

**BAYSHORE CENTER AT BIVALVE
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM**

ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION

DATE: May 6, 2015
TIME: Unknown
SUBJECT: Personal memories of Maurice River Village
NARRATOR: Ruth Lobach
LOCATION: Shipping Sheds of the Delaware Bay Museum

ATTENDEES: Rachel Dolhanczyk, Museum Curator; Ruth Lobach, narrator;
and Mrs. Lobach's granddaughter, Sharon Connelly.

TRANSCRIBED BY: Pat Moore, Volunteer Delaware Bay Museum
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SUMMARY: This interview covers Ruth's personal memories of when she was a child. Her story begins when her family, during the summer months and school holidays, would travel from their home in Camden, NJ down to South Jersey to a little village by the name of Maurice River. This community was directly across the Maurice River from the Bivalve docks and the oyster shipping sheds. Her family had a small cabin (one room with a loft) where her parents and two brothers would live. Ruth's father fished and her mother had a large vegetable garden which the family ate from all summer. Ruth's memories include giving the locations of some of the structures that were located in Maurice River. Examples, a shucking house, a dormitory for the migrant shuckers and their families, a large fresh water tank, bathroom facility, and a railroad siding in front of the shucking house. She shared stories of their daily activities such as playing house with the other children who lived in the dormitory. Watching the fleet of oyster boats head out into the Delaware Bay under full sail. It was a very emotional event to see over 100 boats head out on the river. She also describes the adventures their family had traveling to and from Maurice River on the weekends. Ruth also shared that she spent her honeymoon in the cabin when she married.

Dolhanczyk ([00:02](#)):

Hello, today is May 6th, 2015. My name is Rachel Dolhanczyk, and I'm the Museum Curator here at the Bay Shore Center, and I'm sitting here today this morning at the shipping sheds with Mrs. Ruth Lobach and she's going to share her memories of the area and Maurice River and all sorts of things. Let me push pause for a moment. Okay. Well, if you could tell me your name

and a little bit about yourself when you were born, where you were born any of the early vital statistics you might say.

Lobach ([00:45](#)):

My name is Ruth Lobach, I was born Ruth Yentsch.

Dolhanczyk ([00:50](#)):

How do you spell?

Lobach ([00:50](#)):

Y E N T S C H. Spell that again? Y E N T S C H. Okay.

Dolhanczyk ([01:07](#)):

When were you born?

Lobach ([01:08](#)):

19 17, July 18th, 1917.

Dolhanczyk ([01:18](#)):

And where were you born?

Lobach ([01:19](#)):

Camden, New Jersey.

Dolhanczyk ([01:20](#)):

In Camden, okay. And your husband's name?

Lobach ([01:31](#)):

Frank Lobach.

Dolhanczyk ([01:38](#)):

And your children.

Lobach ([01:41](#)):

I have a Judy, Kathy and Frank..

Dolhanczyk ([01:54](#)):

Great. And this is your granddaughter sitting with us.

Lobach ([01:58](#)):

My granddaughter, Sharon.

Dolhanczyk ([02:03](#)):

And your last name again is Connolly.

Lobach ([02:05](#)):

Connolly. Okay. So they knew nothing about this.

Dolhanczyk ([02:10](#)):

Great, well, that's why I think that she's here too. So you were born in Camden and did you spend your childhood there, or tell me about, about your early memories of just for background information.

Lobach ([02:25](#)):

Yes, I did live there from the time I was born till the time I got married and moved away.

Dolhanczyk ([02:31](#)):

And when were you married?

Lobach ([02:33](#)):

I was married in 1936,

Dolhanczyk ([02:39](#)):

And when you moved away, you moved to Merchantville. Okay. And that's where you live now today? Yes. Okay. So you said that you have many memories of, of Maurice River. So tell me about that .

Lobach ([02:59](#)):

My Childhood days. Okay. I started, when I was about seven, my father was a fisherman. He liked to fish and his name was Richard. Yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([03:16](#)):

And he was a fisherman. What, what did he catch,

Lobach ([03:20](#)):

Hey, fish fish. But he, we came down on the Bivalve side. This is when I first came here on the Bivalve side, because there was no roads on the other side of the river and we, it was dark and there were no lights and it was very, very dark. And we had to go in a rowboat across the Maurice River, to the little town on the other side, in the pitch black.

Dolhanczyk ([04:03](#)):

And how did you get how did you arrive to Bivalve? What was the mode of transportation?

Lobach ([04:10](#)):

We came in a car. So he drove that had, wheels that had tubes in them. Is that what you call those things, tubes?

Dolhanczyk ([04:22](#)):

I think so.

Lobach ([04:22](#)):

Yeah, they had tubes and we'd go like a few miles and then you'd have to stop. They would go flat and they, it took us from the time after school until pitch black in Bivalve.

Dolhanczyk ([04:35](#)):

Wow. Okay.

Dolhanczyk ([04:39](#)):

And what time was it a certain time of year that you would come down or was it every weekend?

Lobach ([04:44](#)):

Well, after we got settled, we came on Friday night and stayed till Sunday night. Every weekend, every weekend

Dolhanczyk ([04:56](#)):

And this was year round through, even in the winter times?

Lobach ([04:57](#)):

The winter times when school time came, we didn't come so summertime, but the men came in, did their fishing, but the family had to stay because their kids had to go to school.

Dolhanczyk ([05:09](#)):

Okay. So every weekend you would drive down Friday, take you a significant length of time and

Lobach ([05:20](#)):

Get there in dark and get in the boat rowboat and row across the river.

Lobach ([05:25](#)):

And later on, they built a road. I have pictures with me (looking through pictures) let me see. Here we go on the other side? There, we could only get the road to here. They couldn't come here (pointing to picture) because the road would sink. So could they had a park, the cars there, and we had to walk out that was on the other side. So it was the Maurice River,

Dolhanczyk ([05:57](#)):

So you are showing a picture of the road and cars parked, where it stopped and where it stops. And then a path to walk the rest of the way.

Lobach ([06:06](#)):

Yeah. through the marsh grass, then we came to our cabin. And that was truly how it worked over there.

Dolhanczyk ([06:15](#)):

And you said, this was from about what year? You said you were very young, like you said, you were seven years.

Lobach ([06:20](#)):

You said that to me, I wasn't seven. Then I was about 14, I guess. But we, did that, you know.

Dolhanczyk ([06:27](#)):

Until how, how long, how until what year or so, or til you were a teenager?

Lobach ([06:32](#)):

I spent my wedding night there in 1936. (laughing).

Lobach ([06:44](#)):

We left there, but that's, where we, and we had, we would come up Friday night, Saturday morning, my mother, we had the little cabin over here. Okay. Here's the cabin that we had here is extra cabin. We had a cabin and next to the cabin she built a garden on Saturday and on the weekends, she tended to garden and she grew vegetables. When she left the house on Friday, never took food, took a car full of kids, but no food for the weekend. She grew all of the vegetables. And then there was one couple that lived on that side all the way down at the end. And she grew chickens. She had chickens and eggs. So my mother got the chicken and eggs from her, and then of course the men went fishing and we had fish all the time. So that was the food we had on the weekend all the time.

Dolhanczyk ([07:50](#)):

And then your mother's name?

Lobach ([07:52](#)):

My mother's name. My mother's name was Elizabeth. Yes. .

Dolhanczyk ([08:00](#)):

And what was her maiden name?

Lobach ([08:02](#)):

Macklin. German. No, that was English. That was Irish, no she was Irish.

Dolhanczyk ([08:17](#)):

Um okay. So let's talk about the cabin first. What was that like? And was that right on the river? Or where was that positioned? Tell me, so, so once you parked the cars and you get out and you walked down

Lobach ([08:32](#)):

It was in the back here.

Dolhanczyk ([08:33](#)):

Take me through what you would see.

Lobach ([08:37](#)):

We come into the back, we've had to walk down there and this was the front of the cabin. And this was the sheds over there where they shucked the oysters. Right. And on the other side of that, which the river? Exactly. Okay. So you have this, this was all the way down these sheds. And those sheds worked for the fishermen to keep their nets and all their equipment. But right over here, I don't, I couldn't find a picture, was a pile of oyster shells that was as high as the ceiling as high as the sky where they shuck them. Along here, I don't know whether you can see that. Yeah I guess you can Is a one track railroad. It would come in from Heislerville. I don't know how many times a week it (referring to a train) came in because we weren't there and they get these oysters and takes them out. It came in and went out once, once a day. Once, once, maybe once a week, or I don't know how long, but it came in once, got the oysters and went out,

Dolhanczyk ([09:49](#)):

Do you remember seeing the train?

Lobach ([09:51](#)):

Yeah. And over here was tracks there's tracks in here somewhere. The boys used to play baseball in between the rails.

Dolhanczyk ([10:01](#)):

Now do you remember was it was a very big train. Were there lots of box cars?

Lobach ([10:07](#)):

There is only one. It was only one box car, the engine and one box car. And they used to bring these oysters and they had cans. I thought they were silver, but they were aluminum. You don't like gallon? Yes. And load that up with these oysters and take them out, come back empty, and then fill them up again. That's where they get. And that's where they, on the other side is

where the boats came in and put them, they were like, they called them scows. I think they called them. It was like a pool that they used to put the oysters in. I guess wash them, I guess. It's yes. Yes. And then they take them in here.

Dolhanczyk ([10:53](#)):

Scows yes. And then the scows would come that's right, right. Yeah. We have some I'll show you when we're done. If you have time, I'll show you some pictures. It's primarily the Bivalve side of the river, but it sounds like it was the same operation.

Lobach ([11:08](#)):

I think at one time they thought they were going to build it up on that side. But the ground wasn't good enough. There was a boarding house that they built because it's just board thing, but it never worked. It never worked as a boarding house. The boys from the boats never stayed there. They probably came over to the Bivalve to buy where the good stuff was going on, but it never worked.

Dolhanczyk ([11:38](#)):

So when you would arrive and it's dark and you'd walk down the path and get to the cabin. Yeah. Which was across the way from the sheds?

Lobach ([11:47](#)):

Here. It was here. (pointing To a picture)

Dolhanczyk ([11:50](#)):

Okay, so when you would look out the front, you would see the train track?

Lobach ([11:54](#)):

Yes. Yes. Okay.

Dolhanczyk ([11:56](#)):

And what was the cabin like? How is that? How many rooms or

Lobach ([12:01](#)):

Two rooms? Okay. A big room in the kitchen and a big living/bedroom, and then it was built. Can you see here? No you can't see but the cabin was built with the ceiling, like that and the boys had to climb up. You couldn't stand up, but they had mattresses up there. They could climb it and they could lay it back to where they slept up there.

Dolhanczyk ([12:24](#)):

The loft. A loft. Okay.

Lobach ([12:27](#)):

I guess you'd call it a loft. You couldn't stand up in it. Okay. But that's where they slept.

Dolhanczyk ([12:33](#)):

Once again. It was summertime when you didn't have school.

Lobach ([12:35](#)):

Right now, when you think, about when you had to go to the bathroom? Hm. I see that right there. Yes. That was put in by government. There was two of them over there. One was here and one was at the other end,.

Dolhanczyk ([12:53](#)):

The military latrine. So there were two.....

Lobach ([12:55](#)):

There may have been three. There may have been three because at the other end here were houses for the the workers that they'd bring in to shuck those oysters. So we weren't allowed to go down there . Daddy said no to go down there.

Dolhanczyk ([13:20](#)):

And why, so where the shuckers lived, the housing was down a little ways from that. Do you have any memories if you weren't allowed down there, did you ever see what it was like?

Lobach ([13:34](#)):

He never showed, never went down there, but we did have here. We got going to ask the kids came up. Oh, my mother looked at us and said, it looks like our gang gang comedy. And she put us all together and took a picture and called it our gangs comedy and even had the dog.. That's not the interesting part of this. You see that that's a gasoline tank

Dolhanczyk ([13:58](#)):

And the photograph. And this is 1927, according to the photograph, right? Showing the children standing

Lobach ([14:04](#)):

Right there next to our cabin. We came down, they had put that up there. Oh, a fuel, which made my father very unhappy. Ah, they, it has of course I don't have a picture, but I do have somewhere. I don't know where you to see my apartment. I've pulled everything apart. Looking for these, there was a ladder that went up to that and we used to play up and down on that ladder. Wow. That's what they put that to. What's next to our house, big gasoline tank it.. And this, this is, it's this one.

Dolhanczyk ([14:41](#)):

Do you remember?

Lobach ([14:49](#)):

[Inaudible] You

Dolhanczyk ([14:49](#)):

Remember how many people lived in Maurice River?

Lobach ([14:53](#)):

In our town? Well, I had said to, my dad one time what do you call this place and he says, the Maurice River town. That's what he called it. I don't know. Nobody. It probably never grew to be anything because the ground was awful.

Dolhanczyk ([15:12](#)):

Yeah. Right. But that's what they, you know, today it's referred to as the Maurice River, you know, the town,.

Lobach ([15:18](#)):

It the river. Well, there's, there's this that's

Dolhanczyk ([15:21](#)):

1937.

Lobach ([15:22](#)):

That's me. But that just is how it was on the other side. There was no beach, just....

Dolhanczyk ([15:28](#)):

A wharf,

Lobach ([15:29](#)):

The wharves where the boats came in here.

Dolhanczyk ([15:33](#)):

And so how many people do you think lived there?

Lobach ([15:38](#)):

In are only the two people lived there and the people that were going to run the boarding house, the man and wife and three children, they had, they lived there. I don't know what they did in the wintertime. But they lived there now along this.....

Dolhanczyk ([15:56](#)):

So there wasn't that many people who lived there permanently.

Lobach ([16:01](#)):

Right.

Dolhanczyk ([16:02](#)):

Oh, so let's back up. So year round, did anybody live there year round?

Lobach ([16:07](#)):

Yes. The couple that had the chicken farm they lived there and the people who ran the, the boarding house, they lived in the boarding house, but they never used it as a boarding house.

Dolhanczyk ([16:18](#)):

Do you remember their names?

Lobach ([16:19](#)):

No. And the kids, the three kids I have got their pictures, but I don't remember their names..

Dolhanczyk ([16:25](#)):

And then there were families like your family who live, would come on the weekends or was it just your family?

Lobach ([16:32](#)):

Just ours.

Dolhanczyk ([16:33](#)):

That came for the weekend.

Lobach ([16:34](#)):

The only cabin there. Oh, okay. They had hopes that it would build up, but sure. It never did. It never did.

Dolhanczyk ([16:41](#)):

Where there other roads and other homes on different road?.

Lobach ([16:44](#)):

No, there was nothing there. Was absolutely nothing. Here's what it was(pointing to a picture) It was nothing. It was Marsh. And these were (referring to marsh grass). We had to cut them down.

Dolhanczyk ([16:58](#)):

The grasses. Yes. Now when the shuckers would come for the season, cause they would have been seasonal. Do you remember how many families?

Lobach ([17:06](#)):

You know? I, I know that it was like a row like of..., just a row of little houses. Well, they weren't houses. They were just, yes. They lived there and I wasn't allowed to go down there.

Dolhanczyk ([17:20](#)):

Was it? Why was that? That you weren't allowed to go?

Lobach ([17:23](#)):

I don't know. My father said don't go down there I didn't know why.

Dolhanczyk ([17:25](#)):

Your father just said you can't go.

Lobach ([17:27](#)):

We stayed away from down there. When my father said don't, you didn't. So we ever went down there.

Dolhanczyk ([17:33](#)):

But now you played with the children of the shucking

Lobach ([17:35](#)):

They was only that one there he was to I was had his picture. He came up and he used to play with us. Where was he, here he is (showing picture) He'd come up and he, we would let him play with us. It didn't make any difference. Right. Right. And the boys all went fishing. And

Dolhanczyk ([17:55](#)):

So they played together.

Lobach ([17:57](#)):

That's all the kids there was.

Dolhanczyk ([17:59](#)):

I'm assuming that the families who were the shuckers were African-Americans or black?

Lobach ([18:03](#)):

Yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([18:08](#)):

But yeah, if the children came that you would

Lobach ([18:10](#)):

Play, well, he didn't even know this kid was here. He wouldn't say anything about that. No, he wouldn't say anything.

Dolhanczyk ([18:20](#)):

Because from what I understood, there, there could have been several hundred, a couple hundred people, you know, when the shuckers and everybody else who they do over there, I don't. Is that accurate? Maybe a different timeframe.

Lobach ([18:31](#)):

I think there was a hundred. I don't say I don't, I I'd say about 50. I don't think there was that didn't take that many to shuck those oysters rcause they just sit there cause they just sit there all day long. Thats all they did just shuck the oysters. And that was only oyster season. Now what we did, I think it was springtime when the schooners went out and

Dolhanczyk ([18:53](#)):

This time of year, actually in May and June.

Lobach ([18:57](#)):

And I don't know whether they there were three of them or four. I can't remember whether if its three, but along the bank on the other side, when, on my side or your side, yes, you could could walk on the bank. It was a path, the along the bank to the point. Now, you know where the point is?

Dolhanczyk ([19:21](#)):

I'm not sure.

Lobach ([19:22](#)):

It's where the river in the bay meet.

Dolhanczyk ([19:24](#)):

Oh, at East Point.

Dolhanczyk ([19:26](#)):

It's the point there. So you could walk all the way to east point . Wow

Lobach ([19:29](#)):

My mother took us kids is tramping back.

Dolhanczyk ([19:32](#)):

I don' think you can do that now. If you could do that now.....

Lobach ([19:33](#)):

I guess not. But we also saw a snake that day. The snake crossed the path and my mother said, just jump over it. Don't stop. And we did. Here was this big snake from the spring snake going across the road, we just jumped over it (laughing) Well, I was a little girl. So I thought it was a big snake. It crawled across from the river over the paths. We went down and we sat this special Sunday. My mother knew it. It must've been in May come see. It would have been this time of year. She sat us all down on a blanket. Cause you had to sit on this kind of stuff. It wasn't a lawn And you sat on that waiting for the moment. Now these boats didn't have motors. They only had fixed sails were all up, coming up. Like I was sitting there and not a sound and up comes these boats these it's like heaven. These great, big, beautiful boats with their sails all up and we were saying, as you could hear us breath, it was... I can still see it forever. I'll see it. And they came up slowly, no motors. They came and like I said, I don't know when they were three or four, but the river was full of boats. Great big gorgeous boats. And all of them had there..... It was just wonderful. And we sat there. It must've taken over an hour for them to get out past the Point.

Dolhanczyk ([21:20](#)):

So you would, you would walk down to east point with your mom and your little trail of kids. And you'd wait to watch the boats leaving to go up for Bay Season for the planting season is when I don't know how much, you know, Sharon in may, in June, uwas called bay season. And that's when all the boats, whether they were schooners or sloops like one mast or mast, uwould all leave Sunday afternoon.

Lobach ([21:47](#)):

They come from Bivalve. On the other side.

Dolhanczyk ([21:49](#)):

And at the height, there was something like 588 registered boats, all leaving at the same time, even 300,

Lobach ([21:59](#)):

I'm saying three or four hundred. I don't know how many there was but the river was full of these beautiful, beautiful boats.

Dolhanczyk ([22:05](#)):

And they would sail up to the upper parts of the bay and they would dredge up the seed oysters, the baby oysters. And then they would transplant them out here in the Morris River Cove. And they would plant the baby oysters on the oystermen's grounds that they would lease ground bottom from the state, plant their baby oysters, and you were very much like a farmer. You know, you would tend to your oysters and so forth. And the ones you would plant, you usually wouldn't harvest those until about three years later. So you might have one year old oysters here and two year olds and three year olds. But the harvest was in the fall and early

winter. But this bay season that your grandma's talking about is when they would go to get their seed. And you know, you had to have a license to dredge up the seed oysters and then plant them out in the bay. And in fact, before you leave today, we have a little orientation video that if you haven't seen it, it will help explain it all and you'll enjoy the photographs and the memories. I'm sure. Hopefully, because what you described today is what I've heard other people describe.

Lobach ([23:11](#)):

And we sat there watching, like we were on a picnic.

Connolly ([23:13](#)):

So other people have.... Have you talked to people that were on the boats or people from Bivalve watching the boats go out?

Dolhanczyk ([23:21](#)):

Both. Both. And it was like a pretty big, you know, affair where a lot of people would, would come down to watch the boats leave. And some people would, would maybe sit up, say like at Fortesque because that's where the boats would be going up towards that way. So you could watch, you know, different points along the way.

Connolly ([23:41](#)):

Sounds like they didn't have your view.

Lobach ([23:43](#)):

Yeah. A little corner there with him coming like right.

Speaker 1 ([23:47](#)):

Oh, I'm just going to make sure we're on.

Lobach ([00:00](#)):

You used to just sit there in the daytime and....

Dolhanczyk ([00:02](#)):

They continue our interview with and talk more about Morris River and the other side of the river. Use, use you, you just gave a wonderful description of, of the sail, the boats going by how beautiful you

Lobach ([00:20](#)):

I will never forget that.

Dolhanczyk ([00:21](#)):

And you were there with your siblings, you had brothers and sisters, or, or it was you and your mother. And that

Lobach ([00:27](#)):

When the gasoline tank came, I think my father's interest left and we that's how big I got before we left, because any after that I got married. Right.

Dolhanczyk ([00:45](#)):

So the let's see here. So your dad was an oystermen...

Lobach ([00:50](#)):

No, he wasn't he, no, no, that was his hobby fishing.

Lobach ([00:56](#)):

Fishing.

Dolhanczyk ([00:56](#)):

Okay.

Lobach ([00:57](#)):

And they went fishing Saturday morning. They were up and out the house.

Dolhanczyk ([01:00](#)):

Okay. So he was not working on an oyster boat, but you remember seeing the oyster boats and the whole operation,

Lobach ([01:06](#)):

And I remember the oyster parties the men used to sit around a table with these, I was telling Sharon, they would sit and talk and there, and he would shuck Eric. So he didn't shuck them or what did he do to them? He opened them and they ate, they weren't talking and laughing and I'm sitting next to him, watching him do this, my mouth is watering for these oysters. They were big like, and they weren't these little tiny seedlings. They were big oysters. I'm sure. And at my father said to me, do you want to try one, and I said yeah and I took one and he gave me that oyster and I had this great big slimey thing in my mouth, and he had a towel. He said, you don't have to swallow it. You can spit here. You're here for you, but never, ever, ever ate a raw oyster ever again And they were eating them like they were candy, you know? And I got hungry for one of them.

Dolhanczyk ([02:15](#)):

Yeah, some people do.

Lobach ([02:15](#)):

They just scoff them down. That's a big mouthful of slime and you don't bite them. You swallow them.

Dolhanczyk ([02:20](#)):

They just gu;p them right down. Do you remember who your dad sold his fish to? Who we are? Did he sell them or did he sell to somebody else? He

Lobach ([02:30](#)):

He didn't sell them. We ate and we ate, we just ate the whole weekend.

Lobach ([02:34](#)):

It was his hobby.

Dolhanczyk ([02:35](#)):

Okay.

Lobach ([02:36](#)):

And any extra he took back and gave to his neighbors.

Dolhanczyk ([02:40](#)):

So he wasn't making a living, selling fish.

Connelly ([02:44](#)):

What did he used to do when we were little? Oh on our way. To Camden.

Dolhanczyk ([02:49](#)):

What would he do in Camden? Oh, what was his profession.

Lobach ([02:52](#)):

He worked on the big boats they came from overseas, An engineer on these big boats.

Dolhanczyk ([03:01](#)):

Did he work for one of the big shipyards in Camden. Oh,

Lobach ([03:03](#)):

Well, there was a lot of small ones. Way back then they would come into to get repaired, you know? And he was an engineer. He that's what he did there.

Dolhanczyk ([03:17](#)):

And those are, were big ships, I imagine.

Lobach ([03:20](#)):

They were big, big ships like....

Dolhanczyk ([03:21](#)):

Like cargo or

Lobach ([03:24](#)):

Whatever. They, used to bring the big ships over there.

Dolhanczyk ([03:29](#)):

So this was a weekend thing.

Lobach ([03:31](#)):

What we did was a weekend thing.

Dolhanczyk ([03:33](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Okay. So that makes sense that you do in the summer and then maybe into the fall or the spring. You remember....

Lobach ([03:41](#)):

In the spring? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And then once in a while when daddy would hit the numbers, we went over to Wildwood and we didn't know what that meant, but we know when daddy hit the numbers we went to Wildwood. Well,

Dolhanczyk ([03:58](#)):

What do you remember about Wildwood?

Lobach ([04:00](#)):

Well, I remember we were hitting, throwing a ball. She thinks she hit.....

Lobach ([04:08](#)):

On the boardwalk. And you know, that's some kind of racket, if you hit those balls and they would go down. Now they were all set up. It's my turn to hit the ball. I threw that ball and it hit the one next to my lane and knocked everyone down. And that one next to my lane. And then, I wasn't aiming at the other lane and how I hit them, I don't know. But it hit that. And people were saying how did that little girl hit those pins?

Dolhanczyk ([04:35](#)):

So you didn't win a prize for that

Lobach ([04:38](#)):

Well my father was saying. She knocked him down. He said, yeah, but she wasn't aiming at that one. And she can't have that (prize). It was a big, big bedspread with a bolster sort of thing with this all pretty fun stuff on it. And I didn't get that. I got some kind of an animal. (laughter) But I remember every single pin went down. Bottles were like this (using hand motion) and I hit that thing just right and it knocked them all down.

Dolhanczyk ([05:03](#)):

So did you drive to Wildwood as well? Or take the train?

Lobach ([05:10](#)):

Oh no, no. We drove over.

Dolhanczyk ([05:10](#)):

Because what I understand in Maurice River with the railroad being there that you could get to say Cape May, if you wanted to....

Lobach ([05:20](#)):

No it went to Heislerville, and then, And whatever they did to Heislerville, I only went that one little train that went back and forth just for that.

Dolhanczyk ([05:28](#)):

Because you, you always drove and went across. Well, once they put the road in, and then before that, you took the railroad.

Lobach ([05:34](#)):

From in the back where I showed you in the road, we will walk over there and get on.

Dolhanczyk ([05:38](#)):

Do you remember when the ferry used to go across?

Lobach ([05:40](#)):

No, no there was no ferry there.

Dolhanczyk ([05:44](#)):

No, not at that time. Yeah. Okay.

Lobach ([05:46](#)):

But it never built up because they couldn't keep a road there, but on the end, right in the middle like this went, like a block long, these things in the middle, there was a man named Mr. Sharp. He had a little store. It was about as twice as big as this room. For like sugar and

whatever else we would need. And he used to come from Heislerville on Sunday morning and take us to Sunday school and bring us back together.

Dolhanczyk ([06:17](#)):

And where was that at? What church did you go to?

Lobach ([06:20](#)):

Oh, I don't know. There was only a little tiny church.

Dolhanczyk ([06:24](#)):

In Heislerville.

Lobach ([06:24](#)):

It wasn't Catholic.

Dolhanczyk ([06:30](#)):

What other buildings do you remember across in Maurice River? So you had your little cabin in your little town c

Dolhanczyk ([06:37](#)):

And then the new building,

Lobach ([06:39](#)):

There was a building there where you got fresh water. You've been in that you turn the spigot, you think it was like a, was like a big tub. Really great. Because this room a tub that used to fill I guess it must have come from a, well, I don't know what it was, but on the bottom was a spigot. And then we used to get our water there. Okay. Cause I was drinking and cooking, but cleaning water out back was a barrel collected rainwater. And we had to get a bucket for my there's some naked Creek there. So on the top was all larvae from mosquitoes. And we had to take a stick in and get them down and then grab the water and that was scrubbing water. And that's, that's the water we used to scrub with. But the fresh water came in that big tank. So I guess they had high hopes for that little place over there, but they couldn't do anything there. They tried, they tried

Dolhanczyk ([07:47](#)):

Was there anything like a school or a church or

Lobach ([07:52](#)):

So that is all that is there.

Dolhanczyk ([07:54](#)):

So it was your cabin, the boarding house where the shuckers live, their roadhouses. Yes.

Lobach ([07:58](#)):

And the one where the lady and man lived all the time, and they had a chicken pen in it. Right.

Dolhanczyk ([08:04](#)):

And then the sheds?

Lobach ([08:06](#)):

The sheds, yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([08:07](#)):

Do you remember how many businesses were in the sheds or?

Lobach ([08:10](#)):

There weren't businesses.

Dolhanczyk ([08:12](#)):

They were shucking...

Lobach ([08:13](#)):

The men from their shed, they had big, great big nets when they came in and they used to sit on the docks and, and I used to watch it looked like they were crocheting and it really was, they came here and come here and just like sit for hours and watch them repair their nets. And that then all that stuff was in, in those places.

Dolhanczyk ([08:46](#)):

That's where they store them.

Lobach ([08:48](#)):

Oh, they're all kinds of equipment anchors and all that kind of stuff they had. So you went in, so went to, no, you never went into inside. We never went into that sheds. And then the docks came where they kept the oysters in that thing. And that's where the big boats, these big boats came down here on the other side of it. There was no beach, it was all.....

Dolhanczyk ([09:18](#)):

Right. Because you can even see today how its just river..... That's it. I know. Yeah. So, so you're a young girl. And what was like your typical day? Like when you'd wake up Saturday morning and you'd be,

Lobach ([09:36](#)):

Well, I will tell you didn't take a shower. Right? You didn't take a shower, but we used to, my father used to throw us in the river, just say where I was playing over there. We didn't get out of here. And he put his, we had to swim. We had to swim. But every day we got a nice dipping in that water. Okay. Good in here. Yeah. I was probably saying it's too cold. I don't want to go in probably, probably,

Dolhanczyk ([10:05](#)):

Anyhow. So what was your day like?

Lobach ([10:09](#)):

We would get up and we'll yeah. Well we always sharing, coming down here. We would go in the back where that road was, where the reeds were and knock them down flat and make it flat thing and make a room. And then we leave in the door here and we'd make another room and we have a house or you can make it. And we played house, we made a little house. We could have a big house or a little house. And how

Dolhanczyk ([10:41](#)):

And how many other children were you playing with?

Lobach ([10:43](#)):

Well, we were playing, with those kids that lived in the boarding house, two girls there. And then when we went there and we could take a friend, okay. Each one of us could take a friend. Okay. So we used to have, we had about three or four little girls. I mean, the boys didn't play house. They all fished.

Dolhanczyk ([11:04](#)):

And who were the boys? Were they brothers or cousins?

Lobach ([11:09](#)):

I had two brothers. And they brought friends.

Dolhanczyk ([11:11](#)):

And what were your brothers names? You told me? I think I already did. Yeah.

Lobach ([11:15](#)):

I didn't tell you Amell because one was Amell, and one was Richard.

Dolhanczyk ([11:22](#)):

Where did I write that down

Lobach ([11:23](#)):

Oh they brought their . Friends. Oh, and here, here (showing a photograph) is my little brother with the biggest cat fish they caught at that time in the river. [Inaudible] my uncle Aaron caught it. That is a CAT FISH!

Dolhanczyk ([11:41](#)):

Wow, that's amazing. So with your brothers and some friends and the girls from the boarding house and then the one child who was a a son of of shuckers would sometimes come and play.

Lobach ([11:56](#)):

The are Sunday company (showing photographs) they used to come, they used to come down there

Dolhanczyk ([11:59](#)):

And anybody else?

Lobach ([12:02](#)):

Yes, a lot of company, we always have a lot of company. Sure. And they eat a lot of fish and oysters.

Dolhanczyk ([12:09](#)):

Cause this was like a summer house, like a weekend house or summer house. So it would make sense that you'd have visitors and,

Lobach ([12:16](#)):

Well, it wasn't easy to get down here now because everybody didn't have a car and the cars had these cars, he used to rubber things inside and you could never get there with that stopping and fixing those things, patches all over them. And I was telling Sharon, we'd get like three or four blocks and everybody had to get out while we fixed the tire, then your back getting, getting, it was, it was quite a thing.

Dolhanczyk ([12:47](#)):

And your, your, your dad and the other men and boys would go out fishing. What type of boat did they have? Was it a rowboat or

Lobach ([12:55](#)):

Now what I see in my young young mind was a big rowboat, bigger than the little bigger rowboat. It didn't have any, well, they didn't have motors. They had no motors, but I know one time my mother went with them and when they came back, she was really in a bad way. And he had run. When she put a hook in the fish, he put it through her thumb, and she got the hook halfway. Now, you know, when you get a hook in your thumb, it's got a little hook on it. You can't pull it out. Sure. So it was, my father said he couldn't cut it. And he didn't. Cause it was too

deep. He didn't know what to do. So he had to push that. I still think of my poor mother. He had a push that through the other part of her thumb and then cut it off, flip it on and it out.

Dolhanczyk ([13:53](#)):

Ohh your poor mother,

Lobach ([13:54](#)):

Oh poor mother do you think they rushed her off to a doctor. Noooo, they took her in and poured some stuff [inaudible] it was sore for quite a while, but they didn't go anywhere.

Dolhanczyk ([14:08](#)):

Did they fish just on the river or did they go out into the bay to, do you know?

Lobach ([14:12](#)):

They may have gone into the bay with some of them, but some of them got sea sick. One was my husband. He couldn't get in that darn boat he got sea sick and they did make fun of him

Dolhanczyk ([14:29](#)):

Would they be gone all day? Did they come back home for lunch or

Lobach ([14:32](#)):

Ohh no. They never came back for lunch. It had something to do with the tide. And they, they always came back with fish. Now on our way down, while the roads were still good, on the side of the road were ditches. Yes. Which he stopped the car, and he had a hook. It was that big, that about three inches, four inches of rotten chicken wing that my mother had saved all week for him. He would put it on the hook and throw it in the ditch. And then on the way back, three days later, he'd stopped there, pull up a snapper. A snapper that big. And that came back with us that big thing!. And then he would day next day he would chop his head off. First he put it down, then he put his foot on this snapper and pull its head out with... I don't know what he would pull his head out with and you don't know what he pulled his head out with. And then he chopped his head off.

Dolhanczyk ([15:35](#)):

And did you eat it then?

Lobach ([15:36](#)):

Oh, well now from that time he turned, take it by its tail tail and hang it on the spigot and let the water run on it all night long. And you take that thing and where they have a big pot of hot water and putting it right down inside there. Okay. And I don't know how long she cooked it. Okay. But then she put it in the kitchen and it had newspapers all over it. She put back thing in here. I don't know how she got that thing in there and she cooked. She made snapper soup. Like you never tasted. Right. I stopped even ordering it when I go out because. I mean, we just

got to get snapper soup, but not as good as my mother's. I don't even think they put snapper in it,,

Dolhanczyk ([16:28](#)):

Um so, so the, the men and the boys would go out fishing all day.

Lobach ([16:33](#)):

And the kids just played around and the kids like until they played baseball in front of the house where the railroad track was. And they ran for that railroad track, playing baseball. I played baseball.

Dolhanczyk ([16:48](#)):

And what would your mother do during the day?

Lobach ([16:51](#)):

My mother cooked? And she tended to her little garden and she had a beautiful garden. She had nice vegetables. But she never took any food down with her. I can tell you like now you bring food like you are going on a picnic. Then she brought nothing.

Dolhanczyk ([17:09](#)):

What vegetables did she grow? Do you remember?

Lobach ([17:11](#)):

She grew, I know she grew tomatoes, carrots. She grew peppers. She even grew lettuce, but she grew a few potatoes onions. Okay. That's what she had. String beans, green greens. Everything that you would need. No cabbage, no, nothing like that. Okay. And no fruit. You didn't have a lot of fruit, but we were healthy kids. We were never sick. So that was my Maurice River days.

Dolhanczyk ([17:46](#)):

Did your dad ever, did he ever go duck hunting at all?

Lobach ([17:51](#)):

Yeah he went duck hunting and they killed rabbits, and they went trapping and we ate them.

Dolhanczyk ([17:58](#)):

Well, did they do muskrat trapping?

Lobach ([17:59](#)):

Yeah. Muskrat's okay. But he called them marsh rabbits. Yes. Yes. We, we didn't rats. We ate marsh rabbits.

Dolhanczyk ([18:10](#)):

Yeah. I've heard that marsh rabbits and marsh bunnies. They say they're very healthy for you,

Lobach ([18:17](#)):

Yes you can eat them, but they are rats! No matter what you call them they are still rats. They, they didn't shoot deer. They weren't that...but they did shoot a lot of birds. I don't know what kind of birds they were.

Dolhanczyk ([18:36](#)):

Did he, where they rail birds. Very small.

Lobach ([18:41](#)):

When they got on the cookie sheet, they were this big (showing with her hands the measure).

Dolhanczyk ([18:46](#)):

Now was that in September? In the fall early part of the fall?

Lobach ([18:51](#)):

That I can't tell you. Okay. But I can tell you, we had cookie sheet and they used to, my mother used to put these birds in there and put some filling into each one of them and then put them in the oven and roast them.

Dolhanczyk ([19:05](#)):

We have a stuffed rail bird downstairs.

Lobach ([19:11](#)):

That's what they were a rail birds.

Dolhanczyk ([19:12](#)):

So he went, did rail bird hunting. Okay.

Lobach ([19:15](#)):

And I think they were, I can remember them talking about a nest of these birds and they'd shoot one shoot. Was it something that used to come out and kills three or four at the same time.

Dolhanczyk ([19:29](#)):

Probably cause they would, u

Lobach ([19:30](#)):

I don't know what kind of gun it was.

Dolhanczyk ([19:33](#)):

They would like nest in the marsh and then as the boat would go through, it would disturb the birds and they shoot them, fly up and then shoot the birds.

Lobach ([19:43](#)):

And then we had a bird dog. Her name was Lady.

Dolhanczyk ([19:54](#)):

Is that this dog (looking at photo) Did your dad ever, was he ever a guide for other people or he just, so it was just all for his own pleasure?

Lobach ([20:01](#)):

What he did with Lady. She, he bred her. I don't know. I can't tell you the spring or fall, but mating time he, he bred her and sold her puppies and he trained these puppies.

Dolhanczyk ([20:25](#)):

Oh okay....That's interesting. Okay.

Connelly ([20:27](#)):

So as a bird hunting dog?

Lobach ([20:29](#)):

Yeah. Oh yeah. But yeah, he was very good at hunting dogs, bird, dogs.

Dolhanczyk ([20:36](#)):

With the with the rail birds. That would have been September of the year, that rail bird season and still is today. There's still people that hunt birds.

Lobach ([20:44](#)):

And I think they may have had puppie in the Fall because one lady came with a basket like this to buy the puppy for her husband for Christmas. Oh. And these, when they're like six weeks old, they are spade. And here she was with her. And my father had said to her, he had to go out and he said, if you sell a puppy before I come back, you can have all the money. You can have all of the money. He didn't think she was going to do it. So this lady came with little basket and she'd come on a trolley car. She had her little basket and she wanted to buy the puppy. My mother said this (inaudible). She bought the puppy.

Dolhanczyk ([21:32](#)):

What was the weather like? Do you remember?

Lobach ([21:35](#)):

The weather? The weather, the weather, weather it was pretty nice.

Dolhanczyk ([21:40](#)):

Or rainy or

Lobach ([21:45](#)):

I remember hot weather in the city when we were home. I don't remember any hot weather when we were in at the cabin.

Connelly ([21:57](#)):

Tell Rachel around 4 o'clock what you had to do.

Lobach ([21:57](#)):

Do? Well, we had had to stay in after four o'clock, as the mosquitoes were so bad.

Dolhanczyk ([22:04](#)):

I was going to ask you about bugs.

Lobach ([22:06](#)):

We were, all right. But at four o'clock we had to go into the house. A then you're playing cards and what ever. But we had a great big porch and that is where we played then.

Dolhanczyk ([22:21](#)):

And that was all screened in. It Looks like it from the photograph. Nice.

Lobach ([22:22](#)):

And if you had to go there (pointing to the facilities outside) when you came back,

Dolhanczyk ([22:31](#)):

So he had to use the facility.

Lobach ([22:34](#)):

I don't think the boys went in there. I think they just peed on the ground.

Dolhanczyk ([22:41](#)):

Oh probably. And at night, would you add to run out or would you, did you have a little pot?

Dolhanczyk ([22:46](#)):

I don't remember any pot. I don't remember running out at night before you go to bed you would use the facility.

Lobach ([22:54](#)):

You would just wait.

Lobach ([22:55](#)):

Oh, we're having a party.

Dolhanczyk ([22:57](#)):

Sure. Oh yeah. Let me pause it for a second.

Connelly ([23:01](#)):

It's funny how things are today. You can't go an hour and a half without having snacks and juice and water for your children. And like for a Mom to be like, no, we're going to get everything from the land, from the water. I think that is neat.

Dolhanczyk ([23:15](#)):

Well, it's interesting because of that two, almost two years ago, I I spoke with a man who is probably in his early forties who described a lot of what you talk about because he, you know, he railed bird hunts and. Duck hunts and and he really lives a lot off the... And I know some other men too, who still live off the river and off the marshes and you know, it was just...

Lobach ([23:41](#)):

They, the Delaware River, it was a wonderful place. Delaware shad was in all over and nothing now. Nothing. Yeah. And they were like this (showing the size with her hands), they, were like that.

Dolhanczyk ([23:55](#)):

So you remember your dad would, would get shad,.

Lobach ([23:59](#)):

I lived in north Camden. And that's right on the rivers there. Right. And one morning, this is before it polluted, they had a beach, there was a beach there and we went down and that beach was covered. I mean, covered with fish this big, the shad. Yeah. They were all dead.

Dolhanczyk ([24:20](#)):

They were, they were dead?

Lobach ([24:22](#)):

Oh, sure they were died. And they came up on the beach and it's terrible. The boys got him by the tail and were swinging at me,

Connelly ([24:35](#)):

That is what boys do. (laughter).

Dolhanczyk ([24:37](#)):

Teasing the girls and peeing out on the side of the lawn.

Lobach ([24:40](#)):

Where they were, well, the girls couldn't, they were heavy, they were big fish, but that was the end of the Delaware river. That was when they, whatever they did, they did it back then.

Dolhanczyk ([24:50](#)):

And what year was that? Or how...

Lobach ([24:53](#)):

I would you say that was going to be about maybe 1925? I'd say 25 or 27.

Dolhanczyk ([25:04](#)):

Was there polution then with industries?

Lobach ([25:06](#)):

It started then they was fine until then, because people used to come from all over for Delaware shad. And Gloucester. How a huge huge restaurant like Hackney's in Atlantic city. It was used where people used to come for the Delaware shad.

Dolhanczyk ([25:22](#)):

Do you remember weak fish?

Lobach ([25:23](#)):

Oh yeah, we had, we caught them too. Once I caught a fish. Okay. But I was telling Sharon we cook croakers, croakers, croakers. And the weak fish...yes, yes!

Dolhanczyk ([25:35](#)):

So when did you go often with your dad or not? Not too often. It sounds like.

Lobach ([25:45](#)):

Because that was just for him to do it for us because when they went fishing, they went serious all day.

Dolhanczyk ([25:53](#)):

Yeah. Do you remember the horseshoe crabs in the spring?

Lobach ([25:57](#)):

Yeah, They were ugly things, but they didn't do anything. And you couldn't eat them or anything. So he did nothing.

Dolhanczyk ([26:04](#)):

They were not paying attention to them. W.

Connelly ([26:07](#)):

Did you ever flip them over?

Lobach ([26:08](#)):

When you did flip them over, they had little flags all over.

Dolhanczyk ([26:11](#)):

But if they were flipped over the wrong way with the legs up, would you flip them back over?

Lobach ([26:14](#)):

I didn't catch it. Okay. And the Fiddler crabs, you know, fiddler crabs?

Dolhanczyk ([26:22](#)):

Yes.

Lobach ([26:22](#)):

Yeah? Okay, I will tell you about the fiddler crabs. You know, that line of sheds that I told you about, well at the end of the sheds, there was a every once in a while a government boat would come in now, I guess, to check what they were doing or I don't know, but he was parked there. And where he was right there in front of him was like a little beach, mud, mud. Just little, maybe as much as this. Yeah, just about this much. And we could sit here on those long.... Oh, I call it a little boardwalk, and look down and see these fiddler crabs. When the water would go out these little things, there were hundreds of them come out of these holes and then the water would go back and they would all go back in again. But that government boat bothered me. I wanted to know what was on the inside.

Dolhanczyk ([27:19](#)):

It was probably one of the watch boats

Lobach ([27:22](#)):

Who said, what was the government?

Dolhanczyk ([27:23](#)):

Yeah. Cause they there was a couple of watch boats where you know, they would keep an eye on with, especially with the oyster men, because they would be planting their oysters. And if

you add your at least grounds, you know, that they wanted to make sure that no one was taking from oysters from them. And also that what you were catching was, you know, the right size.

Lobach ([27:44](#)):

Yeah. Well, I don't know what it was. I, I just knew that I wanted to see what was inside that boat. And you know, the boats come to a peak and then up here there is like a round thing. Maybe you put an anchor to it or something like that. So we got a board, maybe it was about that wide and like that and put it on that thing. And Ruthie (inaudible) goes in that boat. And I start up on this thing down. Now you know if you're going to put a board on the something (inaudible) couldn't go up but I didn't know that tha. So I got on it and it slipped and I fell down in that mud with those crabs. (laughter) I was hunched all over. Now, I wasn't worried about those crabs. I was worried about my father because I did something I knew he wouldn't want me to do. And when I was thinking things in my father, he think he beat the heck out of me. He never laid a hand on me, but I was scared to death, so I get out, I'm feeling all this mud and I'm scraping the mud off you know, and who comes down to the boardwalk, but if it isn't my father. He's checking to see where (inaudible) is. He [inaudible], and now the crabs didn't get on me. But I, stood there sinking in that beautiful soft back mud. And that's the way I spent my childhood.

Dolhanczyk ([29:26](#)):

Wow and so you, you spent your, your weekends until you were out of school or before you got married, what until what time period did you continue to come with your family?

Lobach ([29:37](#)):

The last time I went down was my wedding night. Oh, you said that? Yes. Yes, want to go there on my wedding night.

Connelly ([29:49](#)):

You never went back down once you were married?

Lobach ([29:52](#)):

No. No. It was the end of the place, because when they put that gasoline tank in, my father kind of, I think it frightened him to have that great big tank next it was, it was, was as big as this table.

Dolhanczyk ([30:06](#)):

What did he think it could catch on fire?

Lobach ([30:08](#)):

It could, it could have exploded and it if something would happened.

Dolhanczyk ([30:14](#)):

So by the, so you were married in 1936 and that was the last time that you went to the cabin. Was there a lot of changes by the time, by the time 1936 comes around?

Lobach ([30:26](#)):

And there, no t was still the same,

Dolhanczyk ([30:30](#)):

But never more than what you described.

Lobach ([30:33](#)):

It' never never built up. It never built up. And the only stores like Mr. Sharps. All I remember is his (inaudible). I don't remember the name of the man and woman who had the chicken farm.

Dolhanczyk ([30:50](#)):

And so how, how much longer did your parents still have the cabin or go there?

Lobach ([30:54](#)):

I don't think they ever went there anymore. I think they, I don't know whether he sold it or what. He wouldn't have sold it. Cause it wasn't, it wasn't doing anything there. It was when the oysters stopped. That's when he stopped. Okay. When the pollution came and the scary thing that the oysters didn't come in and the boats stopped coming, that's when he stopped.

Dolhanczyk ([31:16](#)):

Okay. So by the 1950s,

Lobach ([31:19](#)):

Probably.

Dolhanczyk ([31:21](#)):

Yeah, cause MSX was 1947, but there was ups and downs before that, too. So there could have been a time

Lobach ([31:30](#)):

When they stopped running that railroad to pick up oysters, they couldn't get any more, I guess (inaudible)

Dolhanczyk ([31:38](#)):

Right? Yeah. I don't know what year the railroad, the train stopped. And then at one point they were trucking, you know, but it had to look at the time....

Lobach ([31:46](#)):

I'm telling maybe they could be them to road up near, particularly when we were there, they couldn't build, they tried to build the road, but they only came to a certain point and they parked their cars. And one time, I know they made it further and then they had to keep the back there there's a pool down in that. I don't know what it did. I don't know what it did, but they couldn't build the roads.

Dolhanczyk ([32:10](#)):

Did you have to walk a long distance.?

Lobach ([32:13](#)):

No, no. It wasn't very hard. It wasn't far. And we didn't have suitcases but we had baskets like grocery baskets. Stores used to get tomatoes and stuff in them. I don't like a straw basket. They used to be about this big... Little baskets. So we had those baskets and the car had a running board on it. And do you remember what a running board was? ?

Dolhanczyk ([32:47](#)):

I don't know. Can you explain it?

Lobach ([32:50](#)):

You know, now when you, you open your door, you're right there. But there used to be a running board this right there. And then the door.

Dolhanczyk ([32:58](#)):

Oh, the running board. Yes. Yes, yes.

Lobach ([33:01](#)):

And my mother used to put these baskets on the running board and they tied them on.

Dolhanczyk ([33:06](#)):

Oh, okay. Sure. A.

Lobach ([33:07](#)):

And that's what, that's how we traveled.

Dolhanczyk ([33:09](#)):

The baskets were outside of the car.

Lobach ([33:11](#)):

Yeah.

Lobach ([33:17](#)):

One time when we got home. I don't know where the boys are, who picked them up and put them on the curb. Well, daddy took the car around and the trash man came around and picked all those baskets up.

Connelly ([33:33](#)):

They took them?

Lobach ([33:38](#)):

They went to go out and get the baskets and they were all gone!

Dolhanczyk ([33:39](#)):

Oh gosh. Yeah. So you mentioned that you occasionally go to Wildwood and you went to Sunday school in Heislerville.

Lobach ([33:47](#)):

We only went to Wildwood if daddy hit the numbers right.

Connelly ([33:52](#)):

Remember the time when you got married at 18 down at Atlantic. City at the Steel Pier and dancing.

Lobach ([33:58](#)):

Yeah, that was my, that was my aunt lived in Atlantic city.

Dolhanczyk ([34:05](#)):

You' spent sometime there. Did you spend any time in Bivalve on this side of the river or just to row across? Yeah.

Lobach ([34:15](#)):

It wasn't no reason for us to go over there. And that, that was a long row I mean to cross that river. And it was a strong, current, very strong. Yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([34:26](#)):

Yeah. And even today, yeah. It takes a while to drive all the way around. So it wouldn't have been, convenient.

Lobach ([34:32](#)):

Do many people go rowboating in that river now?

Dolhanczyk ([34:35](#)):

Not that I see, no because the current, so strong.

Lobach ([34:38](#)):

I know they have motorboats there. Cause my son comes up in the motorboat sometimes.. He said [inaudible]

Dolhanczyk ([34:51](#)):

But there are lots of stories of other people when they were children, you know, swimming and doing all different activity.

Lobach ([34:59](#)):

Now from where we were in Maurice River town it didn't even have a name. There was that road that went back and I don't know what the name was of the little roads, other little roads further down. I know the first house that had a man. It was this, he was a sharp shooter during the war. And he came back. He wasn't thinking right or something, but he lived there in that little road with him and his dog and he was a sharp shooter.

Dolhanczyk ([35:30](#)):

Was that World War I? Or II?

Lobach ([35:31](#)):

That was I.

Dolhanczyk ([35:39](#)):

That was I. Okay. 1917. Right? What do you mean he wasn't thinking right? Did he do something wrong there?

Lobach ([35:46](#)):

No, he did nothing wrong that I know of, but he only wanted to be alone. Completely alone. All by himself back there with his dog. Wouldn't tell, he said it [inaudible] And I had sent enough not to go in there with that guy in that door, but I, I didn't quite know why I didn't want to go in there, but I knew he was a sharp shooter from the war.

Dolhanczyk ([36:22](#)):

Yeah. You said you would, when you'd watch the boats sailing by, you went down to east point. Do you remember the lighthouse?

Lobach ([36:32](#)):

[Inaudible]

Dolhanczyk ([36:32](#)):

There? You're at a slightly different point then. Okay.

Connelly ([36:36](#)):

When was that built?

Dolhanczyk ([36:37](#)):

Oh, long time ago. Way in the 1800's.

Lobach ([36:40](#)):

Well, we didn't know. You had been somewhere down there back a little bit further where it was only you, there was no road. It was a walk, right? Yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([36:51](#)):

Have you ever been out to.

New Speaker ([36:52](#)):

East Point Light house? Cause I mean you is it there now? Yeah, it's it's right on the Delaware bay, but it's right at the mouth for the Morris river. And so that's why, when you said at the point I was thinking that might be it, but maybe it was back earlier or maybe it was a little bit different because I know, you know, it's changed a bit or,

Lobach ([37:11](#)):

From the map you can see the waterfront.

Dolhanczyk ([37:14](#)):

Is it on here? (looking At a map).

Lobach ([37:18](#)):

And then the bay is here, see right at the point. Right. It's that

Dolhanczyk ([37:24](#)):

Let's see the Easat Point Light house.

Dolhanczyk ([37:29](#)):

The Maurice River. Yep. So we're we're right here.

Dolhanczyk ([37:33](#)):

So you would have been here

Lobach ([37:35](#)):

Right in here. We were right in there.

Speaker 2 ([37:37](#)):

So you didn't walk off probably.

Connelly ([37:39](#)):

So this is the point you went to.

Lobach ([37:41](#)):

I don't think so. I think, I think there's just a point here. This is here.

Dolhanczyk ([37:45](#)):

So the bend in the river,

Lobach ([37:49](#)):

Like a point right there. That's where we would play.

Dolhanczyk ([37:52](#)):

Okay. Make sense. So you go as far as, cause yeah, that probably would have been quite the hike.

Lobach ([37:58](#)):

Yeah. That's the boat we went on (pointing), We went on there and see there's Bivalve, but they wouldn't have our (inaudible) Heislerville, see that's Heislerville. That was there was lots of mosquitoes there too. Oh God.

Dolhanczyk ([38:20](#)):

Yeah. You can Sharon, you can drive out into the marshes fairly far. Have you done that? Have you? We came here. It's really pretty like birders and people like that. Like they do that. But if you follow, when you go back to route 47 where the WaWa is was and you go down route 47, you could follow signs to Matts Landing there's like a marina there and the Matts landing is like the closest, you could get to the Maurice River. So that's like, you know, just north, like if he could keep going, he would get to Maurice River, but Matt's landing is the closest, the next.... [inaudible]. But you can definitely drive to Matts Landing.

Connelly ([39:05](#)):

But you can't drive to the East Point lighthouse.

Dolhanczyk ([39:09](#)):

You can. Yup. And there's there's paved roads and everything. You get onto the East Point light house. I'll give you a different map.

Lobach ([39:21](#)):

[Inaudible] We were up here where the river and the bay meet.

Connelly ([39:25](#)):

So you can't really get to where she used to live.

Dolhanczyk ([39:28](#)):

Um you can get to like Matts landing would be maybe like somewhere right here where like she lived there. Anymore.

Lobach ([39:38](#)):

Because when we were on the boat, you could look across the way it isn't there.

Dolhanczyk ([39:42](#)):

Yeah. There's no, I mean probably no, maybe, but but then there's other roads that go out into the marsh. That's all part of this wildlife management area. And it's just, it's a little bit off-roading, you know, they're not paved or anything, but it's really pretty. But if you get to Matts Landing, you can just kind of, you'll see, it's hard to explain, but you can find.

Connelly ([40:04](#)):

Do you have another map?

Dolhanczyk ([40:05](#)):

So I think we might have a better map downstairs. But then you can stay on the main road. It's, it's more direct to get to East Point, if you go down 47 and then I forget what the name of that road is, but it takes you more direct where if you go on the 616 that will wind you through, you know, Dorchester and through all the little towns, Leesburg and so forth, but that's pretty to wind your way through to Heislerville and then follow it out to East Point lighthouse. So that's neat. Yeah.

Connelly ([40:37](#)):

So if you have, well, I have to do that another day. Nice day when it's nice and well, and I can bring my kids.

Dolhanczyk ([40:49](#)):

Sure. Hey,

Dolhanczyk ([40:52](#)):

Did you ever learn how to shuck oysters? Oh there's East Point lighthouse.

Lobach ([40:58](#)):

Oh yeah. We were in here, dad.

Dolhanczyk ([41:01](#)):

And there's a nice parking lot, you know, and like a boat ramp where you can land. This is the bay and then the river.

Connelly ([41:07](#)):

Oh, I see. So neat.

Dolhanczyk ([41:11](#)):

Yeah. Good. Well, is there anything else you'd want to share any stories or that come to mind? I know you shared a lot of information,

Lobach ([41:20](#)):

So there's my life. Yeah. I.

Connelly ([41:23](#)):

I told you that she was a good storyteller.

Lobach ([41:24](#)):

Yeah. That's my life leave. Remember that thing on television? This is my life.

Dolhanczyk ([41:34](#)):

I know the name though. Did you say you wanted to copy this or even the smaller pictures too? If I could copy those, Let's see. I'll look at that. And I'm actually, I'm going to turn this off.

Lobach ([41:48](#)):

The one that I thought it was important that those were the roads and you couldn't go any further. Okay.

Dolhanczyk ([41:55](#)):

Well maybe that one and the one of the cabin.... (pointing To photographa).

Lobach ([41:57](#)):

Whatever you want.

Dolhanczyk ([41:59](#)):

Turn this off and thank you all so much.

Connelly ([42:02](#)):

Remember when we were looking in the museum, when we came with it over the schooner that you were saying the cans, because you had the label on the cans here where she said from

there, there was no label on those. I'll show you some plain ones. So I'll say the plain ones to see if that brings about.....

Lobach ([42:19](#)):

I used to think they were silver.

Speaker 2 ([42:22](#)):

Actually, before I turn off the recorder, tell me about the, the photograph here. That's you on a schooner?

Lobach ([42:27](#)):

What does it say?

Dolhanczyk ([42:31](#)):

Was that your husband?

Lobach ([42:31](#)):

Yeah. Yeah, we were courting then.

Dolhanczyk ([42:34](#)):

Okay. And you're not... It's 1931.

Lobach ([42:38](#)):

Yeah. But you know, the thing is we didn't go around in slacks and t-shirts and maybe we were dressed on oh y

Dolhanczyk ([42:46](#)):

Yes, I can see that. It's beautiful.

Lobach ([42:48](#)):

Yeah. And Sunday afternoon on the boardwalk you wore a dress and a hat.

Dolhanczyk ([42:54](#)):

What are you doing on a schooner? You just posing for the picture.

Lobach ([42:58](#)):

Okay. the guys let us, on they didn't want anybody on the boat, but they let us on. And the picture I couldn't find was this boat this day that we were fooling around on the front. I don't know one of the boats, they have this big, long, like a big drinking pipe into it. You know what I mean? In the front. Do sails go on that or something?

Dolhanczyk ([43:23](#)):

Yes. The the Jib Sheet would have been kind of attached going through this.

Lobach ([43:32](#)):

Well, that day we were fooling around, and we had some of our friends there and we all got on that thing. We got on this thing and that boat and that boat.

Dolhanczyk ([43:43](#)):

Oh, so you are all sitting on it.

Lobach ([43:45](#)):

There in the sheds on the south. They had windows that you could look out to see your boat. And one of my husband's brother was there watching us as goofy kids, carrying on, he got his picture watching and it's a good picture, but I couldn't find it and I ripped my whole apartment apart looking for it.

Dolhanczyk ([44:08](#)):

Did he ever go out sailing on the, on the oyster boats?

Lobach ([44:11](#)):

No never know?

Dolhanczyk ([44:13](#)):

Cause sometimes people would take a excursion or they do like a church group on a

Lobach ([44:22](#)):

Not then, it was all business then. But see these boats, when they dock down here, that's what the boarding house was for. They were going to build, they're going to build that up, but never did it. I think it might've built up if the oysters hadn't gone. Whatever happened to them, they had the disease or something.

Dolhanczyk ([44:44](#)):

Right. MSX

Lobach ([44:46](#)):

There's nothing there. So they didn't do anything. Right.

Dolhanczyk ([44:50](#)):

Okay.

Lobach ([44:51](#)):

But this little town as we came in, all the houses are empty.

Dolhanczyk ([44:58](#)):

Ah, well basically it goes back to the crash of the oyster industry.

Lobach ([45:02](#)):

From that, or they've been empty that long. Some of them look like newer houses.

Speaker 2 ([45:07](#)):

They're all older homes. I don't know the exact time, but basically ever since 1957, the town's has been very depressed and not, you know, there's been jobs as far as like a lot of people went to work for the sand company or for the prison. And there's a big prison you from here, but really hasn't been the same since 1957. So it's a very long time, you know,

Lobach ([45:31](#)):

I was surprised to drive in all the houses are empty. They're empty.

Dolhanczyk ([45:38](#)):

They are. Yes. And very cheap if you are looking for a nice house. Yeah. But yeah, not Cumberland county, the whole county is, you know, the forse in New Jersey and the bottom of everything, you know, with high school dropout and you know, all the, all the statistics, it's like, you know, the bottom of it, everything

Lobach ([46:02](#)):

High drugs.

Dolhanczyk ([46:03](#)):

Higher Pregnany.

Dolhanczyk ([46:03](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Same as like, you'd find in like urban areas. It's like same for rural, you know? Yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([46:10](#)):

Yeah.

Dolhanczyk ([46:13](#)):

But yeah, it's been a long time and I mean, there's still, I mean, obviously there's a lot of effort and a lot of people spending time trying to make things better, but it's just yeah, It's been a long time of it not being prosperous. Like it was back in the teens, twenties, you know, all this

Connelly ([46:31](#)):

I like the picture of all the oyster shells all over the ground.

Lobach ([46:36](#)):

Oh, my mother was something that they should (inaudible)

Connelly ([46:38](#)):

Did they ever Decorate with those shells or do anything fancy with, put them out by their garden

Dolhanczyk ([46:45](#)):

She stayed away from those,

Lobach ([46:48](#)):

But my brother used to get these kids and have him sing. She have a little choir going and she usually me never put me in that choir.

Connelly ([46:59](#)):

Well, you like the fried oysters,

Lobach ([47:01](#)):

Right? Oh, I love fried oysters, . I just think raw oysters are yuck.

Connelly ([47:07](#)):

Yeah. But you grew up on fried oysters, right? Her eyes get double when she sees a fried oyster right? One of my friends has a trailer in Bivalve. I think if I got, and he told me about your Oyster Cafe.

Connelly ([47:24](#)):

But it'ss only open on Fridays or Saturdays?

Dolhanczyk ([47:26](#)):

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and now Sunday, we're going to to not this weekend, but the following the 17th of May is we're going to start opening on Sunday for brunch.

New Speaker ([47:37](#)):

And is this is Just oysters from here?

Dolhanczyk ([47:39](#)):

Yes, from the bay, from the Delaware bay. And I mean, there's other things they serve too, but I know everyone raves about the chowder and okay. You know, so yeah, definitely come back or on a Sunday, you know, for Brunch.

Connelly ([47:51](#)):

I was talking Uh he had told me about your big festival the first weekend in June, but it's always a time that I can't my first weekend in June

Dolhanczyk ([48:02](#)):

Yes Bay Day. And then the second Fridays of every month, we have a program in the evening from 5 30, 8 30. And well that has a raw bar though. There's always there's music and there's usually like a speaker to an entertainment and in the art gallery that you see Susan's down there now setting up the next show every month, the artwork changes and features regional artists. So there'll be the opening of the art show. And you know, there's, every month is different and it's year round too, but it's especially nice when the weather is better, because then you can go on the wharves and look at the river here. Yep, yep, yep. Yep. There are still some there are some other schooners are not rigged as schooners anymore, but there's still some other older boats working, but they work under power. So they have a but every you'll if, when you look up the river, you'll see other old boats. Of course they, they don't have master sales anymore. And a lot of people say how ugly they look now

Connelly ([49:05](#)):

We loved our, we loved the fact that you guys talked about the oysters on that one lecture on the boat. Yeah, good. It was crowded. There's a lot of people there that day.

Dolhanczyk ([49:16](#)):

And that was last spring, last summer.

##