

**BAYSHORE DISCOVERY PROJECT
DELAWARE BAY MUSEUM
ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION**

DATE: May 12, 2008
TIME: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
SUBJECT: The Stokes-Schubert Machine Shop, Port Norris, NJ
Memories of Port Norris as a child
NARRATOR(S): Beryl Schubert Kane and Alice Georgeanna Gerard
LOCATION: 420 Carew Av., Pitman, NJ 08071 (Beryl's home)
INTERVIEWER: Patricia A. Moore, BDP Volunteer of the Oral History
Program

TRANSCRIPTION

COMPLETED: July 14, 2008
TRANSCRIBED BY: Patricia A. Moore, Volunteer of the BDP OH Program

ACCESSION #: 2008.06
CATALOGUE #:

BEGIN TAPE 1 OF 1 – SIDE A

METER: 001

Pat Moore: Today is May 12, 2008. We are about to do an oral interview with Beryl Kane, 420 Carew Av, Pitman, NJ. Beryl is the daughter of Frank Schubert who once owned a machine shop in Bivalve, NJ. My name is Pat Moore I am a volunteer for the Bayshore Discovery Project and I will be doing the oral history with Beryl today.

Pat Moore: Good morning here we are in the kitchen of Beryl's home in Pitman and today we are interviewing Beryl and her sister Alice Georgeanna Gerard. And Alice lives in Millville now and we are going to test the microphones for one moment. Alice if you just say hello good morning.

Alice: Good morning it's a very rain day.

Pat Moore: And Beryl if you will try your mike.

Beryl: Good morning

Pat Moore: Okay Miss Beryl why don't we start with you and let's start with your name your full name, when and where you were born that kind of thing, where you grew up, where have you lived, what kind of jobs you've had in the past and are you still working now or retired? So why don't we begin with you.

Beryl: Okay I was born Beryl Roth Schubert and in June 17, 1932.

Pat: Your middle name was?

Beryl: And Roth was my mother's maiden name.

Pat: And would spell that.

Beryl: R O T H

Pat: Okay thank you.

Beryl: Many say Rawth but grand mom lived with us and she said Rowth (printed out the way the name was being pronounced). And so I call it Rowth! (spelled Roth).

Pat: Great, let's see. Where were you born?

Beryl: Oh, I was born in Port Norris; Dr. Sharp was my delivery doctor.

Pat: Oh cool. And now, where you born at home?

Beryl: I was born at home in the old Bowker house, the last house on the left going down toward Bivalve. I can remember living there but I was maybe only about three when we packed up and moved to Camden. I'm not sure that it was the first house that we lived in when we first went up there but I can remember the orange colored brick house, it was a single home, it was next door to a vacant field adjacent to an elementary school. Because before I was able to go to school, I used to disappear sometimes in the afternoon. And you could find me, a teacher let me join in the with the kids and go into the kindergarten room. Cause I remember the big sliding board in that room. I was scared to death of it.

Pat: (laughter) That's interesting.

Beryl: When we left there we went to...

Pat: Do you remember around what year that was when you left?

Beryl: Uh yes, I hadn't, I started kindergarten in Camden and then I went to Cape May Court House first grade and we had moved to a little town outside of Cape May Court House, Burleigh. And my father worked in Wildwood at Anderson Boat Yard. We were only there not quite a year I don't think, I might be wrong, but that was around 1938 and we moved backed to Port Norris which my mother wasn't very happy about, but I can remember because I was still in first grade and when I went to test for reading I was too far advanced for their first grade so I went to second grade. That was a big jump.

Pat: So how many years did you spend in Port Norris then?

Beryl: Oh, I went through Port Norris schools 1946, was that when the closed. I went through the freshman and then we transferred to Millville and of course I graduated in '49 and I guess you would say I left home then.

Pat: Did you start, did you get a job?

Beryl: Uh, no I went to Rider College for about year and a half. I had an automobile accident which kind of put a damper on things and I went back for a little while but I didn't go back and finish.

Pat: What did you major in?

Beryl: Well they had a course called secretarial science then but everybody sticks their nose up at that today. Actually it was business. I took accounting with accounting students, so, in fact there were two girls in the class and that was it. But

Pat: Now this was what year? This was after....

Beryl: I left, I think, in March of 1951.

Pat: Oh okay.

Beryl: And like I said I never went back instead in October of 1951 I got married. In the meantime I did work what used to be Susie Bell Can House which doesn't exist anymore, in Port Elizabeth. And I was there when I got married. And then I worked for a real estate office for a short period of time in Vineland.

Pat: Who was that, do you remember?

Beryl: Yes, Simon and Roston (sp?). I can't think of Mr. Simon's first name but he was a delightful man to work for.

Meter: 089

Beryl: Then my first son was born and I didn't work.

Pat: Oh yes you did!

Beryl: For a paycheck that is.

Pat: Exactly... (laughter)

Beryl: I don't remember exactly when I wanted to do something so I just kind of went out and looked for part time and I thought if I just do some light typing or something like that and I wound up an accountant heard what I had done before and anyway I wound getting involved in doing bookkeeping and took on more responsibility than I really wanted, however I was allowed to work part time, and in the summertime and that lasted a couple of years before that business actually folded. It was a remodeling business. But I still did for the accountant there was I forget the name of it, the person he had working there didn't know how to do payroll so once a week I would have to go in for a while and do payroll and teach her how to do payroll.

Pat: Did you ever do any kind of accounting work for your father.

Beryl: No. No. He was out of business by then. My older sister did his bookwork, Margaret. I don't know how many years she did that probably Alice would know.

Pat: Let's go over to Alice for a little while. Alice let's get some bio statistics on you. You were born....

Alice: Ah yes, I mean that part would be same as where we lived and...

Pat: What date were you born and?

Alice: January 24, 1927.

Pat: How old were you when Beryl born?

Alice: I don't know.

Beryl: You were five.

Alice: Five? I was older...

Beryl: You were five years older than I was.

Alice: Okay, I didn't think of it that way.

Pat: How many children were there totally?

Alice: Five

Pat: There were five and you were, who was the oldest?

Alice: Myrtle, I was number 3.

Pat: And who was after Myrtle?

Alice: Margaret

Pat: And then Alice. And then Beryl and who was the youngest.

Beryl: And then Frank was the youngest.

Pat: Finally got the brother! (laughter) The prince arrived.

Beryl: Oh yes he thought he was.

Pat: Of course (laughter) After....

Alice: He was treated as a prince.

Pat: Of course, with all those sisters around I'm sure.

Beryl: I did everything for him. I tied his shoes because I always had to have him tagging along with me.

Pat: Unfortunately that was the story. I was the oldest of five and the youngest was my brother Tom and Tom was definitely attached to me from the time he was born and so I

totally understand about that young sibling. So Alice you went to Port Norris so you must have graduated.

Alice: I did, in 1944. And then I went to the telephone company in Bridgeton is where I started and I worked for 39 years there. And started out as an operator and I went to the desk and did payroll and all things like that and scheduling and then I went to down into the district office and I was a teletype operator and a signer for you know and then I went to engineering as a planning drafter. So that is what I retired from.

Pat: Wow that was a change.

Meter: 141

Pat: How did you fall into that? That was quite an interesting job for a female.

Beryl: She was very artistic.

Alice: Actually, I mean at one time that didn't take women in that department it was all men, but then they changed and let us go in there.

Pat: Did you have any college background?

Alice: No. No I was all company trained.

Pat: Absolutely. So let's see. And when did you marry?

Alice: Gee I don't remember. (laughter)

Beryl: I did have some clippings about it.... But I don't have them here.

Alice: What year? I think it was 1947.

Pat: And you staying in the area then?

Alice: No then I moved to Rosenhayne. And then we moved to Vineland and I ended up in Millville.

Pat: And did you have a family?

Alice: Ah huh, I have two sons. And well one of them is 60 so.... (laughter) and the other is 56.

Pat: I know, I have three daughters and the oldest just turned 47 and you know and everybody says oh it's just a number. I said oh no it isn't!

Alice: It's hard to believe that I'm that old.

Pat: It's hard to believe I mean you remember so vividly when you were that age and to see you know they are still our children out little kids and here they are these wonderful grown up adults.

Beryl: My son is retired! (laughter)

Meter: 164

Pat: Beryl had mentioned that you did some work for your dad when he had his machine shop.

Alice: Yes I did, I run the, what was it the milling machine? Yes, they would set it up and once after its set up you know it's just a... you run it.

Pat: What is a milling machine?

Alice: Well, you put the, it sort of grinds it down to where they want it to be, like you would say milling.

Pat: Okay, a piece of metal or machine part.

Alice: Oh yes it was metal.

Pat: And how long did you do that?

Alice: How long did I do it? Well I guess I was in high school when I did that.

Pat: Now let's talk a little about your family. Going to start with your mom then we will work into dad and that business and that whole Bivalve Port Norris connection. Where was your mom born and raised?

Beryl: Camden.

Pat: She was originally from Camden? And do you remember when she was born the year and date?

Beryl: Yes she was born July 16, 1896.

Pat: How long did she live in Camden?

Beryl: I think between Camden, Collingswood most of her single life.

Pat: How old was she when she met your dad?

Beryl: Well you know I have been looking back, I guess she knew him for a long time because I have papers that say they were both baptized in the same Baptist Church at the same time. And he was 14 or was it 1914.

Pat: Yes, 14 is usually the age of baptism.

Beryl: And then she was 16 because she was two years older. So they must have known each other then and as near as I can find I know I have a booklet somewhere that has their marriage date in it and as near as I can recall they were married in June of 1920. Sound right to you? (posing question to Alice)

Alice: I really don't know to keep up with years its like.

Beryl: I'm pretty sure, I remember them celebrating their 40th and it seems to me they were talking about when daddy died which was in June, and he died before a wedding anniversary. It could have been the 50th because it was so close to it.

Pat: And when they were married did they stay in Camden?

Beryl: For a while. We used to have pictures of them living in a different house than what I can remember, I say was the orange brick was that brick that looked orange. But somehow or the other in the mean time they got to Port Norris.

Pat: Yes, now

Beryl: And if Alice was born in Port Norris and that was 1927. Margaret born in Port Norris? (question to Alice)

Alice: I have no idea.

Beryl: Myrtle? No I really don't know.

Alice: I think they were, I know where I was born across from Berry's.

Beryl: Yes, the Chamberlain house.

Alice: Yes.

Pat: What street was that, do you remember?

Beryl: Brown Street.

Meter: 212

Pat: Brown Street. So most of the children were born at home?

Alice: Yes I guess I was.

Pat: Well I guess the nearest hospital in those days would have been either Millville or Bridgeton. There wasn't anything down in....

Alice: I don't think people went to hospitals. I think most everybody was born at home years ago.

Pat: Now your mother, did she work at any time, or was she a full time mom?

Beryl: Well she worked at the telephone company before she got married, right?

Alice: Yes

Beryl _____ Corporation. I can remember her talking about those little mantels in gas lights.

Alice: Oh see I didn't know that.

Beryl: Very delicate, I remember her talking about doing those. Seems my Aunt Gertie worked with her.

Pat: What kind of mom was she?

Beryl: (slapping the table) We minded! We were there for dinner when it was ready.

Alice: I'd say she was a very strict.

Beryl: She was.

Pat: Was

Beryl: She was a ruler! (laughter)

Pat: Did she have any connection with your father's business? Did she ever work in it or do the books at home or anything like that?

Beryl: I'd say absolutely not!

Meter: 237

Pat: Let's talk about your dad now. When was he born? What was his full name? And did you give me the full name of your mother? I don't think you did.

Beryl: She was Stella Glover.

Pat: Glover? G L O V E R

Beryl: Yes and her maiden was Roth. I think that's all she had was the S.G. I remember the SG, Stella Glover Roth. And she was born July 16, 1896.

Meter: 247

Pat: And your father, what was his full name?

Beryl: We have him as Frank Paul Schubert. And that's all on anything that I have on here even with his mother says Frank Paul Schubert. But I always remember him saying he was Frank Paul John Schubert. I've never seen it anywhere. Guess it's on those working papers (she is showing a document) say Frank Paul.

Pat: And where was he born?

Beryl: I think he may have been born in Philly. Does it tell you on that working.....

Alice: But it says Paul Schubert....

Beryl: That's his father.

Alice: Oh, okay

Beryl: The County of Camden NJ maybe that is his birth. Now he was baptized in the Trinity Methodist Church and the age of infancy situated in the city or town of Camden. In the county of Camden NJ. I would have to say he was born in Camden.

Pat: And do we have a birth date there?

Beryl: It is September 4, I think it tells you here on the 4th day of September in the year of 1898. That the father of said boy was Paul Schubert and the maiden name was I want to say that is wrong, she was Carolyn (sp?) Sickinger (?) and they've got down here Carolina, Caroline.

Pat: Oh I know with doing genealogy you have to be very very flexible with spellings and not discard some information. My grandmother's name was Beulah and I cannot

begin to tell you how many times, in census records and other supposedly legal documents, three to four different ways that they spell Beulah. (laughter).

Alice: You don't hear much of that name anymore.

Pat: No no it was a very old name.

Beryl: This is an affidavit of age and there was also may be in the box in there, a paper that when he first went for employment. And she signed that because that must have been the same year she died. Seems to be I remember it was like a couple months, going by the paperwork.

Pat: Now did he finish high school? Do you know?

Beryl: He went to, on here it says the Mickle Public School, but he was, I have working papers and he was like 14 with the working where they applied for working papers.

Pat: So you don't know if he graduated from high school?

Beryl: No, I think he, I did have some papers that look like he went to correspondence school. He is a beautiful hand writer.

Pat: Now, when your mother and your father were first married. What type of business was he in? What type of work was he doing?

Beryl: The only thing I know was machine work. Now I do know that beings that he was orphaned so to speak, which he was. His father had gone and he was left with his mother. And so when she died he was 14, and I know he worked for a paper box company and learned machine work.

Alice: Yes, they said he had to stand on a box because he was too short.

Beryl: _____ paper box machinery. Cause he was too little. So he was an apprentice you might say.

Pat: And learned his trade at different jobs.

Beryl: His father came from Germany and the German people looked after him so that Mr. Scholk (sp) was German and I know he worked, that's the only one I remember him talking about where he worked cause I remember going to that man's house.

Pat: So your dad was first generation American.

Beryl: Yes

Pat: And your mom's family went back further, were here in America longer?

Beryl: They go all the way back to Gloucester County to the Fish's.

Pat: And what is that?

Beryl: That's a family name in Gloucester County.

Pat: Oh, okay.

Beryl: I'm sorry (laughter) came out like that....

Alice: Was that another kind of fish... (laughter)

Pat: Is that a religious term... (laughter)....

Beryl: Can't believe that I didn't fix that other up.

Pat: Oh, that's okay. So now let's get him in Port Norris. And let's talk about how he started his business. Did he start out working for someone else?

Beryl: Well, I have had a hard time trying to figure out being in Port Norris. Now when he...

Pat: And that would have been around what year?

Meter: 338

Beryl: Well, I guess it's somewhere between 1914 and 1920. Somewhere in there, because the way I understand there was a Baptist Church that looked after his mother and helped his mother because when she was left, I guess she was left with the two children and she didn't know much English and this Baptist Church kind of helped her out. Now I don't know where she lived whether they had a rooming house and lived in a room or what but George Stokes lived in the same building or something. That I got from Myrtle so... I'm.... But it is the only connection I can find anywhere is to what because I have cemetery plots that he bought and they lived at 1616 Broadway or something....

Pat: In Port Norris?

Beryl: No, in Camden. And so somewhere in between, but, Pop Pop George came from California and this came

Pat: And you are referring to George Stokes?

Beryl: Yes cause he was, looked after my father and it says (referring to a document she is holding) to certify that George Stokes has since, maybe you can understand better than I can (showing document to Pat) with the ascension left to December of this year served as my as a Junior Machinist? Machine?

Pat: Served as my..... don't know what that is... W A C T C H as Junior in the following capacity: Oiler and water tender and during that time has given entire satisfaction. I have found him rather industrious, attentive and confident. And can most thoroughly recommend him to anyone that such believes that I can cheerfully pass him along as a man deserving of fellowship from any marine engineer to who he may apply for employment. Signed: E. E. is that Beline? B I E L L E N E, First Assistant Engineer.

Beryl: And then on the back (referring to document) there is another recommendation.

Pat: We are reading from a document hand written by this Mr. Bullene, then on the back of the document, which is dated December 11, 1901. To it may in future concern should George Stokes the bearer of this apply to a marine engineer for assistance to secure his certificate of engineering I can truthfully say that I have seldom met a young man of such sterling capabilities and so deserving of consideration at their hands and I would deem it a pleasure to personally assist him at any time or place. Signed. E.E. Bullene, First Assistant Engineer.

Beryl: And he is the one...

Pat: And this was document that came from San Francisco. And who is this Bullene?

Beryl: Oh I don't know, well he must have been the Captain of the boat or machinist on the boat.

Pat: Okay, where...

Beryl: We call him Pop Pop George. Now he kind of took my father under his wing I guess, how else would you put it so to speak. I don't know.

Pat: Pop Pop George Stokes your talking about.

Beryl: Yes, the association with the family other than they roomed in the same place but when she died he buried her and he purchased the cemetery plot. Now somebody had told me that he could purchase in that plot and bury a woman unless it was his wife. So they are buried together.

Alice: That's what I was going to ask you, was he buried in the same place?

Beryl: Yes.

Alice: I don't remember what happened then when he died.

Meter 416

Pat: So Mr. Stokes and who is buried together?

Beryl: Daddy's mother.

Pat: Oh, okay

Beryl: So I don't know whether she is buried at Stokes or Schubert.

Pat: Do you know what cemetery that is?

Beryl: Yes, we went up there, or I did, would have to be more than one anymore but when I went there looking because I have the deed that says that Pop Pop George owns five lots in that cemetery, but it is in Camden. It is not the Evergreen it the I think New Camden and its kind of wild. But they did have an attendant when I went and he took me to where it was and there is a big tree right adjacent to it. So he had told me that you couldn't use the other plots, but we couldn't find hers'. And he had a rod and its like, the marker is like sunk down in so that we couldn't read all of it. So its like bash your head against a stone wall some times. But the two of them are buried there. So whether he was just a nice man that looked after her or whether that was his lady friend but he took our father kind of in tow and this is the only association I can get. He had his own boat and I think he had a schooner, unless he was somebody's boat captain. Because there was a period of time when there was a discussion, because somebody wanted my father to captain their boat and that meant he was out on the water all the time. But it wasn't Port Norris. And mother said no!

Pat: So your dad started working for George and at the time did George have a machine shop or was he...

Beryl: I don't know how the machine shop was created.

Pat: Okay. Or do you have an idea about the time frame the shop was started?

Alice: The one in Bivalve?

Beryl: Yes, it wasn't called Stokes and Schubert per say and registered as such because I do have the paper where it was registered in 1941. Now that was after Pop Pop George died, because he died in 1936. And Pop Pop George had a reputation of being the rum runner.

Pat: Many of them were! (laughter) And they all hid it at "Ma Henderson's" I'm understanding.

Beryl: Well the machine shop had the big garage doors that opened on the water (referring the Bivalve location). And

Alice: It had a hoist where they could use to bring the engines up and everything, like if they wanted to repair a an engine from one of the boats or something.

Pat: Do you remember what water it was on?

Beryl: Maurice River.

Pat: It was right on the Maurice River in Bivalve.

Beryl: Yes, a very nice place to sneak your booze in.

Pat: Do you happen to remember the location?

Alice: It was near the DuBois, there Dubois' Packing House? And it was right next to that like somehow.

Pat: Okay great, good. Now what type of machine parts did the shop make? Do you know?

Alice: I think they made parts for boats. You know, now days they have factory's making these things, but they made their own.

Pat: If a part broke they would go to him and he would reproduce the broken part.

Beryl: Yes, do you know what bushings are?

Pat: Yes

Beryl: Those kind of things, I think that's even listed here (referring to a printed inventory).

Pat: Okay, so he, so this was then during the time when the schooners and the sloops had been motorized?

Beryl: Oh yes.

Alice: I would say so, yes.

Beryl: I think that is when he (referring to her father) came back to Port Norris from Burleigh. It was around that time. And somebody had called and asked him about coming back.

Pat: Now Beryl, at one time you said that you have an inventory of the contents of the shop. Do you still have that inventory?

Beryl: Now see that's a Norman Jeffries, oh,

Alice: Oh you mean for his company, the piece of machinery.

Beryl: Yes, he was working and doing something for him (her father).

Alice: My father could draw very well and things like this, and yes

Pat: Oh yes, very mechanical drawing.

Alice: Anything like this, I mean like in boats he could you know he was really good.

Beryl: There was a partial list. Evidently they financed it when he went up into Port Norris.

Meter: 511

Beryl: That's how I found that he had that and he didn't buy that when he, stuff, when he moved into Port Norris. This obviously had been because he financed his machinery.

Pat: Well this looks like part of a will.

Beryl: No, that's the finance papers. What do you call it, a loan on that equipment.

Pat: Oh, okay.

Beryl: It is the same equipment that is listed on the back here. Willis Robbins did his bookwork for him.

Pat: Oh yes, this was the collateral. Alright yes, I am looking at a document, a copy of a document, that was a mortgage for a loan taken out by Frank Schubert with the, I don't know the name of the bank.

Beryl: I think it's Millville.

Pat: Millville National Bank?

Beryl: Yes

Pat: Okay, very good. And we will keep a copy of that with our file.

Beryl: Which he had them all listed in here, (pointing to a ledger) Willis Robbins did his books. This isn't my father's writing, this is Willis Robbins.

Pat: And Willis Robbins was an accountant, down in Port Norris?

Beryl: yes

Pat: And this that you are showing me is property and equipment record?

Beryl: Yes, I found what was on there. I thought what was on there it was easier to make a picture for me.

Pat: Yes

Beryl: This was a lathe, a lathe, there was four lathes, different kinds. Prentiss (sp) lathe, a Reed (sp) lathe, Johnson and Lampson Lathe and a Rockford lathe.

Pat: And a drill press.

Beryl: Yes, we got a drill press, oh a Davis lathe, a 14" drill press, a 20" drill press, 18" shaper, a plainer, a hacksaw, a boring machine, and there is Alice's milling machine (laughter). Shop engine #1, shop engine #2 whether they are jigs and pictures and miscellaneous and then they have the building listed.

Pat: Alice, you answered one of my questions that I had written down here because what I was going to ask, were girls allow to do this type of work versus just being a you know a man or boys only. And since dad indeed did bring you into the shop it proves that he really didn't discriminate, did he?

Alice: No, they were probably desperate to get something out it time. (laughter) Because they had deadlines. Funny how I ended up doing drafting, I never thought about him doing it.

Meter: 571

Pat: Do you know how many employees he had?

Beryl: There is a picture...

Alice: He had about 16, didn't he?

Beryl: The payroll thing has all the cards taken out of it, I only found some of them.

Alice: Well, we have that photo of all the guys.

Beryl: Yes, I have that.

Pat: Now were they full time employees? Or were they

Beryl: Well, during WWII they worked two shifts, basically most....

Alice: My father worked two shifts most of the time.

Pat: Now were they only doing machines for the oyster boats during WWII or were they also working some of the naval boats?

Alice: Well during the war.

Beryl: They did a lot of airplane work and I never...

Alice: Sub-contract work from Philadelphia.

Beryl: Feracutes (sp) machine is in here, they never got paid for it.

Alice: But there was a company in Philly, I don't know which one it was now.

Beryl: A dual name?

Alice: Was it Bud?

Beryl: Where the dickens is that (looking through papers) oh here they are.

Pat: Now we are looking at a black and white photograph of the workers kneeling in front of the machine shop (in Port Norris). Would you be... oh they are identified. And the gentlemen in the picture are Sam Riley, Harry Heaton, Charles Riley, Author Scudder, Elmer Eastburn, Bob Gates, Frank Schubert, Gus Eigerman and Jules Schubert. Now who is Jules?

Beryl: That was my father's brother. That's him no the end.

Pat: Here, no this one. Oh okay and that's your father. Okay. May I keep this out to be copied for our file?

Beryl: Yes, the Sea Shell Restaurant was right next door.

Pat: Oh the machine shop was...

Beryl: This is the one that was in Port Norris.

Pat: Oh, okay, so when did they move from Bivalve into Port Norris?

Beryl: 1941 or 1942, 1941 I think it was.

Pat: Okay, so they then the machine shop was then moved to Main Street.

Beryl: Yes,

Pat: In Port Norris and became a larger operation. Okay, and that would be a building next to the Seashell Restaurant. The Seashell Restaurant was on the corner of Main and I don't remember.

Alice: It wasn't on a corner.

Beryl: Was it Dr. Day on the other side of it?

Alice: He was in that area but I don't know if it was right next to it.

Beryl: There was a little black church next to it. Right?

Alice: On the east side.

Pat: Yes heading down Main Street towards Peek of Moon, that direction. It would have been on the right?

Beryl: no, on the left hand side.

Pat: Oh yes that's right Sea Shell was on the left hand side.

Beryl: It would have been the Sea Shell restaurant, the machine shop and the little church and then there used to be a store there and then that is where you have your borough hall and the railroad trace. Did I miss anything in between?

Alice: No that sounds right.

Pat: See this is the kind of information that is so helpful to us and so valuable, because so many of these buildings are gone, they are vacant lots now and they are just very few people living down there that you know remember what was located where.

Beryl: I'm surprised at the people that are down there, I mean...

Pat: Well you know they just started a Historical Society. Did you know that? Well you might very much enjoy joining. It is wonderful. I have become a member and they meet once a month, I think it's the third Tuesday of every month and they have speakers. Now this month's speaker, yes cause the meeting is next Tuesday and I am unable to attend. This month's speaker is a descendent of Lenni Lennape, one of the descendents of the Gould family is going to come in and speak. I don't remember the name exactly. But every month they have some kind of speaker. They haven't started collecting memorabilia yet because they don't have any place to put it but eventually they will be collecting, so they are really desperately looking for former residents that would join the historical society and share. I'm doing oral histories for the Bayshore Discovery they are doing video. They just finished an incredible interview the Arthur Hinson. He lived in Maurice town and he I understand owned several oyster boats.

Beryl: I remember Florence Hinson. Must have been her father. She lived there on the corner.

Pat: Well I think Arthur is close to 90 now or may be 90 and so you know we are kind of working hand-in-hand you know trying to get as much information as we can because people are disappearing that can give us these stories. So we certainly do appreciate the time and the effort that you two lovely ladies are spending with me today.

Beryl: I just happened to find this in the back of this book.

Pat: Oh and that is a letterhead copy of your Stokes and Schubert Engineers and Machinists.

Beryl: Looks like a bill, yes.

Pat: Yes, it does look like an invoice. May I take one for the record.

Beryl: Oh yes sure.

Pat: Okay, very good.

Beryl: Must have been good paper it not crinkly yet.

Pat: No, well its very nice parchment paper is what it is. Now we are coming to the end of this tape so I'm going to stop us before we run out in mid sentence and I'm going to turn this over here.

END OF SIDE A – METER 727

BEGIN SIDE B – METER 001

Pat: We are about to resume now this is side two with our interview with Beryl and Alice and we have been talking about their father's business and its location in Port Norris. Now how long did your father own that business? When did it close down in Port Norris?

Beryl: 43 or 44.

Pat: During the War?

Alice: I think it was around 1944 cause I had went to work at the telephone company.

Beryl: Dorchester Engineering in August of 1944 bought everything.

Pat: Okay, would you read..

Beryl: And it wasn't Dr. Sharp it was Wheaton's. But evidently Dr. Sharp helped do something with it. That was some of Myrtles things. But Dorchester Engineering, I have a typewritten paper from August 1944 for the complete machine shop and equipment, tools and inventory and work in progress.

Pat: Was handed over to?

Beryl: Dorchester Engineering.

Pat: Which was owned by?

Beryl: Wheaton's

Pat: Wheaton, Frank Wheaton.

Beryl: The man that signed it was Nelson Rodman.

Pat: Okay

Beryl: But Dorchester was owned by, Myrtle couldn't think of the name, she said that company in Millville, Wheaton.

Pat: Now...

Beryl: I didn't know who Nelson Rodman was.

Pat: Was Dorchester Engineering, Inc. that wasn't the shipyard that was a totally different that was a different machine shop in Dorchester, evidently.

Alice: Yes

Beryl: Yes, I wouldn't know, I thought it had been with the shipyard.

Alice: Oh really, I thought that Dorchester shipyard was down the way.

Beryl: You are probably right cause I

Alice: Well I don't know.....

Pat: I can look that up in some records.

Beryl: Yes, Dorchester Engineering, Inc., it said on it.

Pat: Because Wheaton did own the shipyard also. And I would imagine they would indeed acquire a machine shop equipment to put into their machine shop that was on site there very possibly. But I can check those records.

And then what did your father do after he sold the machine shop?

Alice: Is that when they moved to Bala Cynwood?

Beryl: Yes, I guess it was, yes. They didn't move that soon because I went to high school, I was still in high school.

Alice: Oh, okay.

Beryl: Guess he went with them and worked for them.

Pat: Yes, I think...and then when did he move out of Port Norris. When did your parent move out of Port Norris?

Beryl: I think that was in 1951.

Pat: And they moved to where?

Beryl: Bala Cynwood.

Pat: Pennsylvania? And ...

Beryl: If it wasn't 51 it was 1952. I can go down and check that I have paperwork on that.

Pat: Was it because he was retiring?

Beryl: He was taking a job. That was with Lewis and that's somehow or other...

Alice: He was an inventor, Lewis yes.

Beryl: But he wasn't with him for very long because I got paperwork down there where he had insurance when he worked for the Wellsbat (sp?) Corporation in Philadelphia.

Pat: And that was after the Bala Cynwood move? Now you say this Lewis was an inventor. What was his name, do you remember?

Meter: 045

Beryl: Lewis was his last name wasn't it?

Alice: I don't know.

Beryl: It was the Code Corporation or something like, the Code Company.

Pat: C o d e?

Beryl: Yes.

Pat: And then your father continued to work in the same line of work until his death or did he retire in?

Beryl: No, he came back to Port Norris and stayed there during the week with Myrtle. And worked in one of the shipyards for a while.

Pat: Myrtle was your oldest sister?

Beryl: Yes, and worked in one of the shipyards for a while.

Pat: That would have been in the 50's.

Beryl: Latter than that. It had to been oh,

Alice: I'm trying to think of what I was doing when they moved up there.

Pat: Where did he move back to in Port Norris?

Beryl: He didn't move back. He only went down there during the week and stayed with my sister and went back to Philly on weekends. So it wasn't for a real long period of time.

Alice: It was around 1965 because I remember that he used to stop at the house to make sure I was okay after everything that happened to me.

Beryl: Oh, okay.

Alice: Yes, cause that would be around that time.

Pat: How, do you remember who he was working for during that period that he came back?

Alice: Was it Dorchester?

Beryl: Yes, I think it was Dorchester.

Pat: And your sister Myrtle she continued to live in Port Norris and was she working or married.

Beryl: She bought mom and dad's house on Temperance St., and she was married and she was working.

Alice: I don't know which hospital she was working in.

Beryl: She worked at the Vineland Training School for a while. And then she went to Bridgeton Hospital.

Alice: She worked down in Cape May Courthouse for a while.

Pat: Was she a practical nurse?

Beryl: Well what do you call them... an EKG technician? I think that's what you call it, am I right?

Alice: I think so, yes.

Pat: And what year did your father pass away?

Beryl: 1970. He was 72 years old. Make sure I added that right. He was born in '96 and he was 72...

Pat: No '98 you said.

Beryl: Yes, it had to 1970.

Pat: You had also shared with me, I just want to clarify just one thing. When you said he was working up at the Camden Shipyard were there different companies in the Camden Shipyard and did he work for a specific one or did he work for the government?

Beryl: Oh, all I remember whatever he had, we would go, because whatever boat he was working on they would Christine it.

Pat: Up at the Camden shipyard. Yes, if you would happen to find anything that would happen the name of one of maybe one of the individual companies that was contracting up in that area.

Beryl: You know I don't have anything at all. I know he worked up at the shipyard cause I can remember he walked to work sometime.

Alice: Yes, we weren't that far from it.

Pat: Okay, so it was actually in Camden on the New Jersey side. Okay, great. Now you also had mentioned that your dad owned some boats. You said small fishing boats, one was named the Caroline?

Beryl: That's what I know of, the boat, and I think he had one before it and it was called the Caroline.

Pat: Is that C A R O L I N E?

Beryl: Yes,

Alice: It is named after his mother.

Pat: And was this an oyster boat?

Alice: No it was like a fishing boat.

Meter: 098

Pat: Small fishing boat?

Beryl: I wouldn't call it small. You had a picture of it in here and I looked at it and got it mixed up I guess.

Alice: I don't know why they let me go every time cause I got sick every time. Soon as they dropped the anchor.

Pat: (looking at the picture) Oh that is a large boat. Now so along with having the machine he was also a waterman. He did fishing.

Alice: Only for himself.

Pat: Just recreational, his own use. He didn't do anything commercial?

Beryl: Not that I know of.. I don't know of anything commercial. He went out on weekends. I remember he went out on a hurricane, my mom was always talking about that never thought she see him alive again.

Pat: Do you remember what year he had this boat?

Beryl: Now see that had to be, he could had that when they were married. Because I can remember what he used to do. You know out here on Rt. 41 where the road crosses Timber Creek used to be dump on the left hand side and I guess it was Westville on the right hand side but every time we would go over that bridge he would tell us about taking the Caroline underneath that bridge and I had, where did I put it, it might be in my closet, a picture of a boat and a group of people and supposedly we thought that it was maybe the Big Timber Creek. And I talked to Mr. Leap that did a lot of research work in the area over around, I think he was from Runnemedede. And it showed a building in the background and he seemed to think the boat was on Little Timber Creek and Little Timber Creek today is too little for a boat, because when they put the Black Horse Pike it kind of disrupted the flow of that river.

Pat: Oh I see

Beryl: Because this boat was docked at a building and it looked like they had bottle of soda, and people were of course people seemed like they were dressed up anyhow. Quite a few people all dressed and they were getting off the boat there on the shore. I should have taken it over the Chews Landing and they probably would have known more. But judging from he identified this building in the background thought it was Little Timber Creek. And he said there used to be a boat yard down there. I thought, I don't know if I had told you before I remember taking about it to somebody, when I went looking to find out where this picture was taken, can't remember where I was riding but I was looking along that waterway and there was an old man out there working in his garden and I stopped and I asked him if he recognized or knew anything about it was right there near the water. And he told me the story, he didn't recognized it, but he told me the story of how the barges, I guess they call them barges, the boats would take the tomatoes scrapes up into Philly and then, or take tomatoes into Philly and then bring the manure from the horses to fertilize their gardens. I never heard of such a thing. Somewhere in that travels at that time, I also, maybe it was from Mr. Leap, had told me that the boats from Fortesque in the winter time used to come up and store themselves used to bring them up store them along Timber Creek. And it just seems like such a long ways to go, but we don't have the storms today like they used to have so in my mind I was visualizing they are anticipating these horrible storms and they would bring a lot of their fishing boats up along the Timber Creek.

Pat: How about that.

Beryl: I've never, but anyway that was an interesting expedition that I went on. Every once in a while I used to do crazy things like that. (laughter)

Meter: 164

Pat: Well I am going to just go back a little bit with the two of you when you were young girls growing up in Port Norris and you know growing up in your family during the 30's and 40's. As girls where you restricted from being able to do things or certain places or only do certain kind of work in your home or outside your home?

Beryl: I had to keep the bathroom clean, that was my job. (laughter)

Alice: I never really did anything except dishes. And I had to iron my own clothes that was it, my mother did everything.

Beryl: But we were not allowed to leave our stuff laying around.

Alice: Oh know, we had to be neat.

Beryl: When you come in the house, the door, the dining room table was there, don't leave your stuff there. There was a closet and it had and where the house had been remodeled I guess it had like three or four steps in there whatever reason they were there. And that's where we had to put our books and we had to put our stuff away, there was no such thing.

Alice: Yes, you had spot for your books and I had a spot for mine. Mine stayed there a lot more than yours did. (laughter)

Beryl: That was, you didn't leave them on table.

Pat: What was a fun way for you to spend a day when you were, say you know, well when you were in high school or when you were in junior high or freshman year?

Beryl: Well we used to play a lot of games. I remember going and playing carts.

Pat: That's a card game?

Beryl: Yes, and Presidents, it was a card game.

Pat: I remember Presidents Card game. (laughter)

Beryl: And even at that the church didn't approve of them. They were cards and to have them out on Sunday was terrible and I can remember being at a girls house.

Alice: You weren't supposed to sew or anything on Sunday.

Beryl: And being at a girls house and the preacher came and we had to hide them under the sofa.

Pat: Now what church did you attend in Port Norris?

Beryl: I attended both of them, Port Norris Baptist and the Methodist.

Alice: I did to.

Pat: And as children and which one did you attend at children? I mean you say you attended two, why did you leave one for the other.

Alice: I went at the same time like if you went to one and girl I run around with she was a Methodist so then we went to both of them.

Pat: Right, I used to do that.

Alice: There was nothing else to do except to go to church there.

Pat: I used to do that in Millville. My best girlfriend was a Presbyterian and she supposedly wasn't allowed in my church. But I was allowed in her church. So yes your right we would go back and forth on Sundays and visit each others churches.

Beryl: We bicycled. Oh my I put on a lot of miles. (laughter)

Meter: 209

Pat: Were you allowed to leave the area, I mean like go to Dividing Creek and...

Beryl: Oh yes, I bicycled to Maurice town went swimming in the river. There is no swimming in that section of the river anymore.

Alice: Oh yes, I did that too.

Beryl: Where the church is you could right straight and they had like a beach area and you could swim there in the river. And then don't even get dry and get on your bicycle and ride back home again.

Alice: We used to, that Reeves, he had his own little beach there and we used to go down there.

Beryl: That one wasn't familiar with me.

Pat: Who were some of your peers in Port Norris you know that were your friends.

Beryl: Oh I know, Nita Phillips and Ruth Ann McClain and we had Jeannie Butts.

Alice: See you had more girls in your class, I didn't have that many it was just Doris Gates.

Beryl: Yes we had our Girl Scout troop and went from one house to another and met. I can remember that we went to, can remember WWII and Clara Cossaboon was the school nurse and she had home nursing courses that she would teach in the top of the old fire house which I guess is a museum down stairs now. Well we used to meet up there and we learned how to make beds and do minor _____.

Alice: You got better training than me. (laughter)

Beryl: I have little Red Cross pins around here that we received for it. So of course we played kick the can at night. And nobody complained if we ran through their yards. Don't try to do it today!

Pat: Yes, it was the same in Millville growing up truly Millville was my playground. You know I could go anywhere and if I misbehaved my mother knew it before I got home. (laughter)

Beryl: There was

Pat: Because everybody looked out for you.

Beryl: I can remember maybe just one we knew not to get into his car. And that was it. So we didn't you know.

Meter: 243

Pat: Now what year did you graduate from Port Norris High School?

Alice: 1944

Pat: Okay, and how many were in your graduating class?

Alice: Wasn't very many, we only had one boy in our class, yes.

Beryl: Would that be Clarence?

Pat: His last name?

Alice: Yes, the other two went, Berry, I think one went to military school and another one went to another private school. I think it was just Clarence.

Pat: So there were less than 10 in your in your graduating class?

Alice: That's what I was just trying to think was it maybe and believe there was less than 10 might have been 7 or 8. Yes.

Alice: What was it like going to high school in Port Norris?

Alice: We missed a lot.

Pat: Well yes, share that.

Alice: Well I mean that we didn't have any proms, we didn't have anything like that. I mean we really didn't have any special activities.

Beryl: You went on a class trip that was about it.

Alice: Yes, to New York because it was during the war we didn't go to Washington where they always went before.

Pat: Did you do anything with the and of the other schools in Commercial Township?

Alice: No, well you mean there was only what the grade schools so it was just the one high school. When we got into high school we had a bathroom. Before that we only had outside toilets too.

Pat: Oh my goodness! Wow. Now where you in school at the same time?

Beryl: No, I would have been in grade school.

Pat: Oh yes being five years younger yes you would be in grade school.

Beryl: Like when she was in high school I'd be in that little wooden school next door.

Alice: You didn't have a bathroom.

Beryl: No, no and we had a pot belly stove in the middle of the floor. Because it was...

Alice: It's hard to believe because people say well what generation did you grow up in.

Pat: It was not so much the generation but the location.

Meter: 273

Beryl: Well, I did drawings for houses and when I was in 6th grade I missed a lot of the English classes but I for some strange reason did well in English anyhow so I, and I had in the back room where there was no heat we had the cloak room and it had a big table with this brown paper out and I did big houses then they put them up around and that was cold!! It was cold back there.

Alice: And if you got thirsty we only had a certain time to go out there and they had the pump outside and you had your own little cup to drink out of.

Pat: Do you...

Beryl: And we walked to school quite a distance.

Pat: Did you feel that your high school education was not a good I mean what was your education like there. Was it complete? Or....

Alice: Well, I think we missed a lot. Definitely yes.

Pat: Because they really didn't, they pretty much only cover the academics couldn't they? They, like in Millville you could actually then start concentrating on vocational because they had secretarial courses, and agricultural courses and different things like that. Home Ec courses that you could then you know translate into some kind of employment.

Beryl: General Course too.

Pat: Yes,

Beryl: You could take a General Course.

Pat: What did it feel like for you coming from Port Norris as a freshman and then hitting Millville High School.

Beryl: We kind of clung together for a while. Really, you know we were our own little, but actually I can't say that we were behind. I think of Ruth Ann and she was top of her the class and Miss Jule Atkinson was and Carol Johnson, I forget her name now, they were both top students. Because I thought it was very strange and I think about it now

how strange because I think Carol could have been valedictorian of the class and she was a secretarial never went onto school where as like Sheila and I went onto school and I always thought but maybe I interpreted it wrong I always thought that all that was for to help the college prep student go on.

Alice: Well we missed a lot socially too. We had no prom, nothing like that you know and a lot

Beryl: Well the school had no entertainment.

Alice: We couldn't dance anyhow, you know we were Baptist we weren't supposed to dance. (laughter)

Pat: I know.

Alice: So I feel we missed out a lot there.

Beryl: Well you know what I found, it might sound kind of weird, I was kind of surprised that people were catholic and they weren't Italian. When you lived in Port Norris they Italians were the Catholics and rest of us were the different churches. I never knew that other people were catholic beside Italians.

Pat: The, when I speak about doing these oral histories and all the wonderful things that I am learning of that area of the Delaware Bay, you know a lot of people have such misconceptions of what down below was. And its been a thrill for me to meet and find out that your life wasn't that much different than mine up in Millville. And you had just as many privileges and things as I did and you know were able to go to the movies and things like that. But it was very interesting, that wasn't concept you know like when you lived up in Millville and Vineland and Bridgeton area that down below you know much less privileged and but what I am discovering is that for instance Port Norris you know there were a lot of wealthy people and now you had a movie theater in there. Was the movie theater there when you girls were growing up?

Alice: I don't think it was there when I was there.

Beryl: It was fine until civil rights came in and kind of ruined things for us.

Pat: In what way do you mean that?

Beryl: Well, I can remember walking down the street and a car load of blacks coming along and whistling and hollering and making it known that we can do that now. So, you couldn't walk after dark like you used to. And it got so that they took over the theater so that we just couldn't go to the movies anymore. They used to be it got so that got to be kind of wild fight and it would run through town. I can specifically somebody taking something or other and banging somebody's windshield out. It wasn't against the white people but it was their carryings on that made it difficult for us to do what we used to do.

Pat: Now did most of the African American community live in Shell Pile or was there some integration of residences in Port Norris?

Beryl: There were some nice black people, good black people.

Alice: No problems.

Beryl: No problems, if they were selling eggs and coming to the door they would tell you who they were. Gosh I can remember when I first went to Port Norris when I was in first/second grade there. My best friend was Lizzy Smith and we used to share our lolly pop going back and forth to school. And I went up to her house and played, she lived on up the street, she had younger brothers and sisters. A younger, and they were twins and I thought that was fascinating.

Pat: What did her parents do for a living?

Beryl: I don't know, I really don't know. Just remember Lizzy Smith. And Neeley Beecham and I think Neeley and Noah are still down there.

Alice: Yes, well Hattie was in my class.

Beryl: Hattie

Pat: Did you know any of the McBride's?

Beryl: No the only McBride's I know are from Franklinville. Are they black?

Pat: Yes they were.

Beryl: I'll tell you I ran into them not too long ago a one of our, Amos somebody, I think he still lives in Port Norris. But you can tell, they're different they're you know. The transients coming into work were night and day.

Pat: And that transient community was mostly located in Shell Pile wasn't it?

Beryl: Except we weren't allowed to call that Shell Pile. That was South Port Norris!

Alice: Well we called it Shell Pile when I was growing up.

Beryl: Yes, then they went through some kind of transmission and we weren't allowed to call it Shell Pile... and now there is Shell Pile again.

Pat: Well it accept there is like nothing there now. Shell Pile doesn't you know, exist. But it is referred to.

Beryl: As Shell Pile

Pat: yes

Beryl: Well didn't have people

Alice: And that is what it is, a shell pile!

Pat: That is where the shucking houses were and

Beryl: I find it rather fascinating, in fact I took some pictures of it. We down through there one day and there is one section going from shell pile into Bivalve on the right hand side of course they have that trail where they were cutting hay, salt hay. They have a salt hay operation there on that corner. And it doesn't look like very much to have all that equipment there for that...

Pat: Little piece of land.

Beryl: Yes,

Pat: I know, I came down...

Beryl: I hope they keep it.

Pat: I came down a week later and they had the bales, they had baled them but they were still all on the ground as they rolled off the baleing machine and I said, oh my camera where is my camera it is home. So next week when I came down of course everything was cleaned up and gone. So I am just hoping next year, now I know the timeframe that next year I'll get down to photograph the operation.

Beryl: I thought that was really great.

Pat: Yes, because I think he is the only one left.

Beryl: It's got to be because they have taken the meadows from everyplace else. I read in the paper where they had some kind of a talk somewhere on the marshes and golly it really sounded interesting but I had some place else to go that night and I thought about it so I don't know if they were trying to do something with some of the marshland?

Alice: Well they did sell a lot of it to that place in the Salem area.

Beryl: Oh the PSE&G took it over. But I don't know really if there is that much left that they are discussing the marsh lands.

Pat: I think mostly for Eco-tourism. Meaning that there is no industry down here so to bring money into the area because the area is so beautiful that they want to bring more tourist in you know just to hike and photograph so that particular kind of thing is called Eco-tourism. And I was reading where they were thinking about a new kind of tourism trail that is coming from Salem but only going into the Mauricetown area and not coming down into Bay Shore. Which is you know Bay Shore is where we really need some money.

Beryl: It's unfortunate.

Pat: Yes it really is.

Beryl: There's a lot more there that they could do something with.

Alice: Would make a good tourist area.

Pat: And some of those houses could be made into such beautiful B&B's. But I think we are a few years away from it but it is amazing my very good friend was living in Virginia and worked in Virginia for years and years and when they got ready to retire they came up into the Bayshore to look for a place to retire and they bought a home in Port Norris. And they love it and they love being there and they love the community and you know are very happy.

Meter: 461

Beryl: I heard a funny story about somebody bought a house in Port Norris and then tried to sue the realtor and everything else because they weren't told about the mosquitoes. (laughter).

Alice: That is a downer!

Pat: Well the mosquitoes and the greenheads. I was telling Meghan, I said, I love Bay Days but you know can we do Bay Days in September. June with all the greenheads it's a little challenging. (laughter)

Pat: Well ladies do you have any other stories you would like to share with me about your growing up or some people that you knew. When you gals were growing though, did you see any of what was left of the oyster industry? I mean did you have friends that parents were still involved in the oyster industry? And still working the boats and things like that?

Beryl: Just the Phillips. Nita Phillips, I think they still did. Clyde's sister.

Pat: Yes, I know Clyde.

Alice: Well I think it was still going on when I left.

Beryl: yes

Alice: Cause I don't think they had that parasite or whatever it was.

Beryl: Oh the parasite, I do remember. I typed in 1949, I think. Nita and I both worked for her father and we were typing letters. We sat and typed letters all summer sent them all over the country, selling oysters. And that was after I had graduated from high school, that was I'm pretty sure it was that summer because at that point Norman Jefferies (sp) come to me and asked me if I would come and work for them up in Greenwich.

Alice: Yes, yes, he asked me to.

Beryl: Instead of going to school and, which I didn't. But so there was still oystering going on then and we were right there, they were working at it.

Alice: Yes, cause Robbins were to.

Pat: Did either of you know the any of the Cobbs or the Reeves?

Meter: 506

Alice: Which Cobb?

Pat: Any of the Cobbs.

Alice: Well yes, I know Helen and Florence. Florence was my teacher and Helen lived down the street from me.

Pat: Now were they related to the Cobb that was the sail maker?

Alice: That I would have no idea.

Beryl: Who was the sail maker? Oh I know Sam Cobb that had the little corner store.

Alice: Yes, that's the Cobb you know. I don't know what her parents did.

Beryl: Jimmy was her brother.

Alice: Yes, Jimmy was blind.

Beryl: Yes, Cobb, there was a Cobb that married Newcomb, Danny Newcomb. Because my friend Betty here, oh man to think of the people that married and divorced can't keep them all straight. Her husband's mother was a Cobb and she married a boat cook, Mixner (sp?) and every time she died not too long ago at the age of 92, and of course her son has since died and every time she came up north, cause she was living in Florida, she went to take a ride to Port Norris so she could see the house that she lived in. And I could never quite figure it out and I had asked Myrtle about that. Evidently, her, there was a mix up in the family and her father didn't live a glorious life. So she stayed with her sister and it was her sister married to Danny Newcomb. And that is the house that is across the street from McLain's. And I think Jimmy lives there now. And I could never figure it out for the longest while why she wanted to go see, cause that is the house that Betty had explained to me why she wanted to see that house, she lived there for a while. I remember Danny Cobb which would have been her brother and I can see his wife had such pretty hair. I can remember them visiting there and cause I used to go there all the time with Ruthann and Danny Cobb just died recently and I guess she in the same home where he was.

Alice: I never heard of these people.

Beryl: Well, I knew through Ruthann, there was a problem when he died cause they wouldn't let her, it was one of the these homes where they keep husband and wives separate and it caused some distress and Betty is saying I'm surprised you didn't know about that and tell me. Because she kind of keeps, there is, her husband still has brother that's living there and I guess he kind of keeps track of everything.

Pat: One thing a wanted to touch base with you. Your father was German, did he bring any German traditions that you know he shared with you. You know according to, did he ask his wife to make certain kind of food or?

Beryl: The only thing he used to make. Remember daddy's spatzels?

Alice: Yes,

Beryl: He fried bread and that's the only thing we would talk about,

Pat: Spatzels?

Beryl: Cause I don't Craig (sp) just got a German cookbook from someplace and was telling us how they made their meatballs and _____ wouldn't eat them cause they boil them in water because they turn grey. (laughter) And everyone's talking about of course _____ never liked daddy's spatzels. They are just little balls of dough, egg and flour.

Pat: So were there any other?

Beryl: That's the only I can remember.

Pat: What do you remember what nationality your mother was?

Beryl: I think she was a little bit of everything. English....

Pat: What kind of family traditions you know, did you have? That you kind of did during the holidays and Special food you had on certain holidays?

Alice: Oh I don't know but on every Sunday we had fancy sit down dinner.

Beryl: And you know what we had at night? Was a salad with fruit jell cause you know you had a light meal. Fruit Jell-O, salad and what we called Sunday night "hot bread" that had the cinnamon sugar on top.

Pat: Oh yes, yes.

Beryl: For some strange reason, I do remember that.

Alice: I don't remember having anything like that, the bread.

Beryl: It's like a cake.

Alice: It's probably cause I couldn't eat all that stuff and you guys did. I mean nobody they are all skinny. And everything I ate turned to fat! (laughter) And they would eat all kinds of big dishes of ice cream and everything.

Beryl: Well it don't make me fat! (laughter) I used to have a voracious appetite but I don't have it anymore.

Pat: I wish I didn't.

Alice: Well daddy said I always took after his mother more like the Germans.

Beryl: Sauerkraut.

Alice: Well the man that had the sauerkraut factory in Philly was a friend.

Pat: Well my dear ladies, I thank you so very much. This has been wonderful We have gotten some great information and I thank you so very much for sharing and I'll make sure that you get your copies.

Beryl: Oh probably think of many things.

Alice: It was very interesting.

Pat: Isn't it fun sitting down? It is amazing what you remember when you think you don't remember.

Beryl: When I was with Ruthann this past summer we had kind of discussed it and she thinks that we got, and I agree with her, we had a advantage to growing up in Port Norris cause there was a different closeness. And I just threw all my things out but when I was in the hospital in Trenton, I don't even remember some of the names, but you can't imagine all the cards, I think everybody in Port Norris sent me a card. I mean I had a whole book full of them. I think there is closeness in the community that we don't' ...

Pat: There is no such thing as a small town anymore.

Beryl: No, we were discussing with the catholic church changes around here and we figure that beings that they have taken away the neighborhood church and all like this that the people that are in charge have never lived in a small town and to be wiping them out the way they are. So we figured it was an advantage.

Pat: Yes, good, well thank you very much.

Beryl: Did you?

Alice: Well yes and no. Like I mean we did miss a lot but we probably did pick up a lot of things that other people never had. Understanding one another, you know.

END OF SIDE B – METER: 685