

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM**

ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION

INTERVIEW DATE: December 5, 2005
TIME: unknown
SUBJECT: Remembering Reed & Reed Oyster Co. and CASHIER Memories.
NARRATOR(S): Jean Reed Norona
LOCATION: BDP Office – Bivalve, NJ
INTERVIEWER: Sally Vander Water and Deb Slating BDP Staff, Tony Mann
TRANSCRIPTION COMPLETED: June 10, 2008
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BEGIN: TAPE 1 OF 1 – SIDE A

Meter: 015

Sally: My name is Sally VanderWater and today is December 5, 2005 and we here Bivalve, NJ and I am going to ask each of us to introduce ourselves and _____.

Jean Norona: It's now Jean Norona, it was Jean Ester Reed and I was born March 1, 1946.

Tony Mann: My name is Tony Mann; I'm the volunteer researcher and boats man for the Schooner Cashier restoration project.

Sally: Mr. Norona is graciously um ha ha declining comment. Okay um, you know we are here primarily to talk about your family history um with the oyster industry and um if you could first please um for the recorder, say um who were your parents and who their parents were if you have all their names.

Jean: Okay, my father was John Lutz Reed. My mother was Susan Alice Sharp Reed. My father's father was John White Reed and my grandmother was who I never knew because she was deceased before I was born, but her name was Rachel W. Reed. I don't know what her maiden name was.

Sally: And your mother's parents name?

Jean: My mother's was Susan Sharp and her father and I it's terrible I don't even because he was deceased before I was born I really don't know, Alfred, Alfred Sharp that's what it was. And they resided in Maurice town. And my father's parents of course resided here in Port Norris.

Sally: You grew up here?

Jean: Yes

Sally: Your father's brother.....

Jean: Carl Reed

Sally: Where there many in that family?

Jean: No there were two boys and ah I think there was a half sister, I think my grandmother had married at another point and I think there was a half sister, Lillian. But, I'm not sure of all the ins and outs of you know what took place there. And, my grandfather lived on Market Street and we lived right across from him on Market Street. And I think it was, I'm not sure of the exact year but, I think it was in the 30's maybe he sort of started letting the boys sort of take over the business. And I've gone through some and I found some lease to oyster grounds and they dated back to, I think it was in the 1930's where they were deeded over from my grandfather to my uncle and my father.

Meter: 054

Sally: Did your grandfather sign the deeds?

Jean: Yes, yes

Sally: By himself?

Jean: Yes

Sally: Okay and then he turned them over to his sons?

Jean: Yes

Sally: Do you know what year that was?

Jean: No, I don't, well I ran across one document that was, and you can see these when I get finished here, I think it was in the 1800's somewhere in the 1800's. And I just scanned through this yesterday, so I don't remember exactly.

Sally: Did he _____

Jean: Uh, I'm not sure what he called it, because at that point it was just he had an oyster boat and there was no shucking house involved, I think the Reed & Reed came into play more when they established shucking house and I think, I'm not sure.

Sally: Okay, what are some of your earliest memories of the Reed & Reed Oyster _____ of Port Norris?

Jean: Well, I don't, speaking of the oyster business I remember it was a hard it was a good way of life, but it was a hard way of life. My father and uncle you know worked very hard. I remember there used to be periods when they would call it, "go up the bay" and that would be when they would harvest the oysters and there were times before that would happen, my father would go all the way like down to Cambridge, Maryland and areas around there to get a crew that would come here and work on the boats when they would "go up the bay". And when back then when they would go up the bay, sometimes it would be like for several weeks. And then as the oysters started being affected by the red tide they sometimes would even go just one week or even two weeks but it wasn't like when I was growing up and the oyster business was thriving. But he worked long hours and it was hard work when they were at going up the bay, they were preparing for the next year when they would go up the bay, getting the boats refurbished and anything that needed to be done.

Sally: What is the daily routine of them on board ship?

Jean: Well it would depend on, my father would go to work and usually very early in the morning it would be like 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock, he would leave to go to work and I don't know exactly you know on a given day what he would be doing, like I said when they

had the shucking house and they were, and it was during the month's when they would be having the oysters, there would be shuckers down there shucking that had to be, you know, overseen. My father and uncle had a kind of a system. My uncle was, he liked slinging the bull and he was kind of a people person and you know, "hi, how are you?" My father was very quite and (laughter) you would be hard pressed to get a couple of words out of him, but he was the one that really kind of ran the oyster business and the daily stuff and ran the boats and my uncle, when they had the shucking house, he was more the P.R. guy that would call California, "hey how you doing, how many bushels do you want this week", that kind of thing. My father was not good at doing that type of thing. My uncle would go to, once in a while there would be a convention somewhere and he would go to the convention and hob nob with potential customers and that kind of thing. That was not my father, so. They had it worked out that you know, they kind of do what ever their strengths were.

Sally: As long as they were a good pair.

Jean: Yes, yes they were. They had a good (laughter) system, it worked.

Sally: Do you have any stories about that particular relationship that, I noticed you were kind of laughing about it, if you have fond memories of...

Jean: Well, I can't think of any, it was just a, I laugh at my father because of him not saying a whole lot. He wasn't a person, when my husband and I, when I brought my husband the first time to meet my parents (laughter) I don't know how many words he said to him... but it was kind of, if you would talk to my father about the oyster business or his boats, he could talk. He was, you know, but just to sit and talk about other things he was a very quiet man and didn't say too much. That is what I was kind of laughing about.

Meter: 112

Sally: You grew up in Port Norris, what was Port Norris part of town like, you know...

Jean: Okay, my first memories, I don't know, I may be was probably I can remember back pretty much when I was three because I remember these pictures. There was a car dealership downtown that sold Chevy's where the market is now. There was a movie theater next to that and there was a clothing store, I'm trying to think, I can't think of the name of clothing store but there was a clothing store and there was also a market, I think there might have been two markets, downtown. One was Izzy Goldblatt, I remember that name, he had a grocery store there, and in back of his store there used to be ice house where they would have these huge chunks of ice that you know you could buy. Oh there was Doctor Sharp, he had his doctor's office there on the corner of where the funeral home is, I'm not sure if that's High Street or, okay. And then down on Main Street there was Doctor Day, I remember that. And Nelson Lanning (?) was the funeral director at that point in time and he was quite a character.

Sally: How so?

Meter: 132

Jean: Well, he like play tricks on people and he had a black man who worked for him and I remember, I don't know what his name was but they used to call him "road haas (Rohas)" and he used to do you know little jobs for him and things like that and one day, he was quite a scary kind of person, and one day I know Nelson hid in a coffin behind

(laughter) and when he was you know doing some of his chores, he was in the room where this box was and he jumped out and Road haas (Rohas) took off and I don't think they saw him for a couple of days after that. (laughter) So he was always playing tricks on people. He was quite a character.

Meter: 141

Deb Slating: This photograph, of three gentlemen on board a vessel tied up at a wharf reads on the back; "This picture was taken summer of 1902 fishing season. _____ Capt??

John Reed

Jean: This one huh?

Deb: Is it?

Jean: Yea, because I _____

Deb: the one in the center if John Reed?

Jean: Yea, and that would have been my grandfather, because I have another picture at home that identifies him, it's in Mauricetown sitting with a group of men and it does say that was him.

Deb: Okay, and the other name that is listed is William and it might be Lutttts? And it says the boat is the sloop WILLIAM B and we think it says STITES.

Jean: And that might have been, this might have been in Mauricetown. Because um there were a lot of Stites in Mauricetown and uh. But I have another picture that identifies this man with a mustache as my grandfather.

Deb: Yes that is the same....

Jean: I don't know the other you know the other names don't ring a bell but.

Deb: Isn't that something. Well I'll go ahead and _____ this one.

Jean: Now this is my grandfather, now you can see that he is a lot older here but, I don't know _____ I believe that it would be the same person.

Deb: Yea, these three gentlemen standing with suits on ah you think it is the same man.

Jean: Yes

Deb: This one has a mustache and the other one doesn't.

Jean: Well see and this is much older than that one. My father was born, this man was born in 1908.

Deb: The man on the left?

Jean: Yes, he was born in 1908 so that was before he was

Deb: So this is, this is the man on the left is John? L. Reed?

Jean: Yes

Deb: The man in the middle is John W. Reed?

Jean: Yes

Deb: And the man on the right is Carl W. Reed, so the man in the middle John W. is your grandfather?

Jean: Yes, and their father. The father of these two (pointing to picture).

Deb: Oh, okay, okay and the gentleman on the left in this photograph is your father.

Jean: Yes, okay. I am beginning to understand this. Alright, I'm going to go scan.

Jean: _____ oh she can really you know can tell some things that I don't even know.

Meter: 184 – 187 unidentified mans voice... cannot hear what he is saying.

Sally: Where did you go to school?

Jean: Uh, there was an elementary school, Port Norris Elementary, I went there through 8th grade and then we went to Millville High School for high school. I graduated from Millville High School in 1954.

Sally: Where was the Port Norris Elementary School? Is it where the school is now? Okay I know...

Jean: Right, and that was originally the High School where the people like my mother and father graduated from there. That was the high school.

Sally: Okay, okay. So um as a kid did you, did your family leave Port Norris often to go do visiting people or daily errands or was everything kind of right here.

Jean: Everything was right here. The biggest trip was on Sunday's we would go to Bridgeton where there would be some cousins and uh my mother and I would go, my father. My father didn't accompany us very often on trips. He was always here, his life was really wrapped up in the oyster business. And uh he very rarely went out of Port Norris. There would be times, but as then when they did start shipping oysters to like Allentown, PA and areas. They had a truck, like a delivery truck, and he would a lot of times drive that and then in later years they hired somebody to do the driving but when that first started he would take trips with that truck and my uncle would stay and uh because of his excellent phone skills he would kind of stay and take care of the phone business and the office matters.

Meter 211:

Jean: And when I first graduated from high school the first year, I worked in the office here. Just for a year and then I....

Sally: And then how long did live in Port Norris after you graduated from high school?

Jean: Uh, not long, because I married and then um I moved to Pennsville, NJ. And I probably was, I probably was here maybe a year or two after graduation and then I lived to Pennsville. But that was close enough that you know I on weekends and things like that I would be down here.

Sally: Where was the family business physically in Port Norris?

Jean: In Shell Pile and I think when we leave here I am going to ride down there, I think the wharf and the shucking house is still there. Let me ask, I knew when I came down in uh I think I don't how my mother... my mother contacted somebody cause I told her I'd like to have the Reed & Reed sign cause it was just peeling and it's in bad shape but I wanted it and um we came down that day to get that and I don't know if that is the last time I've been down there or not? It might be so, I don't even know and right next right next to Reed & Reed um George and Barry McConnell I think.

Meter: 230

Jean: In fact they I think they bought the CASHIER and had it for a while and they had a not a shucking house but they had the wharf with a building there and they had the CASHIER for a while and did some oystering. But that was starting to be when oystering wasn't good then it was in trouble. But my mother told me that this Port Norris used to be known as the oyster capital of the world at one point in time and it was, it was when I was growing up quite a thriving business because I know um my father um you know he was a Chevy but every two years we would get a new car and you know... and

then I think it was when the red tide hit um we had to really because my father was quite a saver and handled money very well when the red tide hit we you know we had to watch expenses but we weren't in any way in bad financial shape just because of the type of person that he had been when the oyster business was thriving but it was um... a bad time there for while.

Sally: Do you remember how old you were at that time?

Jean: Ummmm. No I don't. I would say, I think it was before I was in high school but I'm not really sure how old I was. I don't know what year that was.

Sally: And then the red tide is the MSX that came along is that?

Jean: Is it really... yea it just really killed the oysters in fact, at that point in time a lot of oyster businesses that were down here, there were quite a few oyster businesses, and they started dropping off. And I think Robbins Brothers was one of the, is Robbins Brothers still in operation?

Sally: Uh hum (yes).

Jean: Okay well they are one of the few really that lasted um and then my father and uncle began to get older and um he asked my husband one time was he interested in, and my husband is an engineer, being involved with the oyster business and love boats but um it was pretty much something you had to be born into like farming to know when to plan out when to do this and when to do that and my uncle's son-in-law, you know Owens um felt that he might want to get involved. And he attempted. He bought the business and he attempted to make a go of it and it just didn't, I it was a combination of he was a banker and didn't really have a lot of knowledge and then of course the oyster business wasn't you know doing well. So at that point in time he sold the business to I'm not sure who he sold it to, it was like a larger company. I have no idea what the name of the company was. And he lives in Dividing Creek, NJ. He probably could give you some information also. As far as that aspect goes.

Meter 280:

Sally: Yea I would like to get his information.

Jean: I don't have his number but I'm sure it would be in the phone book... Neal Owens. And like I say, he married my cousin Sally and Sally I think she was in her early 30's and she developed a brain tumor, brain cancer and she passed away. And the uh you know he remained unmarried so.

Sally: Well let's turn to these photos that you have brought in and you mentioned the CASHIER before and I know we have invited Tony (Mann) here since he has the best in the house knowledge keeper on the CASHIER. So go ahead and take a photo and describe the folks in it and what you know what is going on.

Meter 290:

Jean: Okay. Well all of these pictures, except this one, where on the day that the CASHIER was christened. The sails had been taken off and it was now a power vessel and this was right out in front here it was coming up to the wharf down here. We had had the christening and they were bringing it to the wharf. All the flags are on there. Of course there I am in the pilot house. My father was paranoid he did not want me out on the deck. He was scared to death that I was going to fall in the water. I wanted to be out there with my uncle and that is as far as I could go right there (pointing to a spot on the

photo). He did not... and when I had children he did not want them on the boat he had a fear they were going to fall over and drown.

Meter: 308

Jean: This picture was, this picture was when the boat was actually up on the railway, it was before they slid her in the water and this might have been I don't know, Sally had cracked the bottle of champagne yet she had a problem that day cause she wasn't very old either cracking the bottle of champagne but that's what was taking place there. And then after...

Sally: And this is Sally?

Jean: No this is me

Sally: Oh that's you and that is

Jean: And this is Sally and that is his name was Carl also they used to call him Sonny but he his name was Carl also.

Sally: As we look at the picture you are the little girl to the left.

Jean: Yes

Sally: And Sally is to the right up on the bow. And tell the story of her cracking the champagne.

Jean: Well they had this big old bottle of champagne and of course it was wrapped in a netting and she whacked and whacked and whacked and yea she couldn't break it. I think finally my uncle helped her. But I was very distraught because to me this was a big thing you know christening this boat and of course my father probably had a death grip on me here because he was always afraid something was going to happen to me. But I wanted to be the one to break that bottle of champagne so but with my uncle's help she finally did it.

Jean: And this picture was on the same day and this was taken at the office or wherever there in Leesburg where the railway was. And that is my mother, father and myself. And my grandfather and my uncle and aunt and Carl who was Sonny and Sally.

Sally: And what was your Aunt's name?

Jean: Alice.

Sally: Oh that is Alice. And the building behind there is?

Jean: There were offices there at the railway and that was out by some of these building there.

Sally: This shed?

Jean: It was like an office. It had like you can see you know it was like an office in there. Probably people that used the railway had to do with you know paperwork or whatever that they had to take care of. And you can read on the back all of the names.

Sally: Oh great.

Jean: That's my father writing he wrote that. He wrote on this one too. They were both on the same day. And this was (another photo) on the same day also and just a picture of my father and uncle and my grandfather. My father and my grandfather looked a lot alike and I look like them. My uncle kind of looked different. I think he looked more like his mother, not a lot, but I've seen pictures of her and I think he looks more like her. But we all have our mouths like curved down like you can see the faces _____ the same way.

Sally: And how about the other photos that you have here.

Meter 351:

Jean: Okay, this no, this boat is actually um I think it's the ANN E YATES.

Sally: Oh okay

Jean: And that was not a boat that was owned I don't know I don't know why this was in with the pictures but this was the ANN E YATES which was also an oyster boat. To the best of my knowledge it wasn't an oyster boat owned by Reed & Reed. Reed & Reed owned a boat called the JOHN REED, they owned a boat called the S W SHEPPARD. They owned of course the CASHIER and for a brief period of time they owned a boat called the PETER PAINTER.

Sally: And this is the CASHIER under sail (pointing to another photo).

Jean: To the best of my knowledge that's what the feeling is. Yes.

Tony Mann?: COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS SAYING VERY MUFFLED SOUND WITH BACKGROUND HISSING.

Jean: Now I didn't know if you are interested in any of this or not because it's really not has to do with just the CASHIER but I found these deeds to oyster grounds. And these are like what they would give them when they would purchase a oyster grounds. And see on here how it marks it's ____ and actual acreage and the, there is a whole bunch of them here.

Meter 388:

Jean: This one (referring to deeds) is dated back February 1939, and this is just you know _____.

Tony: AGAIN, CANNOT DISTINGUISH WHAT HE SAYS... SOUND IS MUFFLED, MAYBE TOO FAR FROM THE MIKE.

Jean: I looked through everything that I had and I could not find a deed or anything like that for the CASHIER. I was hoping to be able to find... I found some for property where we used to live, but I could not come up with a deed. What's this??? (looking at papers) I guess this is more oyster grounds I guess. It's hard for me to make out, look at this. I found this of my father when he was (pointing to picture) this was his coast guard when he had to take the coast guard whatever passed to be Captain that's what he looked like you can see how young he looks.

Sally: Now Tony do you have any CASHIER specific questions that you are dying to ask?

Tony: Who put that bottom in _____ (laughter)?

METER: 418 – TONY MANN IS SPEAKING BUT IT IS MOST DIFFICULT TO DECEIVER WHAT HE IS SAYING. VERY MUFFLED.

METER: 428

Jean: Like you said, I don't know my mother probably maybe you know would have been able to, she wasn't really, my father was, she wasn't really very active in the business. She would have heard stories that you know you that she would probably have but I don't know back that far if she would have any knowledge about that and of course that would have been before my grandfather owned the boat, so, you know.

Tony: TONY SPEAKING VERY MUFFLED CAN'T UNDERSTAND.

Sally: In your memory were all the boats that Reed and Reed owned used all the time or where they cycled in and out or

Jean: They used all the time when business was good, when they were going up the bay they were used all the time. And like I say, there were boats that JOHN REED, I almost believe was the first one. And then they acquired, you know different ones. The PETER PAINTER they had for a very short time they did not have that long. The CASHIER was one I believe they had for 30 some years. So that one and the JOHN REED was the two, I think, they probably had the longest. The S W SHEPPHERD they had I'm not sure how long they had that, that was one. So there were like three that pretty much probably were when the oystering was thriving they being used you know pretty much quite a bit. And he like I say would have to go down and get crews from Bainbridge and you

Tony: CANT' UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS ASKING.

Jean: No they had the CASHIER and they might have had they might have had the JOHN REED, I'm not sure. I know they had the CASHIER.

METER: 464

Tony: CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS ASKING.

Jean: No, No, the other ones were before I knew you. I might even think that they might have only owned the CASHIER in _____ that might be one of our _____ albums, I didn't look through there; I just went through this old stuff.

Tony: CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS SAYING.

Sally: So that's you and your two sons and the father (pointing to a photo). Okay excellent. (May be referring to Tony Mann).

Jean: Do you remember the names this _____. I think, I don't know if they named it, I don't know if it was the CASHIER originally. Like way back. I don't know that.

Tony: _____

Jean: Yea, I don't think

METER: 480

EVERYBODY TALKING OVER EACH OTHER CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.

Jean: When my daughter-in-law, my daughter-in-law was looking for more oyster cans is how she started, cause Christmas was coming and they my daughter-in-law my son has two cans where the rest of us only have one and my daughter has none so they are always looking for these oyster cans. So ah....

Sally: The Reed & Reed oyster cans.

Jean: Yea, so she you know there is a _____ on the CASHIER and she's all and my daughter-in-law is the type that she gets real into these things and she says no then she made the phone call and she said I thought maybe the CASHIER was somebody else had named their boat the same thing and I said boats like that nobody copied names when you have a CASHIER you know any body in that area does not name their boat the same name I said that wasn't the way they did things so. So I'm pretty sure that name has been on there pretty much ever since probably it was

Tony: Original _____ it was an unusual name because there boats _____.

Sally: Let's take a trip out to the docks and show the CASHIER as she is now.

Jean: I got my camera in the car.

Tony: Wait we could take a picture of you standing in the wheel house.

Jean: Sure, sure (laughter).

METER: 519

Sally: Oh that's great, we must definitely do that. Um

Jean: I won't have my little bonnet, but... laughter.

Sally: Now, so we have her docked down at the shipping sheds here and they are the 1905 shipping sheds. Do you have any memories of them because we are going to, we are in the process of starting to restore them, eventually. And do you have any memories of those sheds at all, I don't know what your _____.

Jean: Not really because I, I mean we would come to Bivalve but it was more like just ride to Bivalve see what's going on but all the trips that I would go to the shucking house and to the you know it was always Shellpile so I'm not even that familiar cause I was a little nervous like I knew there wasn't much down here but I said you know while I got the cell phone number I don't know if I'll have to call and see where this place is (referring to the BDP office building) and he actually saw your sign and said there it is. But I'm not that familiar with Bivalve and Shellpile when I was growing up there where all these the whole way the whole road there were I don't know if there're still there or not but it was all these shacks along there. And this is where the black people lived that were on the boats and the shucking houses and it was a very very depressed area. I'm certain there was no indoor plumbing, there was no indoor water um they just you know. It didn't affect me much then but thinking back on it you know it was just seeing those in just really bad conditions there um but they where here to work on the boats, they worked in the shucking houses and some little school there that used to be there was pretty much where the you know where the blacks were supposed to stay.

Sally: Where you went to school, the schools were basically segregated there was a black school....

Jean: We had black kids at our school but yea we did but the ones because the little school was right there the kids that were here in Shellpile pretty much because of the closeness they and I don't know if that school was open for that reason I don't know I wasn't really.....

Sally: But there kind of enough kids in Shellpile so (Jean and Sally talked over each other can't understand what they were saying).

Sally: That's the part knowing Shellpile now that it was so small.

Jean: And um I have I better not say this while this... the tape, I'll tell you after the tape is turned off.

Sally: You want me to turn it off now?

Jean: Yea go ahead.

METER: 569

Sally: Um Tony was just telling us about the Library of Congress American Memory Collection that has old photographs of 1930's Bivalve and Shellpile, Deb has them also apparently, okay great. Well do you have any memories of Shellpile or Port Norris or any kind of stories.

METER: 574

Jean: In the summer time, I would come down and swim off of the wharf down here in Shellpile and the very first time I had been my father used to take me to Laurel Lake and we would be with friends and we used to swim around and I thought I was a great swimmer. And uh my cousins used to jump off the dock down here and swim. Well my father thought that was okay for me to do that and he took down there one day and the

tide happened to be flowing really fast through there and I jumped off the dock and I was being taken way down the river my father was on the dock almost having a heart attack, my uncle was going to get ready to jump in because he was more physically fit than my father was but I finally made it back to the dock but that was the last time they let me jump off the dock (laughter). So what they did on the side between the where the McConnell's have there place, I don't know who had it back then, big strong ropes from the pilings so I could jump off and swim and if I got in trouble I could reach up and grab the on the ropes. So that would take place in the summer time I would come down there and swim. Another thing that I was telling him is a certain period of time in the summer the horseshoe crabs would come. And those banks along the shucking house there along the river were just deep with these horseshoe crabs that would eventually die you know along there. And that was something I always remembered. And I never ate an oyster until I married him (pointing to her husband) laughter....

Sally: You're kidding!

Jean: No! I just my mother would make oyster stew my father would not eat oysters he only drank the broth in the stew. My uncle would open an oyster and he'd go out there and he would eat the oyster, and I that was the most gross thing and now I love all oysters but ah I wouldn't even try to eat an oyster and when we got married I don't know we went out to dinner sometime I'm going to try one of those raw oysters. So I love oysters now, raw I don't like them cooked.

Unknown: can't understand that he was saying....

Jean: I'll probably get home and remember a million things....

Sally: Well call me back or write them down or anything.

Jean: And like I said um he was because he wasn't a talker it wasn't like he came home and shared like how's your day going or anything like that it was kind of like you heard conversations and or I'd hear my mother say things but it wasn't like he was like a real communicating person. So when I did work that year down there in the schucking house in the office it was very interesting to see these people and how fast they could shuck the oysters, cause they would get paid, the shockers would get paid according to how many pints or gallons or whatever of oyster they shucked and it always like watching them and they were such nice people, they were poor people but back then the people that worked in the shucking house they were the nicest people I just really you know some were Puerto Rican, some were black but they were just a real nice group of people. And these are, I found these, at one point in time Reed and Reed produced a little cook a little pamphlet that oyster recipes in there and I found that this is an envelope we used to fill out for workers and they would get paid every week and it has you know and this would be actually this is a time sheet also that they also would keep on the people that would work there and this _____ like a little bill this is the billing thing that they used to you know send the bills.

Sally: Yes, we definitely make copies.

Jean: Okay.

METER: 672

Sally: Well now when you worked at the schucking house what was your job, what did you do?

Jean: Office. Office work answering the telephones. I would when it was payroll time you know we would do the payroll. They would pay them in cash, they would go to the bank on Friday's and we would actually get cash in the envelopes. Writing checks for a, what's the name of the trucking company down here in Port Norris? Dagastines Transfer? Dagastines Transfer would ship a lot of the oysters especially the ones that were going to California places like that. So you know would have to write checks and pay them that kind of thing. It wasn't overwhelming work. I mean it was, I was busy but it wasn't like you were overwhelmed with work. So, but it was pretty much because I didn't have any too much direction right then where I was going to go you know like they needed somebody so I worked for a year.

Sally: Well do you have anything else that you are dying to tell me that I didn't ask?

Jean: Not really. Not really, my father passed away in 1982 and six months later my uncle passed away so they passed away like within six months of each other.

Sally: And they had already sold the business?

Jean: Yes. They were in bad health. My father, my father got out of the business first and that was when Neal decided you know get involved and he actually bought my father's half, my uncle was still involved a little bit and kind of helped him a little bit. Then eventually, I guess, he bought his half. But my father was showing signs he passed away with Parkinson's. And but it was a slow kind of slow decline. And my uncle I'm not quite sure I know he had severe liver problems so that was probably what he passed away with.

METER: 726

Sally: Well thank you very much.

Jean: Well you are welcome. This was fun.

Sally: I have a release form you signed acknowledged that you know you were taped recorded and we have permission to use your information.

Jean: And if you had any other information ____ the boat ____? Call me. I'll be happy to answer, you know if I can do it answer any questions

Tony: _____ specifically about the CASHIER_____ we have dates and _____.

Jean: Yes, right, yes.....I pretty much have gone through I didn't have a lot of pictures concerning the business

END OF SIDE A – METER: 762

BEGINNING OF SIDE B – METER: 000

Jean:restore the sign to mint condition but I would like to keep it from deteriorating and preserve it.

Sally: I'll ask my dad he was a wood worker

Jean: Cause I would love to have this sign preserved but I know my middle son especially would eventually like to have the sign.

Tony: _____ he said he could restore all the signs for the MEERWALD for restoration and he is still alive and _____

Meter: 008

Everyone was talking over each other and couldn't understand what each was saying.

Jean: sorry, it was peeling and you couldn't really, I'll show it to you, I brought it and it's in the back of my car.

Tony: Really! Your kidding.

Jean: Yea

Sally: Yes cause that is a thing you don't want to cause any more harm to.

Jean: You want to stop deterioration_____.

Sally: It is definitely a challenge. Cool. Okay, I think I'll press stop on this recorder and we thank you very much and thank you very much sir. And thank you Tony.

Sally: And so we will give these to my dad and we'll go out and look at the CASHIER and the sheds and _____.

Jean: Did you see my oyster can _____

Sally: No, oh look at that very

Tony: _____ in the back of my car.

Jean: This particular can cost me \$350.00 and this was, I gave this to my mother for Christmas one year. The boys have been able, lets see, I don't where Eric found his and Aarons got one also but these are very expensive and this one I found I stumbled across in Chesapeake City, Maryland in an antique store that had this in there and I knew my mother would, cause she had been trying to call people down here and you know is there anywhere that has like Reed & Reed oyster cans down there? Like tucked away in a warehouse or something. You cannot find these and boy when you do find them they are really expensive, sooo. I would think down here they wouldn't be that hard to come by but, _____ collectors down here.

END OF SIDE B: METER: 30

END OF TAPE.