

**BAYSHORE CENTER AT BIVALVE**

**DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM**

**ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION**

**INTERVIEW DATE:** July 18, 2013

**TIME:**

**SUBJECT:** RAIL BIRD HUNTING

**NARRATOR(S):** Richard Camp

**LOCATION:** Camp Farm Market, Port Elizabeth, NJ

**INTERVIEWER:** Rachel Dolhanczyk

**TRANSCRIPTION**

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**Richard Camp tells his story of his family’s business of Rail Bird Hunting. He describes the habitat necessary for the Rail Birds to feed and what types of boats and guns are necessary and allowed by law. He shared family stories of how the business was run and what family members were involved. Today, because of the loss of habitat caused by the takeover of the wild rice marches by the phragmites, there are no longer any families in the Rail Bird hunting business in the Maurice River area.**

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([00:04](#)):

Today is Friday, July 18, 2013. I'm Rachel Dolhanczyk the Museum Curator at Bayshore Center, and I'm talking here with Richard Camp. And, we're sitting at the farm market in, Port Elizabeth. And, we're just gonna chat a few minutes about, rail bird hunting. So, Mr. Camp, could you tell me just a little bit about yourself? Just some background information. <laugh> born and raised...

Richard Camp ([00:34](#)):

I think I'm 57 years old. I was born in 1956. I started pushing rail bird boats when I was roughly 14, 15 years old, so you can do the math on that.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([00:48](#)):

And is that something you learned from your

Richard Camp ([00:51](#)):

Father yeah

Richard Camp ([00:53](#)):

He learned from his father, and my father' is Kenneth. His father was Heis. I guess it had all started with Heis,. From the Maurice River, all the places that they started rail bird hunting in the early 19 hundreds used to be farmed. It was all farmland. And when the went out and the tide came in the rice, disappeared the wild rice, and that's what brought the rail birds. And that's what brought the hunting.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([01:22](#)):

Oh,I see. Okay.

Richard Camp ([01:27](#)):

Okay. And now, it's now in year 2013. It's a dying art.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([01:31](#)):

Yeah, absolutely.

Richard Camp ([01:32](#)):

Grandpop used to hunt below the crossway.

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

Mauricetown.

Richard Camp ([01:38](#)):

Below it. Now the only rice left is pretty much above Menantico Creek. So that's how far

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([01:45](#)):

And why is that?

Richard Camp ([01:46](#)):

There is saltwater intrusion.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([01:48](#)):

Yeah, sure.

Richard Camp ([01:48](#)):

Mostly I would say. In the late seventies, there was a problem with Canada geese, they wiped it out. But then the state and feds came in and solved that problem a little bit for long term, but they're still working on it.

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

Was that the same too with muskrats?

Richard Camp ([02:06](#)):

Muskrat.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([02:06](#)):

Muskrat. Was there a problem?

Richard Camp ([02:07](#)):

With Nah, not with the wild rice.

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

Someone

Richard Camp ([02:10](#)):

The Canada geese, when they have their young, they, the rice is just growing in the spring and they get in there and they, a Canada goose can eat, I don't know how many, it's quite a few pounds of green vegetation a day. And they, they pull it out by the roots and it's stub. I mean, up, up there, we call it Hamptons (referring to a farm). And it's, uh, across the river from. Straudmuller's (sp?) Farm in that area. There was nothing but mud there for like, three years where the geese decimated it.. I mean, it was, that was two, two years. We didn't hunt at all because there wasn't any rice. Mm-hmm. But then, uh, say the state and feds come in, took care of the geese problem, rice came back somewhat and we're still picking away at it. But say there's not a lot of habitat left to be able to hunt.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([03:00](#)):

And what, what's the season when you

Richard Camp ([03:02](#)):

September 1st? the season goes to November 9th, but it's usually done the second week in October. If you get a frost whenever your frost is in October, it's over with they leave.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([03:15](#)):

And is there a, when you go out, do you go out for the whole day or is it part of the day?

Richard Camp ([03:21](#)):

On top of the tide. Tide, whatever the high tide is for the day. Okay. An hour before high tide and, you know, maybe two hours, the hunt's. Two hours about.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([03:30](#)):

And why is that? That high tide?

Richard Camp ([03:32](#)):

Because you don't get around out there without water.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (03:34):

That's true. Cause you're in a, you're pushing yourself up. Yeah.

Richard Camp (03:37):

But I guess you saw pictures of the boats and what they're all about. The more water, the better.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (03:42):

Yeah, what, uh, what's the equipment you need? Obviously you need the, the boat, the skiff.

Richard Camp (03:47):

Yeah. Just the boat. The pole that propels it. The person on the back, the hunter, a 20 gauge, 28 gauge gun. It's all non-toxic shot now. Which is, there's little controversy about that, but, you know, we all know what lead does to our brain, I guess.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (04:07):

Yeah. I guess, yeah. <laugh>. But, uh,

Richard Camp (04:09):

But there's a lot of, lot of lost birds with the steel shot. Cause it, you know, it cripples them with more than the lead did, but whatever's better force in the long run, I guess. Right.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (04:21):

I guess. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So, what's considered a, uh, a, a good day or a successful like Yeah,

Richard Camp (04:30):

The limit is 25 birds per person. That's pretty liberal. That's what it's been for years. We've tried to talk to the state and get 'em to drop the limit to 15 because of the loss of habitat. You know, allow for more, more activity with a smaller limit verb once the were up or done for the years. So, but they don't seem to wanna talk to us or stay there. Don't even really know what it's all about. I don't think anybody, you know. I used, I worked for Fishing and Wildlife and, uh, and while I was working for 'em, I had to watch what I said, but now I'm retired. So. <laugh>.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (05:13):

<laugh>.

Richard Camp (05:16):

Yeah. So,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (05:16):

So is there any way to like a group, like, like the shellfish works in the lobby?

Richard Camp (05:21):

I, I go to the federation meetings, you know, and they say you just gotta get somebody, you know, you gotta get like the federation to draw you up a letter and, and you know, put it through to em It's just, I

don't know. It is, my mind is if they don't, I talk to 'em and they know what it's all about and what I want. And if they can't do nothing for me, it'll be what it'll be, you know, whatever.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (05:45):

So the, uh, so the limit, the catch. That's for the season then? The day for the day. The day. Oh, for the day. Yeah. Oh, right.

Richard Camp (05:51):

Oh yeah. Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (05:52):

So if you go out multiple, times you're not gonna get that many.

Richard Camp (05:56):

Nah, well, I keep pretty good. I keep, we keep records of everything that's shot.. And I think last year at averaged average about, I don't know, it was 10, 11 birds a person per hunt. That's the average. I mean, some days they got less and some days they got a limit. So about, yeah, the average was somewhere around 11 first per person. Man days. And, you know, we keep Man days (sp) and you all that, you know, we, we got records for ever since we've been doing it, you know, with shot.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (06:27):

And, uh, how many guys go out?

Richard Camp (06:30):

Four, five at the most? We four. Usually four. It's best to have at least two or three that line up. So you can like line up and push and, and work the birds a little better. If it's just one boat, they run around you, you know, a lot. It's better. We usually hunt with four on occasional take five, if you know not, not too often anymore.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (06:54):

Do you need multiple boats then? Or is that one

Richard Camp (06:56):

It's better. It's better to have at least three or four. Cause we line up and you look, drive, push across and drive the water to open water.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (07:04):

Right, right, right.

Richard Camp (07:06):

So years ago when we were doing, um, some kind of a television thing, uh, John Bradford, he was in his big old bateau boat. He was two, two ditches ahead of us with the camera guy. And birds were going out of the meadow that far in front of us. You know what mm-hmm. It's, I don't know whether it is bred into him over all the hundreds of years of hunting or what, but they seem to be pretty smart about how we

hunt 'em. You know, they, I mean, obviously a lot of 'em die, but Yeah. But they seem to know what it's all about, how to escape and you know, they know, they know if they fly back they don't get shot at, you know, cause Oh yeah. Cause we don't allow the gunners to turn around the shoot behind them. Yeah, sure.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([07:49](#)):

So, so what's the,

Richard Camp ([07:50](#)):

And I don't know where that's just over years and years of hunting that they've picked that up or I don't, I don't know what the, I don't know the life span of a rail bird, like a dove a morning dove, three years old is almost unheard of. A year and a half, two years old is all they live. but a rail bird, I'm not sure. There's not a lot of, not a lot of studying been done on them. One. They did, uh, where was that Patuxent River.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([08:15](#)):

That's in Maryland, right?

Richard Camp ([08:17](#)):

That is in Maryland?

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

Yes,

Richard Camp ([08:17](#)):

They did, they banded, they put radio transmitters on birds there and they got up and left there one night and the next morning they were in North Carolina. So they, they can move when they want to.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([08:29](#)):

Wow, I didn't realize that. Wow.

Richard Camp ([08:31](#)):

And they do all their, just another thing for your information. They do all their migrating at night.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([08:36](#)):

Oh, okay.

Richard Camp ([08:37](#)):

They don't, they've never, never been seen, you know, moved during the day. A full moon or when the wind's right, I guess. We had a year that we had a storm, a lot of, a lot of the wrong wind when they were, should have been migrating down. And there wasn't hardly any birds that year. We just figured the wind blew 'em off course, you know, they didn't get here.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([08:59](#)):

So when you go out there during the day, then they're resting or

Richard Camp ([09:06](#)):

Yeah, they, they're asleep. Well, they get hiding. They come in here to feed on the rice.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([09:10](#)):

So they' are...

Richard Camp ([09:10](#)):

They, they made their, they made their migration from north and they stop in here to get flattened up on a rice. Then when they get fattened up, they move on. I see. It's like the rice is like the horseshoe crab eggs to the Piping Plover.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([09:22](#)):

Gotcha. <laugh> <laugh>,

Richard Camp ([09:24](#)):

You know about that. Right?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([09:25](#)):

Yeah. It's, really interesting. Uh, yeah, well, like any of the other birds and the flyaway and all. Yeah. Right. But, um, so then when you guys go out there, um, the birds then are, they're there, they're eating.

Richard Camp ([09:40](#)):

Hopefully they're there. Well,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([09:41](#)):

Like what, what do you do

Richard Camp ([09:42](#)):

To, there's plenty of vegetation that they're hiding there. You

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([09:44](#)):

Have to, yeah. What do you do to flush them out? Or how, what's the put

Richard Camp ([09:46](#)):

Like line up with the boats and push through there and they, you know, we don't get, if you get too far apart, they'll go back between morning, you know, just to stay lined up, you know?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([09:54](#)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. So as you go through, they Yeah,

Richard Camp ([09:57](#)):

They, yeah, they'll, they rise and they usually, usually from here to the port-a-potty, you know, no farther than that, you know, they'll get up in front of you. Most of the shooting's pretty close. That's why small gauge gun with fine shot.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([10:09](#)):

Are they hard to shoot or with experience?

Richard Camp ([10:12](#)):

Not really. They're not that fast of flying bird. It's more of the, more of the art of standing in a, in a little boat and moving, you know, that's, you know, that you gotta be able to do that.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([10:21](#)):

Right. Yeah. That's

Richard Camp ([10:22](#)):

As far as if anybody's a halfway decent shot, it should be able to do the job.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([10:27](#)):

So do you have, uh,

Richard Camp ([10:29](#)):

The clients we have a lot of 'em been doing this for some, not a lot of 'em. We've picked up a few new ones. Some of the old guys have died off, but we're 40, 40, 50 years. I know guys have been coming down.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([10:43](#)):

Wow. Where they come from?

Richard Camp ([10:46](#)):

Connecticut, New Jersey, a lot of them. Pennsylvania.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([10:51](#)):

And they'll go out a few times or whatever.

Richard Camp ([10:57](#)):

Once, you know, a couple guys. We give them a couple days, but you know where the hunting's limited, we try to break it up with everybody.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([11:06](#)):

<affirmative>. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Richard Camp ([11:09](#)):



I don't, wanna mention his name, but one of, one of our clients, uh, he's a self-made millionaire. He lives in Redbank, has a, owns Eastern Seals. Wow. He, uh, they consulted him when the space shuttle blew up, you know, with the "o" ring shrinking deal.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([11:24](#)):

Yeah. With the Challenger.

Richard Camp ([11:24](#)):

Challenger. Yeah. He, uh, they consulted him about the problem. He, uh, he always told the story when he went, when he graduated high school and went to go to college, they wouldn't accept him. They told him he wasn't smart enough. .

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([11:36](#)):

<laugh>.

Richard Camp ([11:38](#)):

And look where he is at today. Right.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([11:40](#)):

<laugh>. It's always like that, isn't it?

Richard Camp ([11:41](#)):

He always goes back to that college and ribs them a little bit.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([11:44](#)):

The, uh, the people that are really, uh, really make something and do something tend to be the ones that dropped out of high school or, you know, didn't go to college. And

Richard Camp ([11:52](#)):

Well, they hate, not too, they're too smart. Not that he wouldn't go, they wouldn't accept me. They told him

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

Much. Smart <laugh>. Can you imagine <laugh>

Richard Camp ([11:59](#)):

Say he, he said he gave his back, uh, ribs on about it every once in a while still.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([12:03](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Cuz they probably, uh, ask for money <laugh>, you know. Uh, so can I ask, what, what do you, uh, what's the, the cost to go out with you then?

Richard Camp ([12:14](#)):

\$125.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([12:16](#)):

Okay. Huh. All right.

Richard Camp ([12:18](#)):

Plus, plus tip.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([12:20](#)):

Okay. That's

Richard Camp ([12:21](#)):

The tip's. Important.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([12:22](#)):

Yeah. I bet

Richard Camp ([12:23](#)):

We've, uh, we had one group of guys who don't come anymore cause they just, they, they hit me the wrong way. Gotcha. They used to call 'em two days in a row and, uh, they, they got, so they would only tip for one. They would, they would pay at the end of the two days for both days and only give you one day's tip plus there was a little issue. It was, you know, they, they just weren't treating us right. So they don't come anymore.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([12:50](#)):

So at the tip, do you want what, like 20%? Like a, like a waitress or hairdresser?

Richard Camp ([12:56](#)):

Yeah. Something there. Most, whatever, most of these people are all celebrities, so. Okay. You know, it's, it's 15% not 10. Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([13:02](#)):

<laugh>. Yeah.

Richard Camp ([13:03](#)):

They're not, not celebrities, but most of 'em are pretty well off. Okay. There's, there's a handful of your average people that will, you know, like to hunt and Yeah. You know, we take care of 'em.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([13:14](#)):

So how did, uh, like the clients, how did they get into it? Is, I was just curious. You know, it's not something that,

Richard Camp ([13:20](#)):

One thing that, well, they could say most of the,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([13:21](#)):

They've been doing it forever time.

Richard Camp ([13:22](#)):

Yeah. Um, it was 21. About 20, 20, 20 to 23 days a year we hunt mm-hmm. And I think most of the people that I'm are the people that started going with my father that, you know, I've, I've took over in the last three or four years and in charge of doing all the booking and everything. But most of the people were still ones that started coming years ago with father. Yeah. Okay. You know, I mean,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([13:50](#)):

Yeah. Okay, you know, I mean was just wondering if there's like a, new, a next generation kind of picking up and getting interested?

Richard Camp ([13:54](#)):

Well, it's kinda like, I dunno, the one, this one, Moran, Morani Moran, he kind of took over. He came, it's kind of like one person makes the date.

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

Ah.

Richard Camp ([14:08](#)):

And that's who we deal with to limit all the phone calls and yada y Yeah. And, and that person will bring three other people. So sometimes, you know, a, a third party that, that, you know, somebody leaves and maybe somebody else gets in, you know, it's kind, there's the phone rings off the hook and I just don't even answer it.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([14:27](#)):

Wow. really. So

Richard Camp ([14:29](#)):

Yeah. Cause we don't, there's not say 21 days to hunt. Yeah. It's just not a problem to find somebody to go

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([14:36](#)):

Uhhuh <affirmative>. So how many days are those 21? Are you're booked been? Pretty

Richard Camp ([14:40](#)):

Much. Yeah. Pretty much. That's, yeah. That's what, that's how many days we get to hunt. There's Okay. Early morning. Early morning tides, you know, you don't get to go and Sundays, there's no hunting on Sundays and like late in the evening, it's usually every, every couple weeks of early morning tide and a late night tide that you can't hunt. Yeah. And Sundays and, you know, you gotta take all that into

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([15:03](#)):

Consideration. Yeah, sure.

Richard Camp ([15:04](#)):

So it's say it's limited. Yeah. But with the amount of habitat left today, I guess that's a good thing. .

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([15:13](#)):

That's, that's neat.

Richard Camp ([15:13](#)):

Where we're hunting today, we never even went there till the end of season when, it was good. You know, we always hunted from here down. There's nothing there to hunt anymore. So we do what we can.

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

Yeah. Do

Richard Camp ([15:29](#)):

You, I got, I got a little four and a half year old boy. I don't know whether there's gonna be anything for him to do or, or not.

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

We'll see <laugh>,

Richard Camp ([15:35](#)):

We'll see.

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

Do you take him out or?

Richard Camp ([15:37](#)):

I haven't had him out in, in the, into the mud. I've had him in the big boat and up and you like early in the season, you pull up to the edge of the rice and you hit the pole on the boat side of the boat. The birds make a peeping sound. near there, you know, we go out and check it out, see if they've got here yet. And I've had him out and Oh, that's good. He's heard 'em and seen them. Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([15:58](#)):

You leave from here in Port Elizabeth? We go out or

Richard Camp ([16:01](#)):

Yeah, that's here on the farm where I just put my boat in anywhere here on the river.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([16:05](#)):

Oh, that's true. Yeah. That's great. I mean, you don't have to like drive somewhere to put the boat in or anything. That's cool. No. Yeah. Yeah. So, uh, what do you We

Richard Camp ([16:13](#)):

We're paying very high taxes for riverfront property.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([16:17](#)):

<laugh>. Yeah, that's true. Right? I.

Richard Camp ([16:23](#)):

My father's House doubled the last assessment from 3000 to seven. More than doubled. 35, 30 he was paying. Is this house here or No, that's my sister's living here. Oh, grandfather built that.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([16:34](#)):

Oh, nice. Yeah, I live in uh, Dennisville and a few years back we had a reassessment. Yeah. Taxes more than double crazy. And it's like, well you didn't need the money before. Why do you need it now? <laugh>? So yeah, it was like, oh, I mean it's still less than person.

Richard Camp ([16:50](#)):

I can't think of their names there though. They live in Dennisville. They were both school teachers right on 47 Below Courthouse Road where they live before, before Courthouse Road near there somewhere. They've been, they used to hunt with us years ago. Okay. I can't think of Sefert. Was the guy that brought him, I think, I think he passed away, wasn't he? He didn't know him. He lived right there on 47.

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

Uh, she's still around his wife. Um, I'm trying...

Richard Camp ([17:21](#)):

He had a liver transplant.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([17:23](#)):

You know, I don't know cuz she, um, and

Richard Camp ([17:25](#)):

I, but I don't know whether he passed or not. He wasn't real well off.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([17:28](#)):

You know, she came by a few weeks ago at work to do a demonstration. His wife and he, you know, she was by herself. So I don't know. And I didn't think, yeah, I don't know

Richard Camp ([17:38](#)):

What I heard

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([17:40](#)):

Because a few years back I worked at the...

Richard Camp ([17:42](#)):

I can't think of the other couple's name.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([17:44](#)):

I worked at. They were

Richard Camp ([17:44](#)):

All school teachers. I think they were school teachers too, weren't they? They retired. They're all retired. That's what they did. These other, this other couple, they live a little bit north of where the Seifers (sp?) lived back in the woods. Oh.

Richard Camp ([17:56](#)):

Can't think of their name. But they, a few years ago they used to come up and hunt with us for a day or so.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([18:03](#)):

Yeah, a few years back I worked at the Cape May County Museum. They came and they looked at all the decoys and the collection and identified the makers.

Richard Camp ([18:12](#)):

Jamie Hand. He's the Yeah, sure. He's the big, he's the big decoy man. Yeah,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([18:15](#)):

He is. Yeah. Known Jamie a long time. <laugh>. So

Richard Camp ([18:19](#)):

He's his own worst enemy, isn't he? <laugh>.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([18:24](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. So let's see, what else do I have for you here? Um,

Richard Camp ([18:29](#)):

Any more questions...

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([18:29](#)):

Yeah, let's see, there before we started talking about people <laugh>. I did have another question that I'm seeing what we got here. You started to say before we sat down, are some of the old timers who were the, pushers or who,....

Richard Camp ([18:50](#)):

Who

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([18:50](#)):

Who were the guides? What were some of the names of some of the guys.

Richard Camp ([18:53](#)):

Oh, my dad's brothers. He had uncle Lou, uncle Water, uncle "Spuzzy", uncle Claude, Claude 's son Milton, and then, when you get to my generation, it's Carl, me (Richard) Gary, and Paul. Then, uh, there's um, just more or less some friends, the Reeves, Earl Reeves and his son Mason., they've, uh, like been in the picture for quite a while. Good friends.

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

Hmm.

Richard Camp ([19:35](#)):

Off the top of my head. That's, about all I can come up with.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([19:37](#)):

Well that's a good, that's a good amount of people.

Richard Camp ([19:39](#)):

Yeah. I mean that is all of dad's brothers. I mentioned, they probably haven't pushed for 15 years. Yeah. They're all, they've all passed. Sure.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([19:48](#)):

And

Richard Camp ([19:48](#)):

Your grandfather. Oh

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([19:50](#)):

Yeah. You mentioned grandfather,

Richard Camp ([19:52](#)):

But I don't even, I don't remember him even doing it. I, I vaguely remember him when I was, probably maybe four or something like that when grandpop passed.

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

No, uh, we're working on an exhibit, uh, at Bayshore Discovery about recreation.

Richard Camp ([20:09](#)):

They did something quite a few years ago. Megan was over here.

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

Pictures and stuff. Got, we still have that. And uh, but just getting more information. Plus we have a, an archive where we, you know, keep information and, um, so just collecting the local history.

Richard Camp ([20:27](#)):

You hope everything you're told is the truth,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (20:29):

Right? Yeah. Well it's, it's funny because sometimes I listen back to some of the (unknown person speaking in background -- can't hear what they are saying) we should have it, you mean, or

Richard Camp (20:42):

There's a picture that, I dunno. if Carl's got it. I dunno who's got it. It was here Off the Water? I think, I think it's off of water. It's grandpa with a man and a woman that he took out. Okay. Uhs. I dunno what it would've been. Do

Rachel Dolhanczyk (20:57):

You think we got that picture years ago or

Richard Camp (20:59):

It's, I don't know.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (21:00):

I will have to look, cause I know Megan said some years back that Yeah, she got pictures and stuff. I

Richard Camp (21:06):

I don't know where she would've got that one or not. It's Sue has it?. I know, I know Carl got a copy of it. Cause it's his dad in the picture.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (21:14):

And who's in the picture?

Richard Camp (21:16):

Walter Camp and my grandpa Hise (sp?) And I don't know who the two people were. My dad would know their names, but I don't too long ago from me. Yeah. So it was a man and a woman came down to hunt, went with grandpa in pump water.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (21:31):

Oh, there's a question. Does it tend to be men or is there women too who?

Richard Camp (21:35):

Not a lot of women. Occasionally. Occasionally be somebody. Uh, there's a lawyer from, uh, long Beach Island that comes and his son and his son has, he, he's been bringing his daughter for the last three years. she, I guess she's gonna be a hunter. And so she's ....

Rachel Dolhanczyk (21:52):

Oh, great. And

Richard Camp (21:54):

Not too many women. There was a woman, uh, I don't, can't, names aren't coming to me right now, but she had something to do with the Philadelphia Zoo. That's where she worked. She was a, a wheel up



there, you know, and then back in the day. Yeah. Wow. And, uh, and she always came in hunting with a man or that's, I can't think of her name.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([22:16](#)):

So as much, um, you talked about with the habitat changing, but anything else much change over the years? Like even like from the days of your dad working out there or that you know of

Richard Camp ([22:28](#)):

Just, just, just,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([22:29](#)):

I mean, the boats are still the same.

Richard Camp ([22:30](#)):

Yeah, everything's still the same. It's just the loss of habitat., It made for a lot less hunting. I don't know,, when I started pushing at the age of 14 years old, there were, like, today, today there's one other group of guys that take people out. Uh, I dunno what their name is, maybe John Shelton or the one guy and I, I don't 'em all, but they, they' they do it commercially and they'll take three or two or four guys too, like us. So that's only if we're all out there the same day, there's maybe eight boats or so. Yeah. But when I started there was probably, we would take two different parties out of here. Just, you know, that eight or 10 people plus the (not audible) were going. I mean, you know, but, and their talk, like back in the, you know, when they were really into it, it was maybe, probably 20, 30 boats on the tide. Wow. Yeah. But that's when it was a lot more area hunt.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([23:31](#)):

So that would be like the hayday

Richard Camp ([23:32](#)):

Thirties probably. Yeah. Forties. Okay. Maybe the fifties. I, I don't know. They'd say a lot of,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([23:38](#)):

So before

Richard Camp ([23:39](#)):

Father could tell you a lot more than I'm am.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([23:41](#)):

<affirmative>, <laugh> <laugh>

Richard Camp ([23:43](#)):

About, you know, years ago. Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([23:45](#)):

Yeah. Huh. Yeah. I was just interested how it, how things changed or, you know, didn't change. And

Richard Camp ([23:51](#)):

So that's stuff that's just pretty much everything's a saved except for the loss of habitat.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([23:56](#)):

That's kinda neat. Yeah. It's things. Yeah. They say things change.

Richard Camp ([24:00](#)):

Fragmites is the ruination of the world, I think.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([24:03](#)):

Ah, yeah.

Richard Camp ([24:07](#)):

That's, that's what takes over eventually.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([24:11](#)):

Yeah. How is anything going on with bad as trying to No,

Richard Camp ([24:16](#)):

They did a little, a little uh,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([24:18](#)):

Testing around trying to pay. Yeah.

Richard Camp ([24:20](#)):

But did they, what little bit they did here on the river? Didn't mount anything. I haven't been over, when I worked with Fish and Wildlife, I got over that way and was a little bit more involved with the big PSE&G project there around the nuclear plant. And they, they knocked it back pretty good. But that's been probably 10 years ago and I see if it came back or not.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([24:44](#)):

Right. I dunno. I tried to keep up with it for some,

Richard Camp ([24:48](#)):

So

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([24:49](#)):

Neat.

Richard Camp ([24:50](#)):

These are Ken that looks like, I guess that's your guy. (looking at photos)

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([25:07](#)):

There's one of them that we

Richard Camp (25:08):

Were talking about.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:11):

I've seen there's guys in the distant, in the grasses too. So it's, uh, it's Skip and two guys with

Richard Camp (25:20):

That's Grandpa there.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:21):

Wow.

Richard Camp (25:22):

And the guy, uh, hunting.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:24):

So two guys. It

Richard Camp (25:25):

Must be more, it must be more than one plus picture. Huh? That's the woman.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:30):

Oh, okay. So a woman standing in

Richard Camp (25:33):

Dorothy or Dolly? Dolly Reeves (sp?). Hampton Meadow. That's the name. Hampton. It used Hampton used to be a Hampton farm on the river.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:43):

Was that this side of the river? What's that? Is that this side of the river?

Richard Camp (25:46):

Yes, up towards Millville. Oh, okay. At Hamptons. If you look in (inaudible) , I mean, you can find out where the Hampton farm was.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:52):

Yeah, sure.

Richard Camp (25:55):

That's grandpa pushing Dolly. I guess

Rachel Dolhanczyk (25:58):

<laugh>

Speaker 2 (25:58):

Looks to like Pace was headed.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (26:01):

That's such a cool picture because he can't really tell they're standing on a boat, but Oh, there you can at the end there. So to push, push, okay.

Richard Camp (26:13):

Push pole. Push

Rachel Dolhanczyk (26:14):

Pull. Is it hard to push? Sure. It's, I would think so, right? Yeah,

Richard Camp (26:19):

It is what you want. It's what you, it's what you put into it. <laugh>.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (26:23):

Well, I could just see like if you wanna slack

Richard Camp (26:25):

Off

Rachel Dolhanczyk (26:25):

<laugh>. Well, I could just see, you know, this picture, you can see he's really pushing. Oh yeah. Pushing down to, and then you can see that she's the,

Richard Camp (26:34):

You've

Rachel Dolhanczyk (26:34):

Been there. Gunner balance. You can tell that she's like, she's got

Richard Camp (26:38):

Herself balanced. That's why it's not free. Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (26:40):

<laugh>. Well, no, absolutely not. Yeah. <laugh> gotta, and there that picture too, you can really see is really

Richard Camp (26:47):

Saw it down here. Now, I dunno what time of year that was, but it's down. See where it's standing higher here. Oh. Just when it's clean and growing, it's all, I dunno whether that's pretty Grandpa and, um, uncle Walter. Yeah, that's he's just a boy there, huh?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([27:09](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. So this looks like what, the late forties, 1948, the pictures? Yeah, that's

Richard Camp ([27:15](#)):

What it says. Eight

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([27:17](#)):

After the, after the war.

Richard Camp ([27:20](#)):

Yeah. Right after four years. September 2nd, 1948. Must have been the second day. I whether Yeah, if you looked that up, whether first was a Sunday or not. Yeah,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([27:30](#)):

We could look that up. <laugh>. Right? Maybe. Maybe it's a Monday that they went out. <laugh>. Huh?

Richard Camp ([27:38](#)):

I didn't know there was this many pictures of the Huh? I thought there was just a one.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([27:44](#)):

Yeah. I'll have to look back and see what ones we got copies of and maybe come back and get a, a couple, yeah, I'll couple of these are really cool. We

Richard Camp ([27:54](#)):

Would let you

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([27:55](#)):

Yeah, I could just take a

Richard Camp ([27:57](#)):

Copy of it or

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([27:57](#)):

Something. Run over and copy 'em and bring 'em right back. Right. Because uh,

Richard Camp ([28:03](#)):

Can come bring straight back.

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

Yeah. Alright.

Richard Camp ([28:07](#)):

You want these now?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([28:08](#)):

I will Come right back.

Richard Camp ([28:09](#)):

You trust her with all of them. You don't need all of them.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([28:10](#)):

Maybe just, just a couple that really illustrate the, um, yeah. And especially like showing like how much he's pushing, you know? Yeah. That's really good. Would he have any um, particular story you like? Uh, any uh, kind of funny stories or interesting ones? Or a hoy a,

Richard Camp ([28:37](#)):

A ho the word? A ho Yeah. Yeah. We were out in the middle of a ditch and Carl, we called, we have nicknames. Carl is Moose. We call him Moose. Um, Troy Smith, I forgot to mention Jack Smith used to push for us. He lives across the street and his son is now Troy. They were, Troy was in the ditch and Moose pushed out in the ditch and he like, the way the tide was running, he, he ran into the back of Troy's boat. He hired a hoy right before he hit him and knocked him off the back of the boat.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:06](#)):

Oh geez. <laugh>.

Richard Camp ([29:08](#)):

So Troy, knew a hoy.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:10](#)):

<laugh>. This

Richard Camp ([29:11](#)):

Is the one you want here?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:13](#)):

Yeah. That's a good one. Yeah. Yeah. How long are those push balls?

Richard Camp ([29:17](#)):

Uh, 16 foot.

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

Wow, okay.

Richard Camp ([29:20](#)):

14 to 16. That's good.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:30](#)):

Okay.

Richard Camp ([29:30](#)):

You don't need this one?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:31](#)):

No, that's fine. Yeah. Have

Richard Camp ([29:33](#)):

That good enough for you or? I

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:36](#)):

Think so. Yeah.

Richard Camp ([29:38](#)):

On the back or just the date? Let me

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:40](#)):

Write down the names on the, so the woman was Dolly?

Richard Camp ([29:45](#)):

Yeah. I to

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:46](#)):

Look. Oh, okay.

Richard Camp ([29:48](#)):

Is it on the picture or

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([29:50](#)):

No? No, just the, the date is, which is great. Least that one had the

Richard Camp ([29:53](#)):

Dolly Reath, I guess R e a t h. I don't know whether, did it have the man's name?

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([30:03](#)):

You think it's a family member or I

Richard Camp ([30:04](#)):

Don't know that.

Richard Camp (30:05):

No, she's not a family member.

Richard Camp (30:07):

No,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:08):

No. I'm sorry. The and wife, the pusher. That's your grandfather.

Richard Camp (30:12):

The man and wife. She manage, don't you?

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:14):

Is that the grandpa?

Richard Camp (30:16):

Yeah, that's Hise (sp?).

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:18):

Okay.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:18):

And uncle first name again? Heis. H I S e

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:24):

H I S E.

Richard Camp (30:25):

I guess I well that's what they, they called him Heis. His real name was Ishega (sp?)and, um,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:31):

Camp. Last name obviously. Yeah, yeah.

Richard Camp (30:37):

Name.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (30:37):

And then he's in both pictures there? Or was that

Richard Camp (30:40):

Somebody That's him pushing on both of them. Ok.



Rachel Dolhanczyk ([30:43](#)):

Um,

Richard Camp ([30:44](#)):

Water.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([30:46](#)):

Great picture. Just like your dad would

Richard Camp ([30:55](#)):

Water.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([30:57](#)):

Grandpa, grandpa. Grandpa.

Richard Camp ([30:58](#)):

Oh, you

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([30:59](#)):

Just like him.

Richard Camp ([31:04](#)):

I can't, I don't see the name of the man anywhere. You want that one too, to take? That's with walter.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([31:15](#)):

Ah, sure. That's your uncle?

Richard Camp ([31:17](#)):

Way you can, yeah. Water.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([31:19](#)):

Uh, okay, so Heis is your gram and that's your dad's dad', a grandpa, right? Right. And then uncle, um, Walter.

Richard Camp ([31:30](#)):

I dunno the gentleman's name. He's,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([31:32](#)):

And he's your uncle's face. Was there certain clothing they'd wear it. It just looks like, you know, obviously you're not where it is. Well, that's dressed up, going out. But basically

Richard Camp ([31:52](#)):

All the old people like grandpop, they wore, we call 'em Gussy's or Overalls. Okay. All the old people. That's what they wore. Yeah. It just shorts.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([32:02](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative> long sleeves. Nah.

Richard Camp ([32:04](#)):

Yeah, maybe they did then. But we, if it's warm as mm-hmm. <affirmative> less as possible. I don't know. I didn't tell you in the, with the, what you need to hunt. You need Hunter orange today. Back then you didn't, but

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([32:18](#)):

Oh yeah. You

Richard Camp ([32:18](#)):

Need, you need, it's a state regulation. You need hunter orange to hunt rail birds. Actually white. You need, well where there's a bunch of vegetation, they want you to be seen so nobody gets shot, but actually white stands out better than the orange.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([32:33](#)):

Oh, okay.

Richard Camp ([32:35](#)):

We used to have a client had a, was in white vest would wear,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([32:39](#)):

So it had to be like a vest at least. Yeah. So

Richard Camp ([32:41](#)):

He would be seen, he had a, had a rail bird sewn into it, you know, he was his, it was his rail, bird hunting vest. It was all white.

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([32:49](#)):

So that's what you wear a vest. And then,

Richard Camp ([32:52](#)):

Well, anything like t-shirt,

Rachel Dolhanczyk ([32:53](#)):

Shorts or whatever.

Richard Camp ([32:54](#)):

Anything orange. Okay. So it could be like an orange. It's about

Richard Camp (32:56):

How dressed right now is how, I guess. Okay.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (32:57):

So t-shirt, shorts. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> and something orange.

Richard Camp (33:01):

I don't see

Rachel Dolhanczyk (33:02):

A hat. I imagine

Richard Camp (33:03):

I don't see the man's name anywhere in the, so

Rachel Dolhanczyk (33:06):

Yeah.

Richard Camp (33:07):

Looks too,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (33:08):

It's usually in the fall. I mean, the bugs aren't too bad or I guess they can be, it's warm. Yeah.

Richard Camp (33:14):

It's not too, not too bad. There's some kind of a little bug out there, but they don't even, I don't know they, some of the people will come. I don't think anything would bother. They don't bother me cause they don't bite. Whatever they're, it's just,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (33:27):

It's like a nuisance sort.

Richard Camp (33:29):

Usually there's, you know, there's bugs are not a problem. Early, early in the season when the rice is still, some of it's still flowering in the pollen used to bother my eyes., you know, and get that eyes. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> once, once it's done, you know. Yeah. pollenating later in season. That's not a problem.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (33:51):

Yeah. That is a beautiful time of year.

Richard Camp (33:52):

I dunno what they're, I think, I dunno whether they're wild daisies or what they are, uh, we call 'em yellow flowers. Just, you know, for short yellow flowers, that's what they are. But when the yellow

flower matures, it's got that little sticker that, you know, if you rub up against it, you're, they had a guy come one time and had a flannel shirt on and he just threw it away when he came in. Brand new shirt.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (34:16):

Yeah. Some of those, uh, I know like if you have like a Lil's or something, we have a cat and she's eating it, it gets it all on her.

Richard Camp (34:23):

You picked them, you picked them off of my clothes.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (34:29):

Irs.

Richard Camp (34:33):

All right, so, so can I go get something done now? Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (34:35):

Thank you so much for your time. And I will you

Richard Camp (34:38):

Get copies of them?

Rachel Dolhanczyk (34:39):

Bring back, get three. I'll bring 'em right back. So I'll just run over to Bivalve and copy 'em and bring him right back if you like.

Richard Camp (34:46):

Oh, not immediately, but just make sure ...

Rachel Dolhanczyk (34:48):

By end of the day. Is that okay or Yeah, whatever you Okay fine. Yeah. My um, I drop my son off at the childcare right over here, so. Oh yeah, come right back. There's a school over here at the old school there. Yeah, yeah, yeah. He's only east two. So

Richard Camp (35:04):

They'll go to school in Dennisville where you live. Right. You work up this way. So you take him there. Yeah. Doris. She knows Dar. Oh yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (35:10):

Do you know Doris? Well

Richard Camp (35:12):

We had our little boy in there for a year or so when he was two. Oh. He's big enough now that you can run around here. Yeah. That's nice. When he was too small we had him in there for a little bit. Yeah,

Rachel Dolhanczyk (35:21):

She's really nice. Yeah, really good. Yeah, they do. Uh, I mean it's like school really? You know what they teach 'em and

Richard Camp (35:30):

She

Rachel Dolhanczyk (35:31):

A bunch of different girls. Um, cuz Yeah, I didn't know what you know it's gonna do. And then me and my husband and I were driving by and saw the sign and we're like, oh,

Richard Camp (35:42):

They were little here.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (35:43):

Yeah. The sign right. Or it was either here or up the road. Forget where

Richard Camp (35:47):

They were a little, little slow. They were

Rachel Dolhanczyk (35:49):

First and I, yeah. And now she said that, uh,

Richard Camp (35:52):

I guess they've got a good enough reputation now and it's Yeah, they did.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (35:56):

Yeah. They said, um, saw an email or whatever that they're gonna start registration for fall of next year.

Richard Camp (36:02):

Did some, somebody had team, somebody had it before then, right? Yeah.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (36:06):

And apparently that wasn't

Richard Camp (36:07):

Good or something. Wasn't that Yeah. That's why it was tough for them to get, you know, they had to build their reputation. Yeah. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Rachel Dolhanczyk (36:13):

But yeah, it's always clean and um, you know, like, so they teach him outfit, she

Richard Camp (36:18):

Really does. Good, good

Richard Camp ([36:21](#)):

Person. So help somebody with the information.

Speaker 1 ([36:24](#)):

Thank you so much for your time.