

Renee Magriel: This tape recording is the property of Tales of Cape Cod, Incorporated, and may not be reproduced without permission from Tales of Cape Cod, Incorporated. September 6, 1977. I'm in the home of Mrs. Mildred B. Paine, Greendale Lane in Harwich. Mrs. Paine is the chairman of the Harwich Historical Commission. She was married to John Howard Paine, who edited his father's *History of Harwich*, which is the main document of Harwich history before 19 – Mrs. Paine has been involved in writing of two books on Harwich, one called *Harwich Men of the Sea* about the sea captains and Harwich and *Indians of Harwich*. Your full name?

Mildred Paine: Mildred B. Paine.

RM: Is the B your middle name?

MP: B, yes.

RM: Your address is?

MP: 22 Greendale Lane.

RM: Harwich. Your maiden name?

MP: Williams.

RM: Phone number?

MP: [inaudible] – 32-0199.

RM: Date of birth?

MP: Goodness. You don't need that, do you?

RM: Well, we'd like to know.

MP: April 9, 1893.

RM: April 9 – [inaudible].

MP: Eighty-four years old.

RM: Eighty-four years old. I wouldn't have guessed it. You look wonderful.

MP: That's right, I guess.

RM: [laughter] Where were you born?

MP: Northwood, New Hampshire.

RM: Is that one word or two words?

MP: No, one word. Northwood, New Hampshire.

RM: Do you have any nicknames? [laughter]

MP: Well, I've always been called Mid.

RM: Mid?

MP: M-I-D. My family – Aunt Mid, Mid, to everybody.

RM: How many people in your immediate family? Do you have children?

MP: No.

RM: No children?

MP: No one. I have one sister. Other than nieces and nephews.

RM: Are you a *Mayflower* descendant?

MP: No, my husband was.

RM: Do you happen to know the name of the person [inaudible] –

MP: He came from four different lines [inaudible] tell you now, I guess. Constance Snow, I think, was one. [inaudible] I think the [inaudible] Snow. I'm not sure. [inaudible]

RM: Do you have a genealogy somewhere?

MP: Yes, but, my land, I couldn't dig it up now.

RM: [laughter] Okay. Do you think sometime –? Do you have any old papers or anything like that?

MP: Oh, my land.

RM: A lot, huh? [laughter]

MP: There's no end.

RM: Really?

MP: The *History of Harwich* [inaudible] – I have the *History of Harwich* right here.

RM: Right. Well, I can get that out of the library. Does that have a lot about your family?

MP: No. No, it's about the town, the early town.

RM: Was that your husband who wrote that?

MP: Well, his father collected that material all his life. And my husband compiled it and wrote it, had it written – I mean, printed.

RM: What was your husband's father's name?

MP: Josiah Paine.

RM: And your husband's name?

MP: John Howard Paine.

RM: It was actually his father who had all the original material.

MP: Yeah. He had it [inaudible] Historical Society [inaudible].

RM: So I could actually go look at it there. Well, that's just the material from the book, though. I could just read the book.

MP: Well, I have the book here if you want to look at it now. I don't know.

RM: No, I don't want to look at it now because [inaudible]. What about your own family? You said your father came to Cape Cod in 1906? Is that [inaudible]?

MP: Yes.

RM: Where did he come from? Northwood, New Hampshire?

MP: No, not here. My father was a teacher in certain kinds of schools. He came here in 1908 [inaudible] the schools.

RM: I see. Where did you come from?

MP: Well, he came from Northwood, New Hampshire. He had a little private seminary. He left that and came to Orleans High School in 1906. Then, we were only there about a year and a half. He went to South Hadley Falls High School.

RM: I see.

MP: That was a teaching [inaudible]. The men who were on the Massachusetts Board of Education were very much interested in him, and they helped him. Mr. Hill who was [inaudible] then was leaving. So then they started to look at my father about this job here.

RM: So he was the superintendent of all schools in Harwich.

MP: Yes. All the schools in Harwich and Orleans, Chatham, and Eastham. That was the district – four towns in the district. And he came.

RM: What was his name?

MP: Warren G. Williams.

RM: Warren G. Williams. And your mother's name?

MP: Her name was [inaudible] C. Williams.

RM: Were you an only child?

MP: No, no. There's five of us.

RM: You have a sister. What were their names?

MP: You mean their names? Then or now?

RM: Then, I guess.

MP: Well, I'm the oldest. My sister Grace, Eleanor, Val, and Dorothy.

RM: Are they all living?

MP: Just Dot's living.

RM: Oh, just Dot.

MP: My sister Grace died three years ago. Not quite three years ago.

RM: Did your father teach you himself, or did you go to school?

MP: We went to school.

RM: Where'd you go?

MP: When?

RM: Where.

MP: First, I went to schools in Northwood, New Hampshire.

RM: Right. Did you go to school in Harwich?

MP: Yes, Harwich High school.

RM: You went to high school.

MP: Yes.

RM: What was that like?

MP: Yes, I can tell you [inaudible]. High school was Brooks Academy.

RM: Oh, really?

MP: It was one-room.

RM: How many kids were in it?

MP: I don't know now. It was full. I know [inaudible]. It was one room and two coat rooms. I was thinking about that; the coat rooms weren't much bigger than this would be right here. The assistant teacher – you had one principal and one assistant teacher – had to have her classes in that little bit of a room with the stove up in the corner, hot as the dickens. I often wondered how she could teach. Then, I guess it was my senior year; they built on the backside of the academy – high school. Later, they built that end that goes out to the west. I don't know when that was done – some time. That was the high school [inaudible] until they built the new high school, which is the intermediate school on Sisson Road.

RM: That was the new high school?

MP: That was the new high school. That was [inaudible] dates on those. That must have been [inaudible].

RM: In the '30s.

MP: '33, '34, '35.

RM: Do you remember what you learned in high school? What sort of things did they teach you?

MP: We learned [inaudible] regular high school course. We had mathematics plus algebra and geometry. We had English. We had Latin. We had French. A lot of history. We had everything like we would have today. It's a little different today.

RM: This was one person who would teach you all these things?

MP: We had two teachers, the principal and the –

RM: And the assistant.

MP: – assistant.

RM: They must have been [inaudible].

MP: There was one – of course, we had others. Of course, after they built on that, the second year – it must have been the second year we were here. They built on that back side of the academy, where Mr. (Moran?) has his office along in there. That was [inaudible] we had our classes in there. I think we had another teacher [inaudible] I don't know that she stayed more than – she was a lovely person; everyone liked her very much.

RM: The teachers must have been very well rounded to teach all these different subjects. They must have known –

MP: Just regular college courses.

RM: Was it unusual for –? Do all women go to school then? Was that unusual at all to have women in school?

MP: What women?

RM: Well, just young girls. I guess all the girls in Harwich went to high school.

MP: Yes, everyone went to school. Oh, yes. Boys and girls. They all went to school.

RM: Didn't they also have a navigation school in there, or was that later?

MP: Well, that was way back. Sidney Brooks built that building – 1844. He taught navigation. Of course, he taught all kinds of subjects. He taught navigation. Of course, people think that was the first school of navigation in this country, but it wasn't. Well, we thought it was, and there was a plaque put up there. We all thought it was. But in the research that we have done recently in our commission [inaudible] commission, there were others. I think there was a school of navigation in Chatham even before ours. So we can't claim it.

RM: It was probably one of the earliest [inaudible].

MP: Yes, 1844.

RM: Harwich was one of the first school systems that had a lunch program, wasn't it?

MP: Well, I don't know about that.

RM: That must have been later.

MP: That's later.

RM: Were the people in Harwich interested in schools? Did they think that education was really important?

MP: I guess so. [inaudible]

RM: Because it seemed to me that Harwich developed a good school system a lot earlier than some other towns in the Cape. [inaudible]

MP: Another thing that we had way back then – let's see. I graduated in 1911 – about 1912, '13, '14, along in there, they had an agriculture school connected with the high school that my father started. I don't know if any other school had one [inaudible].

RM: What did they teach there?

MP: Well, they taught agriculture. They taught things about agriculture – raising farm things and chickens and maybe small animals. I don't know. I know chickens, anyway. Poultry.

RM: Cranberries?

MP: I don't think so. I don't think that came in. I think that was pretty well-established for the people that had the bogs, anyway.

RM: Harwich must have been very different then because it had a [inaudible] there was a lot of agriculture. There were a lot of people who were farming,

MP: I think most – yes. I think most everybody had a garden. [inaudible] gardens. I think most people have gardens now. I had one until this year.

RM: [laughter] Is there any story you remember about the school system?

MP: Well, I know that there was a little small building right opposite on the Sisson Road, opposite the high school, Brooks Academy. Almost in that yard of mister – what's his name? That house [inaudible] –

RM: The house that's right across [inaudible].

MP: There's a little building right there. I don't where that ever went. I wondered. That was their room where they had meetings. There weren't many [inaudible] in it. Some came from other towns to here to study. They had one teacher, a man, that would teach [inaudible] subjects. I don't know. I think that probably lasted five or six years, and then it was [inaudible].

RM: Did your father do anything else besides teaching? Did he hold any other jobs in Harwich?

MP: I don't know if he did.

RM: He was just the school superintendent?

MP: I don't know if he had any others [inaudible]. I don't think so.

RM: What about your mother? Did she ever [inaudible]?

MP: No. No. Of course, she belonged to the LBS, Ladies Benevolent Society of the church. They had social lives. My father was much interested in Masons. He was in the [inaudible].

RM: Do you know about the Masons?

MP: What?

RM: Do you know about the Masons?

MP: I don't know anything about it. It's a secret order. [laughter] Somebody will have to pry it out. He was a master [inaudible].

RM: That's the one that's above Bates?

MP: Yeah, [inaudible]. In fact, they were in that building. [inaudible] Bates is in. [inaudible]

RM: Where were you living when you first came?

MP: We lived on Parallel Street.

RM: Is the house still there?

MP: Yes.

RM: What was it like? Do you remember? It must have been very different.

MP: Well, there weren't any paved roads. They're all sand roads. There was no electricity then. It didn't come until about 1920, I guess. The roads were all the [inaudible]. There weren't any automobiles. The first automobile that I remember anyone having was Dr. Handy. He lived on Parallel Street on this end. He had kind of a funny-looking car. I don't think it rode very easy, either, but that's the first one, I think, in Harwich. There was one road, the East Harwich Road, which is 39 from East Harwich [inaudible] Brooks Academy [inaudible]. That was called the "Shell Road," and they used to gather all the shells – scallop shells and whatever – put them on that road. That's how it was called the "Shell Road." Of course, they get ground up [inaudible]. But they were all [inaudible] sand.

RM: It must have been very sandy or dusty walking.

MP: [inaudible]

RM: Can you describe what your day might have been like when you woke up [inaudible] heating?

MP: No, we had stoves.

RM: Wood stoves?

MP: Wood stoves. Well, coal.

RM: Coal?

MP: Coal. [inaudible] No, we had stoves in our house, a cook stove, a big cook stove in the kitchen. I guess just one other stove in the living room that would heat the house. My grandmother was here several years, and she had a stove upstairs in her bedroom.

RM: She came from New Hampshire?

MP: Yes.

RM: And stayed with you?

MP: Well, after her husband died – my grandfather was her second husband. My own grandfather, my mother's father, died when she was (eighteen?) years old – young. Then my grandmother married again. But when he died, she came to live with us.

RM: When was that? How old were you?

MP: Well, I must have been in high school. I think I must have been in high school.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: I think. I'm quite sure, yes. I'm quite sure. It was not long after we came here, I think. We came in [inaudible] nineteen-teens when she came to live with us.

RM: What did you do when you finished high school?

MP: I went to Hyannis Normal School.

RM: Was that a college, sort of?

MP: Well, it became a college. It wasn't then a college. It's called a Normal School. Then I taught school.

RM: In college?

MP: No.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: No. [inaudible] I taught in West Dennis the first year [inaudible] taught for seven years and then got married.

RM: [inaudible] Can you remember old [inaudible] in Harwich?

MP: Well, a little. But my husband just loved that kind of thing. He used to dress up and go in the parades. They had a [Old] Horrible parade [inaudible]. I had some old pictures. I don't have any now.

RM: Can you describe –? I mean, there's nothing like that now.

MP: Well, I didn't. That was before my day, I think.

RM: What was the Old Horrible parade?

MP: Well, he used to dress up in funny old clothes. Looked terrible. An old hayrack and horses.

RM: And just parade around town?

MP: Well, through the center anyway. I don't know how far they went. But I don't remember [inaudible].

RM: What about the Exchange Building? What was that like?

MP: Oh, [inaudible] it was the biggest building on Cape Cod and the tallest. It's set right there in that corner where that so-called park is. It had three stories. The lower floor was [inaudible] store – was out on the west side. Then Bates Store, which was then [inaudible] houses. That was way back – was in the other half; it was two stores. In the back, was the town office.

RM: Everything [inaudible].

MP: Cramped up in there. The second floor was the theater, a nice stage and galleries all around the three sides [inaudible].

RM: Was there a lot of interior work in the theater?

MP: Yes, there was [inaudible] seats – about eight hundred in there.

RM: That's big.

MP: I think about eight-hundred. The third floor was a big [inaudible] skating rink. I never saw any skating up there – roller-skating – since I lived here. But they used to have skating rink parties up there. There was this huge cupola at the top, and the fire – what do they call them? [inaudible] fire?

RM: [inaudible] fires?

MP: Yeah. She used to – it was a woman [inaudible] more than woman that I knew – used to be up there to watch the [inaudible]. You could see Nantucket on a clear day from there.

RM: Really?

MP: I've been up in there once or twice. On a nice, clear day, you can even see Nantucket. But they demolished it. We certainly lost something then.

RM: [inaudible] Why was it demolished?

MP: It was voted in town meeting. Any town meeting that they had previously – they wouldn't spend any money to do any repairs on it. They wouldn't vote any money. They said it wasn't safe. There's no such thing. I saw a bulldozer up on that third floor up near the cupola, way up. They had hard work to even push it down. Yet, they said it wasn't safe.

RM: The Historical Society probably [inaudible].

MP: Well, I think a lot of people wanted to.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Well, that money has to repair it – keep it and repair it.

RM: Let's talk about your husband. Is he native [to] Harwich?

MP: Yes.

RM: When was he born? Do you know [inaudible]?

MP: He was born in 1882. He's ten years older.

RM: His family has been in Harwich for many generations?

MP: Yes.

RM: Did he ever tell you stories about his family [inaudible]?

MP: Well, he was their only child. His father was a carpenter.

RM: What was his name?

MP: Josiah Paine.

RM: Josiah.

MP: He wrote the book and gathered all this stuff.

RM: And his mother's name? Do you know?

MP: Her name was Phoebe (Adelaide?). [inaudible] Well, he went to school. He went to Boston University Law School, became a lawyer, practiced law. He practiced law, I think, one year in Boston. He [inaudible] I guess he knew, and then he came here [inaudible] office over the [inaudible] we used to call [inaudible] what is the antique shop on Main Street now.

RM: The drug shop?

MP: No, the antique shop.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Opposite Bates's store. Upstairs he had an office. Of course, he did quite a lot of work at home, too.

RM: I guess he saved a lot of papers from [inaudible].

MP: Well, he had all the papers from his father.

RM: What was his name?

MP: Who? Josiah.

RM: No, Josiah's father.

MP: His father was Josiah, Josiah (White?). It was a big family [inaudible].

RM: Did you ever hear any stories about them? Were any of them involved in the sea [inaudible]?

MP: Sea what?

RM: Were any of them sailors?

MP: No.

RM: They were businessmen or lawyers? They were mostly [inaudible]?

MP: Well, I think several of them – I think they were carpenters, a lot of them – several of them.

RM: Carpenters.

MP: Carpenters. I know Uncle (Lucius?) was a carpenter in Hyannis, and there was one here. He was a carpenter. Of course, John (inaudible) a carpenter. He wasn't well [inaudible] years, but he was a carpenter. He built that house. In fact, that house that I lived in – we [inaudible] came here – is on Parallel Street. It's the big yellow house up at the farther end on the left hand side.

RM: Is that where the (Neilsons?) lived?

MP: What?

RM: Where the Neilsons live now?

MP: No, no. Up on the other end.

RM: Oh, the other end. Okay.

MP: Way up. Way up on the other end. Across Sisson Road up on the other end. The large yellow house up there was where he lived, and his father built it. I lived there for fifty years.

RM: Do you know anything about the house or where he got the wood?

MP: I don't know where he got the wood. That didn't come by packet, I don't think.

RM: No. How was it different? Were there any special characteristics of that place which you wouldn't find in a modern house? I mean, did it have –?

MP: It was a pretty solid house.

RM: A lot of wood in it. [laughter]

MP: No bugs. No, it was well-built.

RM: What about the rooms? Were there special rooms for certain activities?

MP: Well, it was a small family, [inaudible]. If you go by there, in the back, there's a little small room. That was the kitchen. There was a living room in the parlor and a bedroom downstairs in the front hall. There were three bedrooms upstairs. But then we built on the house. We built this great piece on the [inaudible] when we were – so it's a big house. They just sold that [inaudible] the man now owns it has [inaudible] – I think he's returned and retired

colonel. I think he's something [inaudible] colonel. I think he's a colonel, and he's retired now. He bought it five, six years ago. He's retired now. He's shingled the whole roof – all those roofs – and he's done a lot of work, I think, inside and in the barn. So it's wonderful.

RM: Yeah, it's nice.

MP: [inaudible]

RM: It's nice to see it being a kept house.

MP: Yeah.

RM: I live in an old house.

MP: Do you?

RM: The old [inaudible] house in South Orange.

MP: Where's that?

RM: It's on Old County Road.

MP: On Old County Road?

RM: Yes. It's a short street.

MP: Oh, I know.

RM: It's off [inaudible].

MP: I know it. You mean there? Yes. I know.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: How long have you been here?

RM: Two and a half years. Deep Hole Road used to be very different from the way [inaudible] weren't there fishing vessels?

MP: Down at the end.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Have you seen our book that we just wrote and published?

RM: No.

MP: That tells about the wharves down at the end.

RM: I talked to Mr. Walker.

MP: [inaudible] Walker?

RM: Yeah, I called him up.

MP: He'd tell you all about the waters.

RM: Where does he live? He lives on –

MP: Deep Hole.

RM: But where on Deep Hole?

MP: Well, I think you can tell as you go down, part of the ways down, and there's a white-picket fence on the right-hand side [inaudible]. That's his house. It's a little house. It's got a [inaudible]. This book [inaudible].

RM: [inaudible]

MP: This book [inaudible]

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Well, Captain [inaudible] Henry [inaudible] your house.

RM: Yeah, that's my house. Did you know him?

MP: Yes.

RM: You did?

MP: Yes.

RM: Can you tell me more?

MP: [inaudible]

RM: [inaudible]

MP: I wouldn't know him personally.

RM: But you know about him?

MP: Well, I know that he – yes, they were very fine people [inaudible] very fine people. He was a pillar of the church.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: [inaudible]

RM: That's your machine. I think it's just that we should turn it over. See, it stops? Okay, so when you want to turn the tape over, you press –

MP: Is that through, that side?

RM: That side is through. Now, if we turn it –

MP: What's on it?

RM: What?

MP: What's on it?

RM: What we've been talking about.

MP: Oh, I thought you didn't have it on.

RM: No, I have [inaudible] now we just turn it over. That's all you have to do.

MP: Then, this is this and this? Is that right?

RM: Yes, just press it down. That's it. Now we have the other side. You've got a half an hour tape in there. Half hour each [inaudible]. Have you been involved in the historical society for a long time?

MP: Well, I chaired the historical commission and what we've done.

RM: What are your responsibilities?

MP: We've got the Main Street of Harwich Center from [inaudible] house just about the church down [inaudible] park and all of Parallel Street – both sides – from Sisson Road down the bank. That's all in the historic district.

RM: So people couldn't put a McDonald's there or something?

MP: That's right.

RM: You have to approve signs and things like that? Or changes to the buildings?

MP: We don't do that part. There's another committee that will do that, and they have to have permits if they want to build on to the house or paint it or do something different to it.

RM: I want to go back for a minute. There's something I wanted to ask you. Can you remember when electricity first came to Harwich?

MP: Well, I think I said before –

RM: It was 1920.

MP: I should think about 1920.

RM: What impact did that have? How did that change the way [inaudible]?

MP: [inaudible] house. [inaudible] lamps.

RM: Instead of kerosene lamps?

MP: Yes, it was quite a difference. An electric stove [inaudible].

RM: [laughter] How did people react to it? To electricity?

MP: Oh, I think they were glad to have it.

RM: Really?

MP: Oh, yes.

RM: It made their lives easier?

MP: I think so. I would think so.

RM: Because it's hard to imagine. We're all electric children.

MP: Yeah, I know.

RM: It's hard to imagine what it was like. It seems like the world has changed a lot in the last fifty, sixty years.

MP: Oh, yes.

RM: Man on the moon.

MP: That's right.

RM: A lot of innovations in technology [inaudible]. Do you see things about the quality of life [inaudible] that were better than the way things are now? Do you think that there were things about the way people lived then that were better than the way things are now?

MP: Well, I don't know. I think maybe people were more like a big family. The neighborhood was together. I think maybe more than they are now. I don't know. Now, my neighborhood right here is just wonderful. Everybody is very friendly and cordial and everything. I don't think it's always so everywhere. They live by themselves. I can't tell. Of course, I think maybe in schools it may be the same. There's a certain crowd that [inaudible] together. Of course, we had certain friends that always did things together at school, after school days.

RM: What did you do after school? How did you spend your time?

MP: I don't know. Used to have ball games at the school in the park then. Usually went to ball games. I don't know what we did.

RM: Were there a lot of tourists in Harwich?

MP: Not as many as there are now. There was some, not so many.

RM: That was when the Belmont was –?

MP: Flourishing, yeah.

RM: Flourishing. Were you ever there?

MP: Well, not really. I think I only went in there once or twice. Yes, that was a very elegant hotel.

RM: Did you ever see any of the people who went there? Or did you hear anything about [inaudible]?

MP: Not really very much, no. [inaudible] because I didn't go in. It was for guests, but we had a minister and his wife that had a church here in Harwich Center, who had plans and came there every year for about a month or so. She used to tell me about it.

RM: What did she –? Do you remember anything?

MP: Well, it had beautiful carpets. They were always invited there for dinner. She used to tell me – but I don't think I ever went in there to see how elegant it was.

RM: How did the increased tourist industry affect the town? Did you see real changes in the town with the tourists coming?

MP: [inaudible] Of course, that's what many people lived by – the tourists.

RM: Now especially.

MP: Of course, over the years, too, I suppose.

RM: What about the railroad? Did you ever ride the railroad?

MP: Yes.

RM: If the depot was on Old Colony Road – wasn't it?

MP: No.

RM: Where was it? The Harwich Depot?

MP: Chatham Ranch was. The main depot from Boston to Provincetown was – do you know where the lumber yard was?

RM: Yes, sure. Harwich Lumber Yard.

MP: Where some of those buildings are now. Well, the depot is there.

RM: Okay. I didn't know that.

MP: Of course, they're taking the tracks out [inaudible] Provincetown. But there was a Y there that they could have a – they had another engine that turned around. The Chatham Ranch went from Harwich Depot back to Chatham. Maybe you've seen some places [inaudible] track was – used to be.

RM: Did you ever ride on the trains?

MP: Oh, yes. Rode on the train when I came here.

RM: Oh, yeah?

MP: It's the only way to come.

RM: There wasn't any other way to come? Was there any land transportation at all?

MP: Yes, they always had what they called [inaudible] bus [inaudible] station for them and their baggage [inaudible] and whatever.

RM: What was the train –?

MP: It was just like any train.

RM: A little train.

MP: [inaudible] No, no.

RM: It was a big one?

MP: Like an ordinary train. Several cars and a baggage [inaudible]. Oh, yes.

RM: It must have been wonderful. [laughter]

MP: Any ordinary train.

RM: When did rail service end in Harwich? Do you remember? In the '30s? Does that sound right?

MP: I don't know. A long time ago. I don't know.

RM: You don't remember what it was like when the trains stopped running?

MP: Well, you had to go by bus then or car. Of course, by then, everybody had a car, I guess.

RM: Right. [inaudible]

MP: They had buses, you see, too. Not too many, I don't think, either.

RM: You mentioned Dr. Handy had the first car. Was that a curiosity in the neighborhood?

MP: Kind of, I guess. Of course, they were great friends of my mother and father, Dr. and Mrs. Handy. I remember I was down the center with my father, and Dr. Handy came along with his new car and asked him to take a ride. Of course, I had to ride, too. That's the first time. I thought it was very, very hard riding. I don't know what kind of tires they were, but they seemed to me that they couldn't [inaudible] tire like we [inaudible] bumpy.

RM: It wasn't that comfortable.

MP: No.

RM: Did it make a lot of noise?

MP: I don't know about that. I don't remember. But I thought it was [inaudible] riding. [laughter] Of course, the roads weren't any good.

RM: Yeah, the road weren't very – can you describe Harwich, let's say, before 1920, what the town was like, what kind of businesses were there?

MP: I can tell you [about] Harwich Center. [inaudible] Store. And of course, the church was the same. The Parish House there was half the size of the present one. They always called it the

chapel, the [inaudible] chapel. It was about half that size and then it was built on to make it the size it is now. The church office was the parsonage. Of course, [inaudible] looked the same. Then, the store that [inaudible] Hall is in now was – it was an A&P store at one time, and it was a dry good store at one time. Then, I think it was empty, too [inaudible]. Next door to that which is that [inaudible] place now was [inaudible] shoe store and the antique shop was the drug store. Then on the other side of the street, [inaudible] was in that corner. Then, next to where – it's really where the Bates store is now – divided in two. The west side was the post office. The east side was a little dry good store – a men's store, [inaudible]. Then, of course, where [inaudible] was houses [inaudible] not a condominium. What do you call it? [inaudible] That was a beautiful house, and they tore it down. Chester Snow's house. It was just the most beautiful house.

RM: He built the Exchange Building, right? Chester Snow. He was a banker?

MP: No. Chester Snow.

RM: He was the [inaudible] –

MP: Well, I guess so. I guess he did.

RM: What was the house like?

MP: It was a beautiful mansion. I remember one thing. They had the newer posts on the stairway. They were saying it's glass.

RM: Really?

MP: It had three floors – the downstairs was a downstairs kitchen. I don't know if the dining room [inaudible] house. Then, next to it, you see where the [inaudible] that was – of course, that was owned by the [inaudible]. Then, before that, it was owned by (Alfonso Weeks?), and he was a banker. Then, the bank, or the town office now, were two banks in there. The two banks is the court now. Then, of course, the library is all different.

RM: It used to be a bank and a store?

MP: That was a bank and a telephone office – that separate building that's to the west of the big one. That was a bank, and then it was a telephone office for quite a while. Then it wasn't used for some time, too. But then the library was upstairs in a part, only a part of the upstairs of the building. The rest of it was an apartment. The downstairs had three stores. One of them was a plumber. There was a furniture store in the east side. Then the Second District Court was in there after that in two stores [inaudible]. Well, they had the business. They had the whole floor – Second District Court.

RM: So there's a court there.

MP: They were there until they built this one [inaudible] just now – or well, within – how many years? – just a few years. I don't think it's ten years.

RM: Was there ever much of a crime problem in Harwich?

MP: I doubt it. I doubt it.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: I don't believe so.

RM: I know a lot of houses were moved around on the Cape. That was one thing that fascinated me, is people would pick up and move their house. [laughter] Were there any houses in Harwich that were moved around that you can remember?

MP: Not that I remember being moved, but the house on [inaudible] Street [inaudible] where we lived, where my mother and father's house – that was moved from up Great Western Road. I know that. Then I remember my husband telling me about the house that's this side of that. It's got a for sale sign on it now. That house was up [inaudible] there somewhere – Queen Anne Road [inaudible] perhaps. I don't know just where it is. He always told about this, that they moved their [inaudible] as it was. I suppose it's horses [inaudible] I don't know. The people, this Aunt Polly and her husband, Uncle Jim – Aunt Polly and Uncle Jim – we always called them – stayed in it all the time. They had a chandelier, a light in the ceiling, and that was that. He said he was swinging back and forth, and they sat in there while it was coming down the road.

RM: They didn't want to get out. [laughter]

MP: [inaudible] So that's that. I didn't see that. That was way back.

RM: That must have been quite an event, to see a house going down the road.

MP: And living in it, too.

RM: Yeah. [laughter] If transportation was – I was thinking – before the roads, it must have taken a long time to travel around the Cape. If you wanted to go to Provincetown –

MP: [inaudible]

RM: You never went there?

MP: [inaudible] went to Provincetown.

RM: No one ever went? [laughter]

MP: I don't know. Well, they had horses.

RM: Yeah, horses.

MP: People had horses.

RM: Did a lot of people have their own horse?

MP: I don't know. I don't think so. I don't think a lot of people did.

RM: Did you?

MP: Well, yeah, my father had a horse because that was the way. He went by train. He'd go by train to all Orleans and Eastham but then he'd have to walk quite ways after he'd get there from the depot to the school. But Chatham – you see, there wasn't much way to get to Chatham. He had a horse. He used to – then, of course, look at all the walking you had to do to get to all the schools around here – a school in every district. So we had a horse.

RM: [inaudible] Harwich and Pleasant [inaudible], South Harwich –

MP: South Harwich and North Harwich. We did a lot of walking.

RM: Yeah, I'm sure you did.

MP: But we had a horse. A small horse. She was a cute one [inaudible].

RM: I live two houses down from the South Harwich School. It's a Montessori school now. Do you remember what that was like? Were you ever in it [inaudible]

MP: Well, they're all alike. All of these schools are the same. Like the recreation building here –

RM: Used to be the old –

MP: That was the school for Harwich Center. Harwich Port is in the parking lot, in the back part of the parking lot. That's the school. The parking lot there on Main Street. Well, that school is in there. South Harwich is in –

RM: The one on my street.

MP: – near you. Then East Harwich is gone. I don't know what they did to it. [inaudible]

RM: Was there one on Pleasant Lake?

MP: The Pleasant Lake School was not like these [inaudible] two-story. That was different. That is a house down – it's either one or two houses east of the Episcopal Church [inaudible].

RM: Really? You mean right on 28?

MP: Yes.

RM: Was that moved from Pleasant Lake?

MP: Yes, that was moved down. That was the Pleasant Lake School. I think I'm right. That school was different. Of course, the first schools were the little district schools, just one room. There was [one] on Queen Anne Road, and there was one down here on Gorham Road.

RM: Oh, really?

MP: I had no idea [inaudible] just one room, a small room.

RM: With a wood stove or [inaudible]?

MP: [inaudible] I don't know. Sometimes I think the teachers stayed in one place, and they lived with a family usually. They stayed in the school maybe so many weeks, and then they went to another. I don't know for sure about that.

RM: So they may not have had a continuous education?

MP: Yeah.

RM: A teacher would just come around once in a while?

MP: Well, I don't know. I don't know whether that's so or not. But I think [inaudible] because the one on Queen Anne Road, you see, my husband's father and all his brothers and sisters went to that. Of course, that's way back. And I know John's mother went to the one that's on Gorham Road.

RM: Did she ever talk about that?

MP: No. I never heard her say anything about it. I found that in research, I guess. That school – and I don't know whether I'm right or wrong. Do you know –? What's his name? [inaudible] man? David – what? On the corner there [inaudible].

RM: Oh, right.

MP: I think that's the schoolhouse.

RM: Really?

MP: I'm not sure. I think it is. The one was up on Gorham Road.

RM: I heard a funny story about that house from Mr. [inaudible] who lives on Gorham Road, and he's ninety-two years old. He said that there was a ship – I guess, it was aground

somewhere in the harbor. A lot of people used to scavenge things off the ships. [laughter] He said that he and another man, [inaudible] I think it was, rode out and got loads of lumber. They brought lumber in all night long from some ship that had gone aground. The man who built that house that [inaudible] – I think that’s it – bought this lumber from – bought enough lumber to build his whole house for thirty dollars.

MP: But he didn’t say that that was [inaudible] schoolhouse before?

RM: I didn’t ask him. I didn’t know to ask. But it very well might have been. Or it might have been another house right next to it. Because he said it was right on (Snow?) Road and 28. He said that was the house that was built from that lumber. Years later, he said, “I can’t believe for thirty dollars the man built this huge house.”

MP: [inaudible] right back of that. Of course, there is a house. Somebody lives right back of that [inaudible].

RM: Which is an old house [inaudible].

MP: I don’t know.

RM: He didn’t say which house it was. It just said it was [inaudible]. Did you know about any –? There used to be a lot of shipwrecks on the Cape. Do you remember any –?

MP: Well, when we lived in Orleans, there was this [inaudible] that – I’ve seen something about that in the paper this year about the [inaudible] coming to shore. That was [inaudible] off Chatham, Eastham area [inaudible]. I know my father went. He went down – everyone went to see what they could salvage, I guess. I know he went, and he said that it was shoes and sewing machines, I remember, and the paper that they print newspapers on. I know he brought home a roll of that paper. He didn’t bring home shoes and sewing machines. But everyone was there, getting everything they could.

RM: Right. That’s what I’ve heard. A lot of houses were shingled that way.

MP: Is that so?

RM: Well, of course, that is [inaudible] years ago, a lot of that. Because the [inaudible] 1906, at least – five or six.

RM: Somebody told me that Chatham had the worst reputation for piracy. Somebody said that if the ship went aground in Chatham, it would be stripped in ten minutes. Even the sails would be gone. [laughter] Not a stitch of rope would be left on the ship in ten minutes.

MP: Of course, that Monomoy Point – that’s dangerous.

RM: It’s really dangerous.

MP: Dangerous [inaudible] ships.

RM: Are those pictures of your husband's family on the wall?

MP: Yes.

RM: That man on the right?

MP: Yeah.

RM: Is that Josiah?

MP: No, no. That's [inaudible] first name. Do you know the oldest house in Harwich?

RM: Yes. It's right near me, up the road.

MP: Yeah. Well, he lived in it. He was a representative in court [inaudible] or not. I have it. [inaudible] legislature and –

RM: And that was –?

MP: The woman is – they're related to each other but they're not sister and brother. She was the wife of (Warren Freeman?), and he – let me think – [inaudible]. See, my husband's mother was a (Long?) [inaudible] Long Road [inaudible] up and down here. Let me see. Let me see. She was Priscilla (Long?). She married (Gideon Freeman?), I think. She died young. This (Gideon Freeman?) didn't have [inaudible], and he gave that portrait to my husband. Of course, that's [inaudible] now. The other one – do you know what they call the (Althea?) House? It's the one that they moved – the oldest house in Harwich that they moved back from that [inaudible]. Well, that came out of that house. [inaudible]

RM: They've been renovating that house. They built a new chimney on it.

MP: [inaudible]

RM: Yeah.

MP: They had to. They couldn't take the chimney because it was made of handmade bricks, I think [inaudible] crumbled. Might want to go down there. They're living in it [inaudible].

RM: Yeah. [inaudible]

MP: Have they done a lot to it?

RM: Yeah, I think they re-shingled her. I know they worked on the outside. You know that big gothic building on 28 with the spires on top? It has about three or four stories.

MP: Where?

RM: Right next to the oldest house in Harwich. It's a big old, very strange-looking house. What was that?

MP: That was just a house, a residence.

RM: Just a house?

MP: Just a house. A residence.

RM: It looks so important. Do you know who lived –? Do you know anything about that house?

MP: Well, it's the same people [inaudible] don't think it was (Weeks?). I think it was something else. I don't know the history of it. I don't know really the history, but some people live in it that –

RM: It's the same family?

MP: The man died this year, I think, that lived in it.

RM: Is his wife [inaudible]?

MP: I guess she lives there.

RM: She sold the house.

MP: Lately?

RM: Yeah.

MP: Oh, well.

RM: Because now it's a pottery [inaudible].

MP: I didn't know that.

RM: They just re-shingled it. It looks really good.

MP: I didn't know that. I didn't know.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: She probably – I don't know. You'd have to ask some of those people [inaudible].

RM: Yeah.

MP: [inaudible]

RM: The ones who have the florist?

MP: Yeah, I think they'd tell you.

RM: Have they been there a while?

MP: [inaudible] They're not natives, but they've been [inaudible] –

[Recording paused.]

RM: This tape recording is the property of Tales of Cape Cod and may not be reproduced without permission from Tales of Cape Cod, Incorporated. September 9, 1977. I'm in the home of Mrs. Mildred B. Paine on Greendale Lane in Harwich. Let's see. We were talking about the Old Horribles Parade. These are pictures from –?

MP: Yes.

RM: Can you describe where it is, or what's going on?

MP: [inaudible] This is recording [inaudible].

RM: Everything's recording.

MP: My husband used to talk about the [Old] Horribles parade they used to have here. They started, I think, about 1907. The first pictures that I have of it are 1907 and then 1909. He used to dress up in funny old clothes like a woman. Then a friend of his that lived near us also the two of them would be all dressed up. They made a sign which said, "We are for women's rights. No race suicide in our family. We are opposed to kissing."

RM: Can I see that? That's funny.

MP: I have another picture of my husband, Thomas Paine.

RM: This is your husband?

MP: This one.

RM: [laughter]

MP: He's dressed in a very old-fashioned long dress with a tall hat, old great big hat. Then, these pictures –

RM: He looks awful. [laughter]

MP: These pictures are of the big float. It was a big wagon, hay wagon or something with two horses. On the side of it, it said, "Orange Juice." I don't know whether that's what they called the wagon or not. It's filled with people all dressed up in these funny clothes. It's in front of the Exchange Building with all the people standing on the sidewalks and streets. I have two of those picture [inaudible] 1914.

RM: That's when the boys were wearing short britches.

MP: [inaudible] Then I also have these two pictures. One is the Pleasant Lake Schoolhouse, which I told you about before. This was taken in 1917, and the school was moved to South Harwich on the main street in '48.

RM: Is it still there?

MP: Yes. Then, this is a picture of the Chatham Branch Railroad Station in Harwich, which was right on Pleasant Lake Avenue, which is now – I don't know where it is.

RM: [inaudible] picture of your husband is a riot. [laughter] The people in town probably really enjoyed that. Do you remember him dressing up like this?

MP: No. See, I came here in 1908.

RM: I see. So this is before you came.

MP: That's 1907 and '09.

RM: They're dressed up like women. Is that –?

MP: Just for fun. Are we recording all this?

RM: Sure.

MP: All this talk?

RM: All this terrible talk. I wanted to ask you about Charles Cahoon, the painter.

MP: Well, I don't know if I can tell you very much about him. Charles D. Cahoon was quite a famous painter. More so, as the days go on. His pictures are in great demand. He had, on Parallel Street, about the first house – no, second house. [inaudible] I don't know. I don't know if I could tell you very much about him.

RM: What kind of paintings did he do? Have you seen –?

MP: Well, these I have here on the wall.

RM: Could you describe some of them?

MP: Well, he did quite a lot of the sea, dune pictures near the ocean. Of course, this picture that I have here was an old man that lived in a house right where the fire station is now. He [inaudible] windmills.

RM: Just little ones?

MP: Yeah, those little windmills.

RM: As toys?

MP: Well, people used to have windmills sitting in the yard on a post.

RM: Just so the wind –

MP: A lot of people did that.

RM: Just to watch them go?

MP: Yeah. [inaudible] used to have a lot of them down there for sale out in the yard [inaudible].

RM: I think they have birds now that flap their wings around.

MP: [inaudible] He took pictures over on the islands, too – Nantucket. He painted pictures from there. The picture that I have here [inaudible] shanty – I guess it's a fish shanty. I think that was taken at [inaudible]. I'm not sure. The little girl that sits in the doorway is my niece.

RM: You mentioned before that his paintings were being returned to Harwich, that the library has some.

MP: Well, Alvin Cahoon, who was a relative, saved – has [inaudible] Harwich [inaudible] but he's lived many years in Florida. He died last winter. Evidently, in his will, he willed all the pictures that he had that Charles D. Cahoon had painted. He willed them to the Brooks Free Library. I understand that they have been sent to the library already. [inaudible]

RM: That's wonderful.

MP: His wife decided to do it [inaudible] alive. I don't know how many there are. Some people have quite a number. People [inaudible].

RM: Has there ever been an exhibition of his work in Harwich?

MP: Well, I don't know. At one time, I remember [inaudible] years ago, he had one son, and his son was an artist, I think, too. I'll tell you who can tell you a lot more about that family would

be Archie Cahoon of Pleasant Lake. He's a relative. He knows about the son, Alvin [inaudible]. He's an artist, but he doesn't live here in Massachusetts now. One time, a few years ago, he came and he brought all the sketches and all of the little drawings that his father had made when he was getting ready to do a picture to the library, and we had quite a large collection of pictures there and exhibition.

RM: He does sort of – it seems impressionist, very delicate colors, and using light.

MP: Well, of course, that one that he did of the church was just the most beautiful [inaudible] fine work.

RM: Yeah, it is very detailed. I guess you'd call it surrealist.

MP: Well, I don't know. [inaudible]

RM: Well, it's not abstract.

MP: It would be, yes. Oh, yes.

RM: But very delicate [inaudible].

MP: I could show you another one in a second [inaudible].

RM: They're beautiful paintings. I was going to ask you – you helped write the book about the Indians on Harwich.

MP: Yes.

RM: Some of the materials that you used were probably from Josiah's papers. Is that right? Or your husband's book?

MP: Well, I presume so.

RM: Can you tell me something about the Indians [inaudible] in Harwich? Because I found very, very little of that [inaudible] research I did. Of course, I haven't completely [inaudible].

MP: Well, I guess, probably that book has got everything there is to find. They, of course, were the first inhabitants of this part of the world. They owned big tracts of land. In fact, all of the land here, all of Cape Cod, really, was Indian land. Then, when the Pilgrims arrived, of course, they were interested in this land, too. I can't help but feel that the Indian community got short-changed. Squanto, who was one of the leading Indians, had been captured some time or other and had lived in Europe. I think he had been in England, too. He knew the English language. Somehow or other, [inaudible] how it was, he came back to this country, and he came to Plymouth. Of course, he became acquainted with the Indians. One winter, in particular, they were very short of food, and, of course, they knew the Indians had plenty of food down here. So they got Squanto to come with [inaudible]; it was [inaudible] came down the shores of Pleasant

Bay, where the Indians lived around the shores, where they could get seafood. Squanto was taken very ill while he was there and died. He's buried right there on that shore.

RM: Is his grave marked?

MP: No, it isn't. But near there, there was [inaudible] the Indians had little settlements where they lived. One of the biggest settlements was down there in Pleasant Bay [inaudible]. They had a praying stone in the woods, which we discovered and marked and had a little bronze marker on the front of it. There was also an Indian cemetery there, which we went through quite a lot to get that piece of land and the Indian praying stone in the town and the town's records and set off that – evidently, that piece of land had never been deeded out [inaudible] Indians. But somehow or other, through the court, it was done, and Harwich owns that piece of land, and they deeded a part of it. It was surveyed, and we had this marker put on this stone. Then the Park Commission came down [inaudible].

RM: So that was done to preserve it, I guess.

MP: Yes. To know what it was. They had their little holes filled in top of it – some were bigger than others – that they may have used another stone to use to around and around and around – enough to fill the hole. When they said their prayers – it was for the prayers [inaudible].

RM: Have you discovered any artifacts? Are there any –?

MP: I haven't, but my husband and his father had quite a big collection, which is now in the historical society.

RM: Could you describe some of the things that –?

MP: Well, there are arrowheads and there's an old ax. They're all stone. There's even a jawbone. Various kinds of tools.

RM: Were there other areas in Harwich where a lot of Indian artifacts were [inaudible] areas of settlement?

MP: Well, of course, that one that I spoke about.

RM: On Pleasant Bay.

MP: On Pleasant Bay. But then, there was a settlement at Pleasant Lake. They had a church at Pleasant Bay, an Indian Church. It's over back of – near Hinckley's Pond. Some of them lived over there. I believe the Indian who was the last full-blooded Indian to die here was –

RM: [inaudible]?

MP: What?

RM: [inaudible]

MP: No. [inaudible]

RM: It was a woman.

MP: It was a woman. [inaudible] was her father. [inaudible] not very good [inaudible].

RM: [inaudible] When was the –? When did she die about? Do you recall?

MP: It would say in there.

RM: It's in the book.

MP: I think. If I had the book right here.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: [inaudible]

RM: Well, we were talking about – you said that she was the last full-blooded Indian to die [inaudible].

MP: Rebecca Crook lived in Pleasant Lake area. She lived just back really to the west of the Main Street then, Route 139 –

RM: Route 24?

MP: 24. Also, her father, I think, was [inaudible] and it's called [inaudible] still at Pleasant Lake [inaudible] part of it's called [inaudible]. I think that was her father, her family. That would be on the right hand side of the road going towards Brewster.

RM: Did she die in the 1800s sometime?

MP: When did she die? I don't think so. [inaudible] Another thing, too – the Indians lived – of course, Orleans was a part of Harwich.

RM: It was?

MP: Yeah. South Orleans was a part of Harwich. This was a [inaudible] settlement over there on Arey's Pond, which is in Orleans now. They had a church there, in that area.

RM: I didn't know [inaudible]. When did it become part of Orleans?

MP: 1700 – way back. I don't know. Then it was divided. Of course, *The History of Harwich* will tell you, but I can't remember.

RM: [inaudible] How did you find out about Rebecca Crook? Was that in your husband's father's papers? [inaudible] source material?

MP: I've always heard about this somehow.

RM: She was just the last –

MP: After Cahoon [inaudible] and he knew practically where the grave is, but there's nothing to show – there's no stone or anything. In the collection of artifacts that we have and I put in the society, there's a brick from that church, [inaudible] brick [inaudible].

RM: It's probably handmade.

MP: They're handmade. The bricks were handmade in [inaudible] handmade bricks [inaudible].

RM: They would just fall apart?

MP: Well, they were made of clay and whatever they could find. Then, there was another area in Bells Neck region, which is West Harwich, way up in the river there, near the river. There was quite a settlement there. [inaudible]

RM: Do you know [inaudible]?

MP: Yes.

RM: Do you know any other names of any of the chiefs [inaudible]?

MP: When?

RM: [inaudible] he was in Pleasant Lake [inaudible].

MP: Yes. [inaudible] was one of the chief Indians.

RM: Where was he? Was he –?

MP: He was here in Harwich.

RM: In Harwich?

MP: Yes.

RM: I think I have them [inaudible] history of Harwich [inaudible] 1816.

MP: I don't know. You'd have to look it up. He was one of the most prominent of the Indians [inaudible] chief.

RM: Did Josiah know him?

MP: I don't think so.

RM: That would have been earlier.

MP: [inaudible]

RM: You knew Josiah?

MP: What?

RM: You knew your husband's father.

MP: Yes, but he died before we were married.

RM: Did he ever speak to you about his family on Cape Cod?

MP: No, but I know about them.

RM: You know about them. Would you mind talking a little bit about the Paines?

MP: Well, the Paines lived just off this – it's called Paine Road now. It's just off Great Western. This picture here is their house. This painting. This old house. That's their house. [inaudible] brothers and sisters – big family, probably eight altogether, and I knew most of them from back then. When they were – they had a big farm – of course, everybody did. Everybody raised their own food. Down Joseph's Pond is a [inaudible] and the story about one of the boys – they had worked all day on the farm and on a hot summer day. So they asked their mother if they could go to the pond to swim, and they did. One of them drowned there. It's quite a long way, you see, to walk back then. I don't know how they – I don't know about that – there's a big pine tree there. It's still there. Great, huge tree. One of the boys, evidently, went up in the tree [inaudible] to find – well, to locate where he was or something [inaudible]. I don't know just exactly. The tree's still there. Of course, the people that know it, the family – they know what the tree meant. Then the house was there – was right there. That house, when Grandmother Paine was, I guess, about ninety years old, all her family had left her. They'd been married, and her husband had died. She decided that she'd come to Harwich Center to live. She had a son that lived on Oak Street, and he was a carpenter. She moved her house down there and built a new one.

RM: She moved her whole house to Oak Street?

MP: Well, not whole. It was taken apart [inaudible] and she moved [inaudible] and built a new house.

RM: On Oak Street.

MP: It's on Oak Street.

RM: Is that house still there?

MP: Yes.

RM: Closer to the high school.

MP: Well, not that end. It's yellow. I don't suppose you know where the railroad track went.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: You know where the track was?

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Well, it's the next house on the left. Yellow [inaudible].

RM: [inaudible]

MP: [inaudible]

RM: [laughter] That must have been a big event [inaudible]. Did you know her?

MP: No, I didn't.

RM: You just knew of her?

MP: She died [inaudible]. But I knew all those aunts [inaudible].

RM: Did they ever tell you stories about Harwich when they were growing [inaudible]?

MP: Well, I don't know [inaudible] I don't think so.

RM: You said that people had to grow all their own food to eat.

MP: Well, everybody had gardens.

RM: Everyone had their own gardens?

MP: I guess probably [inaudible] garden. Plus, they were fishermen. Fishermen [inaudible] at the garden [inaudible]. I think they all raised something.

RM: What about your family? [inaudible]

MP: Oh, yes. [inaudible]

RM: He grew all his own food?

MP: Well, he grew a lot of things [inaudible] potatoes [inaudible] beans and peas and tomatoes and everything [inaudible].

RM: What would your diet be like [inaudible]? Do you remember what kind of food?

MP: When?

RM: In the winter.

MP: When? When I was –?

RM: When you were [inaudible]?

MP: [inaudible] vegetables. Plus, my father raised chickens. [inaudible] Plus, we always had a pig we'd kill in the river [inaudible] roast pork, but not down here.

RM: [inaudible] [laughter]

MP: Well, not to have a pig. The houses are close together [inaudible].

RM: How did your mother –? What were some of her activities at home? What were some of the chores that she had to do when you were growing up?

MP: Well, keep house and cook and wash and iron. All of us had things that we did. My sister Eleanor was sort of the cook, and she was an excellent cook and always was. She could take the same thing – we could take the same thing; it never would be as good. She [inaudible]. She made bread and doughnuts, I remember, mostly. I guess I did cakes and [inaudible] and things like that. My grandmother lived with us. My sister Grace took care of her. We had someone to take care of her, too, but she did things for her, more than the rest of us did. We had to clean the house [inaudible] but we all did everything together.

RM: Divided up the work [inaudible]?

MP: Yes.

RM: So your mother really didn't do [inaudible]?

MP: Well, a big family [inaudible]. You see, we had eight in the family. There were five of us, and then we had a cousin that lived with us for many years. She came to us when she was about sixteen years old. She was with us when she [inaudible] school [inaudible] so there would be five, six, seven, eight [inaudible] big family.

RM: A lot of mouths to feed.

MP: Yeah. [inaudible]

RM: Your father was working as a superintendent.

MP: Yes.

RM: In Harwich.

MP: Yes. [inaudible]

RM: Did he have a central office? Or did he travel from school to school?

MP: He had to go – oh, yes. I guess I told you before he went by train to Eastham and Orleans, and then he had a small horse [inaudible] that he could travel down to Harwich and Chatham. But he could go by train to Chatham, too – Chatham trains.

RM: Was he the superintendent of Orleans schools as well as Harwich schools?

MP: Yes. Orleans, Harwich, Chatham, and Eastham. That was the district then.

RM: That was all one school district.

MP: That was one school district then.

RM: So that's changed.

MP: It's now just Harwich.

RM: Harwich is separate from Eastham.

MP: Eastham and Orleans were together.

RM: Orleans and Chatham school.

MP: Yes.

RM: There were local elementary schools, is that right, in each area?

MP: [inaudible] yes.

RM: Each [inaudible].

MP: Well, the recreation building here at the center [inaudible] school [inaudible] Pleasant Lake School was different. [inaudible]

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Route 28.

RM: [inaudible] You were talking before about the sea captains in South Harwich. You said that as you were doing [inaudible] you discovered that a lot of the men weren't really captains.
[laughter]

MP: Well, not Orleans. Not Harwich, either. But anywhere [inaudible] a great deal of that we all worked together [inaudible] did a great deal of that research on those captains that we had in that book, *Harwich Men of the Sea*, and many of the names that were given to us, like Henry (Walker?) [inaudible] names – each side of the street in South Harwich. Well, we found that they [inaudible] – [Recording paused.]

RM: [inaudible] dressed.

MP: Yes, it's the same. Instead of [inaudible] captain.

RM: So that's probably led to a lot of confusion now if you're looking for sea captains.

MP: Well, that's what we found when we were hunting captains.

RM: [laughter] Hunting captains.

MP: We took all our material from the *Harwich Independence*, a great deal of it, most [inaudible] and cemeteries. That's what we found, that some of those that people told us were captain-so-and-so – Captain Nickerson, for instance – he wasn't really. We couldn't find anything about it. So, of course, he's not in the book. I know that [inaudible] going to like this book [inaudible] going to buy it. She kept saying that – says, "It won't sell." I said, "Oh, yes, it will." She changed her mind. But it did sell.

RM: That's good.

RM: Did you hear any stories about any of these sea captains which you thought were interesting that you remember? As you were doing research, did you come across anything interesting as you were doing research [inaudible]?

MP: Well, we have stories in the book [inaudible]. We had, on [inaudible] Street, we had a sea [inaudible] Captain Nickerson and his wife. They're almost across the street from us. Always called him "Captain Jim." I don't know what kind of a captain he was, whether he really was one or not, but he was called "Captain Jim," and his house was up [inaudible] the depot on the edge of Great Western Road. This was before my day. My husband told me this. I didn't tell you this before?

RM: No.

MP: They moved their house. It was evidently moved [inaudible], and they lived in it while it was being moved. My husband used to – he used to tell this story once in a while. Aunt (Polly?) and Uncle (Jim?) lived in that house, and they had a hanging lamp, and the thing was swinging back and forth all the way moving down the road. When it came down Main Street, and then they brought it through the field across [inaudible] –

RM: They were in the house the whole time?

MP: They lived in the house all the time it was being moved.

RM: That's funny. People moved their houses a lot.

MP: Oh, yes.

RM: Why?

MP: I don't know. But the house across the street from where we lived on [inaudible] Street was moved from up that way. [inaudible]

RM: How was it done? Do you know? How did they move the houses?

MP: I presume they were done on some kind of a drag or something that they put the house on – wheels under it somewhere. I don't know. And horses.

RM: And horses. Must have taken days to move a house.

MP: Well, I don't know how long it took.

RM: [laughter]

MP: It might not take so long. Take a while to get the [inaudible] –

RM: Get the house on the –

MP: – on the thing, [inaudible].

RM: That fascinated me. I was doing research on Yarmouth, and it seemed that every house in town was moved or put together with another house or sawed in half, and one person took their part of the house and moved in that direction, and someone else [inaudible].

MP: [inaudible]

RM: People don't do that anymore. They just sell their house; they don't take [inaudible]. You lived in the house on Parallel Street [inaudible].

MP: Yes.

RM: What was the neighborhood like? Were there any old timers who lived on Parallel Street?

MP: Well, like I just said, Captain (Jim?) and Aunt (Polly?). They were [inaudible]. Across the street was Mr. and Mrs. [inaudible]. They were ancient [inaudible] another house was [inaudible] there's no house across the street from us. It's a swamp. It's a cranberry swamp, and not much of a cranberry swamp now. But growing up, [inaudible].

RM: Do you know who had the house on Parallel Street and [inaudible] Street?

MP: [inaudible]

RM: There are a few neighborhoods [inaudible] old places.

MP: On which?

RM: On South Street there's one.

MP: Oh, yes.

RM: Everyone knew each other, I suppose.

MP: Did they what?

RM: Did everybody know each other then?

MP: Oh, yes. [inaudible] The next house to us, now is owned by different people [inaudible] very long [inaudible]. Well, [inaudible] after I was married, but the (Emory?) Family lived there, and they had five, six children, and they were young. Then they moved somewhere. I don't know where – South Harwich or Dennisport maybe. I suppose the house was sold. But they were young children growing up [inaudible].

RM: What was medicine like when you were growing up? Who treated you when you got sick?

MP: Oh, the doctor. Dr. Handy. Harrie D. Handy was our doctor. He lived in Harwich. He lived off [inaudible] Street first, and then he lived in the house that was [inaudible] Main Street.

RM: Main Street.

MP: He was our family doctor [inaudible] he and Mrs. Handy and my father were great friends, and they always had to play bridge every once in a while. [inaudible]

RM: Do you remember any treatments he used to use for if you had a cold or [inaudible]? Did he make up his own remedies?

MP: Oh, I don't know about that. I don't think so. Well, you didn't have a doctor for a cold.

RM: [laughter] Well, what would you do?

MP: Well, you probably had some cough medicine or something. Honey was always a good [inaudible].

RM: Did your mother ever give you anything? Did she ever tell you, "Eat this; this is good for you?" [inaudible]

MP: I had diphtheria, though.

RM: Do you remember that?

MP: Yes. I was terribly sick, and of course, our house had to be quarantined. My father [inaudible] used to come to the door every day to talk to my mother, but couldn't come in. But no one else got it from me. Of course, he gave me medicine. I don't know. I have no idea what the medicines were. But we had inoculations.

RM: You did?

MP: Yes. I think so. That was when I was in Normal School. Of course, my sister couldn't go to school either. She was in Normal School, too. We were there together [inaudible] she had to stay home.

RM: Let's jump [inaudible]. Do you remember Prohibition on Cape Cod?

MP: You mean, when –?

RM: When they banned liquor?

MP: When they banned it?

RM: Yeah.

MP: Well, not so much in Cape Cod. I remember – I taught school in Revere. I had to walk a little ways from where I [inaudible], and all of those little shops all along [inaudible] were closed [inaudible]. I remember that. All of them were closed up [inaudible], nobody in them. But now, I don't know –

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Well, you'd see in a town that there wouldn't be very many. Not what you call liquor stores, like they have now.

RM: Do you know –? Were there any places where you could go [inaudible] to buy liquor?

MP: I guess you could buy liquor at the drugstore if you wanted to. I don't know.

RM: What about the Depression? Do you remember the Depression?

MP: Yes.

RM: Were you in Harwich?

MP: Yes.

RM: What was the town like? What did people do [inaudible]?

MP: Well, that wasn't so many years ago, really.

RM: No [inaudible].

MP: Well, I was married when the Depression came [inaudible]. Well, I think [inaudible] I don't know how different it was. Of course, it improved since way back. Had some [inaudible] paved roads, I guess. The train still ran.

RM: Were there a lot of people out of work in Harwich?

MP: I don't know.

RM: Your husband was working.

MP: Oh, yes. I don't believe it would hit a town like this. It would hurt people in factories, don't you think?

RM: Do you mean because people here are more independent [inaudible]?

MP: I guess so. They were probably growers.

RM: They just do that anyway.

MP: I don't know – and farmers. A lot of farming and fishing. [inaudible] I suppose, but I don't know. Not like it would in a –

RM: In a [inaudible].

MP: Well, I know one thing that I did. I guess I didn't tell anybody [inaudible] it was in the Depression. I'd been saving up my money to buy a piano, and I went to Boston to buy a piano in the Depression.

RM: [laughter] They were probably a lot cheaper then. [laughter]

MP: I paid four hundred dollars for it.

RM: Do you still have it?

MP: No, I sold it when I moved here. I sold it for three hundred.

RM: I've heard stories about the Depression, about [inaudible] a lot of people [inaudible] especially [inaudible] –

MP: Oh, I think so. I think so. But I don't know.

RM: [inaudible]

MP: Well, it probably was, but I don't know. Probably [inaudible] have as much money to spend. I don't know.

RM: Was Harwich Center more of a commercial center than it is now? Right now, there's a hardware store and a drug store.

MP: I don't know what – no more than that. They had the grocery store [inaudible].

RM: Were there any factories in Harwich?

MP: No, not – well, years ago.

RM: Yeah, years ago.

MP: Years ago, there was a soap factory back of church, in the building back of First Congregational Church.

RM: Really? A soap factory.

MP: A soap factory. I never saw that. It was before my day. There was the printing office, you see. They printed the *Harwich Independent* – was on Main Street, right in that vacant lot there [inaudible] was in there. Across the street from there, was a little store that was John Condon's cobbler shop, a cute, little place [inaudible].

RM: When did the newspaper stop printing?

MP: [inaudible] Historical Society [inaudible]. I should think around – it could have been in the '50s, I guess. Maybe '60. I don't think [inaudible].

RM: Was it important for the town to have a newspaper?

MP: Oh, yes.

RM: Did everyone read?

MP: I guess so. Of course, my husband kept all the *Harwich Independents*. He had them bound.

RM: Are those copies in the historical society now?

MP: Yes, and he gave them – in his will, he gave those. All the [inaudible] that he had bound – well, many of them – and some hadn't been bound yet. The society has just [inaudible] –

RM: [inaudible] They're on microfilm, aren't they? [inaudible] library?

MP: [inaudible] He didn't give those. He gave to historical – I think Sue [inaudible] somebody else gave them.

RM: Speaking of the library, I know they have a collection of Rogers Statuary. Was he from Harwich?

MP: Yes.

RM: Did he live in Harwich?

MP: He lived in South Harwich, I think.

RM: About when? 19th Century?

MP: Well, [inaudible] questions about dates. There's a book up there [inaudible]. Well, I presume late 1800, early nineteen –

RM: Around the turn of the century.

MP: Something like that, I guess.

RM: One question I didn't ask you was [inaudible] – you look really fit and well. To what do you attribute your longevity?

MP: I don't know.

RM: Do you do anything special to keep yourself well?

MP: No, I don't know if I do.

RM: [laughter]

MP: I worked with my husband for about twelve years at the Registry of Deeds. Of course, after he [inaudible] give up, used to go to Florida in the winter. Of course, he was taken sick down there [inaudible] taken sick down there. Of course, he was very, very sick. He was sick for five years. Of course, I had to [inaudible]. I used to sew and hook rugs and things like that to take care of him because I couldn't go out. I couldn't leave him. I don't know why I'm as old as I am. My sister was eighty-two. She died here. She was here [inaudible] visiting me. She was taken [inaudible] and died. [inaudible] first of February [inaudible]. That's what put me in the hospital [inaudible] did something to me. So I had [inaudible]. Other than that, I haven't had any [inaudible]. Nothing the matter with me, really.

RM: That's wonderful. [laughter]

MP: So, I don't know.

RM: No secret. [laughter] Thank you very much. I'd like to – let me just [inaudible].

-----END OF INTERVIEW-----
Reviewed by Molly Graham 8/9/2022