little town all over this country had ice plant in it that used anhydrous ammonia and they ask trips, you have to go that I fill, my granddaddy was outside of Cairo, Georgia up there in the country, you know, had to come by his house every day five drives or 25 pounds or whatever we wanted to have our ice statements.

Matt McPherson: You throw it in the icebox, right?

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah. We had a little last month.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: And then when we moved to town, [01:16:00] they've got a little bit more modern. The war effort when it was over, we had a economy build up the soldiers coming back from the war, expanding the economy and that it seemed like to me that it expanded continued. But we left in 1948 from Thomasville and came down here when I was in seventh grade and I graduated in 1955. I can see the expansion of business went with every fashion. The automobile business was on a boom, the grocery business was especially on the boom, supermarkets sprung up everywhere.

Matt McPherson: Yeah.

Kenyon Ghandi: It's amazing how fast fishing is evolving.

Matt McPherson: Yeah, all right. And Panama City must have been pretty small back then, right?

Kenyon Ghandi: Back down on South Harrison Avenue, St Andrews was the oldest town that's right down here, that glow red brick building down here and say print shop at Kroger first major businesses built. It all grew up around and then spanking 10 blue came in to be in the paper mill was a big influence for this County. International paper company for the paper mill Jill put a paper home boxes.

Woman: [indiscernible] [01:17:49] Panama City shipment.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah, it's [01:18:00] a marvelous expansion and look at the history channel and see the different areas that we went through. The Cowboys and growth on the East coast and the Gulf coast it's a interesting to know about history. There's things that people don't, they don't teach it in school, but you know, the reason Florida is in the situation it is now Andrew Jackson started right up here at the highway 77 about 30 miles up the road there's a place called Fort Marshall Ranch.

Matt McPherson: Fort Marshall Range?

Kenyon Ghandi: Ranch.

Matt McPherson: Ranch okay.

Kenyon Ghandi: It's a cattle ranch. When Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the battle of New York, he came back to Pensacola and he goes the Spanish governor down there and he wanted Florida and he said, "Give it up or I'll burn you down." And he traded it out for \$125 million in gold boom. He bought the territory Florida from Spain and came right over here to port marksman and he set up for town and brought the territory Florida into the possession of the United States. They send his engineers out to

measure the Meridian lines all the way to the Atlantic Ocean back from the Mississippi River.

That was his headquarter. Found out he paid his men off with according to their service. If they served one year, [01:20:00] they got a section of land and if they served two years, they got two sections of the land if they served three years they got three and if they served three years, they've got a complete section a later, I want to just call it township, that'd be four sections of land and they can put cattle ranches on them. And actually, and they used clips instead of Larry and they were called Florida crackers.

Matt McPherson: Ah huh.

Kenyon Ghandi: And the Georgia border say, have a few cattle ranchers up there so they'd become down at Georgia Cracker.

[laughter]

Matt McPherson: Sounded the lifts.

Kenyon Ghandi: Sounded lifts. My great granddaddy, I found it great, but they're not Thomas Dale and actually Thomas County halfway between K row and Thomasville out in the woods and that's where he had his township. He had along with that, Andrew Jack, he fought with Andrew Jackson the name he from gamble?. We had some girls that in our family genealogist and they track the genealogy the reason under that. I didn't dig it up myself. They did that. It makes me happy.

Matt McPherson: And that land did stay in the family. Then none of the land stay in the family all day.

Kenyon Ghandi: They all migrated off of it. They began is in Cairo, Georgia and that they got the same grandfather great-great-grandfather that I got. My family went back into Jordan and then in 1948 we moved to Panama City and I went back up there one day about 20 years ago [01:22:00] and talked to one of the prominent games in Kira and we got the fellowship a little bit there and we knew each other but we didn't have know what are we done? You know, like my daddy, he was a migrant. He didn't like to stay in one place if he got tired of farming. So he wound up, we wound up in Panama City and moved around a lot.

[laughter]

Matt McPherson: It's improvised.

Kenyon Ghandi: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: Well, I think everybody.

Woman: Yeah.

Matt McPherson: Yeah. That was great speaking of history. So, do you have, yeah, so we have... [01:22:46]