

Patricia Pinto da Silva: All right. Today is Saturday, October 21st. It is around 3:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m.?

Lela Anderson: Yes, it is 3:30 p.m.

PPDS: Okay. [laughter] Will you just say your full name so we have it?

LA: Lela Anderson.

PPDS: We are on Cranberry Point Road in Corea in Gouldsboro, Maine.

LA: Yes. Right.

PPDS: So, you were saying that you've worked at this cannery, and then you also worked at another cannery.

LA: I worked at another cannery when I was in high school.

PPDS: Where was that?

LA: At South Gouldsboro.

PPDS: South Goldsboro?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Where is that cannery now?

LA: Gone. Dissolved.

PPDS: Dissolved?

LA: Dissolved years ago.

PPDS: Was it different than the one that you are working at now?

LA: Well, yes. It was smaller and we did mackerel there plus sardines.

PPDS: You did mackerel too?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: How was the work environment different?

LA: Well, no. It was only about the same. They did the processing, the fishes thing, steam boxes.

PPDS: They used sauces and...

LA: Yes and salt the fish down. That's the one thing today is wrong with the fish. They don't put no salt on them.

PPDS: Oh. So, the sauces have salt in them?

LA: I don't know. The salt, though, keeps the fish firm.

PPDS: The salt is what keeps the fish firm?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, were you born here?

LA: No, I was born in Sullivan.

PPDS: How far is Sullivan from here?

LA: Not too many miles. You come through it when you –

PPDS: Did I come through it –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: – on the coastal road?

LA: This side of Hancock.

PPDS: This side of Hancock?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, coming from the north?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Did you have brothers and sisters?

LA: Eight.

PPDS: Eight?

LA: Seven besides myself.

PPDS: Seven besides yourself?

LA: A twin sister. My mother used to work in a sardine plant too. I worked at Stinson.

PPDS: That is interesting. Arlene's mother worked at a sardine plant as well. Is that common that women worked in the...

LA: Well, yes and no. I had sisters that had worked there, but they didn't stay employed long. They just went on to something else. They moved away.

PPDS: Were your mother and your father together?

LA: Yes, at that time.

PPDS: Then they split up?

LA: Yes, and they separated.

PPDS: Did that have anything to do with why your mother worked at the cannery?

LA: No. No, she just worked there. Then she went on to work in a woolen-mill at [inaudible] Falls. She got married again and moved on.

PPDS: She got married again. But the eight kids were with –

LA: Yes. We were pretty well grown up.

PPDS: – all with the first dad?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, when you worked at the cannery, did you work there at the same time as your mom did?

LA: Yes. My mother worked there some. Not too long.

PPDS: But there was an overlap –

LA: She worked more or less before I ever got out of high school or anything. She worked when I was in the lower grades when we were younger. Then they separated before I got out of high school. We were old enough to take care of ourselves then.

PPDS: So, you went to high school in Sullivan.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: How did you get to school? Did you live near a school?

LA: School bus.

PPDS: There was a school bus?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Your brothers and sisters moved away?

LA: Yes, they all did except me for a time. My oldest sister traveled a lot. Her husband was in the service, so she traveled a lot. But the other ones moved to Connecticut. I had a brother that moved to Preston also. They eventually came back this way in the later years.

PPDS: Sort of retirement age?

LA: Yes, more or less. My mother came back this way. So, they followed back.

PPDS: She had left?

LA: She had left Connecticut and came back this way.

PPDS: So, she moved down there with her second husband?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: One of your siblings – or one or two of your siblings followed them down there?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: But do you think everybody comes back to Maine?

LA: Well, more or less. I could (do too?).

PPDS: It is a nice place to come home too.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: You said that your mom worked at the cannery, and then you worked at the cannery. Was it mainly women that worked at that first cannery that you worked at?

LA: You mean just packing? There was men and women both working there, but women packing.

PPDS: Women packing –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: – and men doing other types of jobs.

LA: There was Stinson when I first started. There were a couple of guys that packed.

PPDS: Why do you think it is mainly women that pack?

LA: I don't know. I guess they just didn't want to pack or something. Now, they do.

PPDS: The men?

LA: We have men over there that pack.

PPDS: So, now, you are seeing more men?

LA: Yes. When they climb, they pack, they work.

PPDS: Have your jobs within the Stinson Cannery, has that changed over time?

LA: Oh, tremendous.

PPDS: How so?

LA: It's changed every way. I mean, just the way they process fish now and the way they get here and the way we do them. I mean, it's really changed. I started with scissors and we used to snip fish. We used to do the real tiny fish, which we don't do no more. Now, we've gone into this.

PPDS: The larger fish?

LA: Yes, the larger fish. We used to put the great big fish into oval cans.

PPDS: Oh, into oval cans.

LA: Big oval ones.

PPDS: Oh, big oval ones?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: That is at Stinson you used to do that?

LA: Yes. Oh, yes.

PPDS: How many fish would go into a –

LA: Four.

PPDS: Four big fish would go into one large can?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Any sauces then or was that sauced?

LA: They might have put some in mustard then because later in the years, they'd come down to the sauces and stuff.

PPDS: Oh, that has sort of been there.

LA: That's kind of built because mustard has always been an oil. It's always been there.

PPDS: How else has it changed? You were saying that the whole process is different, from the

way they get the fish, from the way they...

LA: Well, they truck them, which they only came by boat. They salted them down in the boats, which they don't do no more.

PPDS: They came to the cannery salted?

LA: Yes. Oh, yes. You would see bags and bags of salt stacked on the side of the boats.

PPDS: Where would the salt come from?

LA: From big salt companies. Like they bring salt in for salt brine over here.

PPDS: But there was no salt production areas around here?

LA: No, not that I know of.

PPDS: So, now, they truck it up. Do you know where it is trucked from?

LA: The salt?

PPDS: The fish.

LA: Oh, yes. They come from Rhode Island, Connecticut, I believe, New Jersey, and (Rockland ?) and come from Canada. So, they come from quite a few places, probably more that I don't –

PPDS: Do people who work for the cannery also have other types of jobs or if you work for the cannery, really, that is...

LA: I think that'd be plenty.

PPDS: [laughter] That is a lot of work.

LA: I mean, when I was younger, at night, I'd babysit for somebody that was going out. But my main job – I had worked in a blueberry plant too in Franklin.

PPDS: Is that common? Is that a common type of job that people might have had?

LA: Oh, yes, but now, they're gone. All they have is the down at Cherryfield, I believe. They may still have one up in Ellsworth. I don't know.

PPDS: What other types of jobs were around when you were younger?

LA: Working in restaurants and like that.

PPDS: Any other agricultural stuff other than blueberries?

LA: The only thing I ever know was blueberry plants and the fish (fair truck?) because that's

where most of the people were employed. Either one or the other.

PPDS: Blueberries or fish. What about fishing?

LA: Lobstering you mean?

PPDS: Sure. Lobstering or...

LA: Oh, they had women at lobsters too.

PPDS: Yes?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Then too, or just now?

LA: No, they didn't years back, but they do now.

PPDS: Why did they not years back?

LA: I don't know really. They just never got into it.

PPDS: So, while the men were lobstering, what were the women doing? They were working at the canneries or they were –

LA: No. These women that worked lobster fishes now, they never worked in – I don't think they worked in the sardine plant. No. They just moved here.

PPDS: Oh, okay. They are not from here. Do you have a name for people who are from here? Like some way of calling someone who is local, like a nickname?

LA: No, I don't really think so.

PPDS: No. I am trying to think if we have something like – I do not know, like a Cape Codder or something like that.

LA: Yes. My son's a fisherman out here.

PPDS: Lobsterman?

LA: Yes. He went to college. He's a teacher, but he didn't care for teaching, and he wasn't well in it. He said to his dad, "I'd like try my luck at fishing." Dad said, "If that's what you want to do, try it." We didn't know if he'd be able to make it or not. He's been into it ever since.

PPDS: His dad was your husband?

LA: Yes, he's the one.

PPDS: Is he alive?

LA: No. He's passed. His dad was Norwegian. He came from Norway.

PPDS: Oh, that is so interesting.

LA: The only one left in the family is a sister-in-law.

PPDS: They came from Norway. Did they –

LA: The dad did.

PPDS: The dad did?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: He came on his own –

LA: He married over here.

PPDS: – and married over here?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: What did he come here for?

LA: He stowed away on freighter and came over. He wanted to come to a little village of some kind. Then he hit this one and he said this was the one that he wanted to be in. So, he built him a home and raised his family and stayed here.

PPDS: Was that on Cranberry Point also?

LA: No. Up the street, going over around to the post office, the other road – Island Road.

PPDS: So, very close by in the big scheme of...

LA: Yes. That's where she lives, up that way.

PPDS: Wow. So, your sister-in-law does live nearby?

LA: Yes. She's eighty-nine.

PPDS: Eighty-nine.

LA: She's lived to be the oldest.

PPDS: You said that you have two sons that –

LA: No. I have a son and I have a daughter. My daughter works in the school system.

PPDS: In the school system. So, both of them trained to work in the school system.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: You said your son went to college to be a teacher.

LA: He was a teacher.

PPDS: Yes, but then decided to come back here and –

LA: He taught different places. Just he didn't go into it really. He got into lobster fishing before he got into it full time. He just didn't care about teaching after.

PPDS: Did he work with your husband? Was he a sternman for your husband?

LA: No, he had his own boat. Dad helped him get his own boat. He's had his own and he's just kept going up to newer ones. He just got another new one now.

PPDS: He traded in his old one for a new one?

LA: He sold them.

PPDS: So, he is doing pretty well?

LA: Yes, pretty good. He just married a Thai girl.

PPDS: He just married a Thai girl?

LA: From Thailand.

PPDS: Really?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Where did he meet a Thai girl around here?

LA: He went over there on a vacation three years ago.

PPDS: [laughter]

LA: She's nice. Very nice.

PPDS: That is incredible. That is unusual. Does not happen every day I bet. She lives here, obviously?

LA: Oh, yes. She likes it. She hasn't become a citizen yet because she hasn't been over here since May.

PPDS: So, they are applying for her citizenship now?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: They were married here?

LA: They had to be married both places. They were married over in Thailand first and then they had to legally be married here.

PPDS: Wow. I just married a Belgian. So, we are applying for citizenship for him.

LA: Oh, great.

PPDS: Yes. I hope it happens. It is kind of an expensive process.

LA: Oh, yes. She's going home in December and then he's going to go on later and come back with her. She's going to visit her family.

PPDS: Yes. Well, that also makes it expensive being married to someone whose family is so far away because they want to see their family too.

LA: Yes, and you have to help them to send them back some support too. That's the agreement.

PPDS: Is that right? Yes, because her –

LA: They take care of their families. As each one leaves, they send back to help them, which he says he doesn't mind because he makes good –

PPDS: The money that you send from here is –

LA: Doesn't amount to much. Not compared to what we –

PPDS: Right. It goes so far there that you really feel like –

LA: Yes, that's it.

PPDS: – you are helping a lot.

LA: Yes. My grandson has a girlfriend. They live in California. Her parents are from Pennsylvania. He said her brother just married a girl from Ecuador. They have to go back there and they're going to get married again over in Ecuador. They got married here first.

PPDS: Yes. We got married here first. I am from Portugal. So, we went to Portugal afterwards and then to Belgium. We are married in a bunch of different places. [laughter]

PPDS: We are all done getting married. [laughter]

LA: Oh. I think it's nice. No, she's real nice. She's a tiny little thing, but she's nice.

PPDS: How is her English?

LA: She's doing real good. She's picking up –

PPDS: That is great. That is really good.

LA: – real good.

PPDS: I always think of Maine as a place where people – I mean, how do people interact or feel about her? Does she feel different or are people –

LA: No. They treat her just like she does many.

PPDS: Oh, that is nice.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: That is very nice. Is that because you have a tight community here and they respect the decision that your –

LA: Respect, yes.

PPDS: – son made? That is great. So, when you think of where your community is, would you say it is sort of as far as you can walk in any direction or is it also Gouldsboro and –

LA: Well, this is considered part of Gouldsboro. But this is a little island by itself. This used to be called Indian –

PPDS: Indian?

LA: Indian – no, it wasn't called – what did that my sister-in-law say we used to call – they had another name for it. They renamed it Corea.

PPDS: Why is it called Corea?

LA: Somebody came up with that idea. With a C.

PPDS: Yes, with a C. Wondering if it has anything to do with people being in the service here and going there.

LA: Well, you see, there wasn't many people who lived here first. The first people that settled here lived way down the end of the Point here. They were Indians.

PPDS: Are there a lot of people here with Indian descent?

LA: No. No. Then the people came in. There was a few people who lived there and more or less married into the relatives, I'd say. I don't know.

PPDS: Other Norwegians or just your father-in-law?

LA: No. My father-in-law was the only young Norwegian. He stowed away as a young fellow. Came over a freighter.

PPDS: Your family is pretty international?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: It is getting more and more so.

LA: My nationality is Indian.

PPDS: It is? So, both your parents were Indian?

LA: My father.

PPDS: Your father?

LA: On my father's side.

PPDS: What was his last name?

LA: West.

PPDS: West. Is that like Al West? Similar for any relation?

LA: No.

PPDS: No. What did your father do?

LA: He was a woodsman.

PPDS: A woodsman?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Is that a –

LA: Cut down pulpwood and stuff like that.

PPDS: Pulpwood was used for the paper industry?

LA: Yes, and stuff.

PPDS: Was there a factory that was nearby?

LA: Oh, yes, there was. They'd bring freight cars into the railroad track. We lived near a railroad track and they'd load them with wood to be shipped out.

PPDS: Oh. So, that is what the railroad track was used for? For the paper industry?

LA: Yes. Oh, yes.

PPDS: Where did it go to?

LA: They just eliminated it. The track goes to Calais. They were hoping someday to bring some of it back, but they haven't. I don't think they will.

PPDS: But it used to go to Calais, which is a port where it would go to someplace else to be shipped?

LA: Yes, go different...

PPDS: Different places?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, I am trying to piece together what kind of possible jobs people might have around here over the last –

LA: Yes, and because some of us, we raked blueberries as kids.

PPDS: You raked blueberries?

LA: As kids, we raked blueberries.

PPDS: Can people still do that?

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: Yes?

LA: Yes. A lot of them is done with a machine now. If they have a good field with no rocks and things, they can do them with a machine because they can't get the help. They bring in the Mexicans and the African-Americans and they'd rake them because, believe me, they can rake fast.

PPDS: They can rake fast.

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: They are paid by the hour or by the day or by the bushel?

LA: No, they're paid by the bushel.

PPDS: By the bushel?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, that makes them rake fast too, right?

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: How long have people from other areas been coming to do that kind of work?

LA: For a long time. A long time.

PPDS: But do they stay all year or is it...

LA: No, because still there's still local people that rake. But they come in the bus. They have places on some of the blueberry grounds that they stay. Then they leave at the end of the season and they go on to like picking apples and other things that needs to be done.

PPDS: What about in the cannery? There are Mexicans or...

LA: Oh, yes. We have Mexicans in the cannery.

PPDS: Has that been for a long time.

LA: No. No. That's only been within the past years too. No. They couldn't get the help, I guess.

PPDS: So, there has been Mexicans and other folks coming in to harvest other things for a long time.

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: So, people are kind of used to seeing outsiders around from time to time.

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: But they are not normally year rounders?

LA: No.

PPDS: They do not stick around.

LA: No. They just come in these little, small towns to help do stuff that needs to be done.

PPDS: Because locally, there are not enough people to do the jobs or the people do not want to do them?

LA: Well, we moved on to other things. A lot of the people from here, like my brother, he went to Preston to pick up potatoes. He lived up there for years. He run machinery and stuff picking up potatoes. But I don't think anybody goes there now and does that. They used to.

PPDS: Lobstering, was that always a full-time profession for...

LA: Yes, they used to do it the year round, winter and summer. But now, there's very few that does it winters. There's maybe three or four that fishes all winter. They set back out in the spring.

PPDS: Is that just because they do not really need to do it all year long?

LA: No. They do good.

PPDS: They do good. So, they can take the colder months off. That sounds good. I can see why people would want to do that, work half the year or something. What do they do the other half of the year?

LA: They just get all their new gear ready and work on that and go do all the things they want to do, which don't last too long. Then they're back into getting stuff ready for spring. Then they set out in March or whenever the weather turns good. My son will go for the month of February and come back with her and then he'll get ready to set out.

PPDS: So, he will go to Thailand for the month of February –

LA: Yes. He'll go to Thailand.

PPDS: – and then come back.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: When the men were lobster fishing earlier or even now, what were the women doing?

LA: Just home.

PPDS: A lot of homemakers?

LA: Just home. Years ago, because there were people that worked in the sardine plant.

PPDS: So, sometimes, you would have women who worked in the sardine plant whose husbands worked as lobstermen?

LA: Yes, most of them.

PPDS: But now, would you say that there are a lot of women who work in the sardine plant whose husbands lobster fishing? Is there still that's left?

LA: Oh, yes. I'd say they're still there. They must be.

PPDS: Is there a big range between people who are doing really well in lobstering and people who are not doing that well?

LA: Oh, yes. You can tell if they're doing good. They'll come out with new boats or something.

They have just bought everything they want. My son just had another new boat built and his boat was only about seven years old, I guess. He named it after her.

PPDS: Oh, that is nice.

LA: *Thai Babe*. He named it *Thai Babe*.

PPDS: Is that –

LA: I don't know what her Thai name is. Her name they call her by is (Nat?).

PPDS: Nat?

LA: Yes, I think it's Nat. [laughter] That name is different.

PPDS: Yes, it is different.

LA: They pick out different names.

PPDS: Yes, they do. When you were younger and you lived nearby, what did people do for fun?

LA: Well, we had basketball games and dances and we had 4-H'ers and Girl Scouts.

PPDS: So, a lot of it through your high school?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Through school?

LA: Yes. Oh, yes.

PPDS: That sounds pretty vibrant. With so many brothers and sisters, I am sure that there was always a lot of –

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: – people in your house?

LA: Oh, yes, a lot.

PPDS: It was one of those houses that people kind of stopped by and –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: – there is always something going on.

LA: Everybody always did.

PPDS: Did your mom cook?

LA: Oh, yes. Yes. My mom was good cook. She taught us all how to cook. We did a lot of different things really. We used to even go in the woods with my father because we ice fished and we had skating paddies and went skating.

PPDS: What kind of fish do you catch ice fishing?

LA: In the winter?

PPDS: Yes.

LA: You'd catch different kind of fish.

PPDS: You said you would go into the woods, ice fishing, and the other thing you said was – you said another thing after that. "So, we used to go ice fishing with my father and we also," forgot what you said.

LA: Worked in the woods. Went in the woods with him.

PPDS: What kind of work was that?

LA: Help him pile the pulp wood.

PPDS: Okay. What is pulpwood? Is it soft?

LA: It's a wood that they load into the freight cars to go to the paper mills.

PPDS: That would be on a property that you drive to get to it?

LA: Oh, yes. They'd truck the logs – horse and sleds in the wintertime, they brought it out with. Horse and sleds.

PPDS: Because cars could not get in there?

LA: No. No way they could get in there. We'd hop aboard the sleigh and away we go.

PPDS: Tell me a little bit about your work at the cannery when you started working there and –

LA: See, I graduated in [19]51, but I worked for a lady that worked up in the office. I lived with her a couple years. I had my daughter and I think my daughter was born in [19]55 and I went to work in [19]56.

PPDS: What year were you born?

LA: [19]31.

PPDS: [19]31.

LA: My twin sister and I.

PPDS: Is she around?

LA: Yes, she is. Lives up in Sullivan.

PPDS: Oh, she is nearby?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, you have a lot of family nearby especially now that people have come back to town.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Would you consider where you live a fishing community?

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: Definitely.

LA: Definitely.

PPDS: What do you think are some of the things that would characterize a fishing community? You know that where you live is a fishing community, but what do you think makes a place a fishing community?

LA: I think everybody talking to everybody and communicating with everybody and all of the ones that does the – these fishermen, they have CBs now, which they didn't have years ago – radios on their boats. I could even call them from home.

PPDS: Oh, right.

LA: Oh, yes. If you want them to come home or something, just get on the CB or the (HIVF?), whatever they have and just talk to them.

PPDS: Can everybody hear your conversation?

LA: Oh, sure.

PPDS: Yes? [laughter]

LA: Everybody who's got a radio in the home can hear it. Oh, yes.

PPDS: Is it something you turn on from time to time just to hear what is going on on the water?

LA: Yes. Put on the channel. Yes.

PPDS: So, that community is not just here on land.

LA: Oh, no.

PPDS: It's also going on when people –

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: – are offshore.

LA: Everybody knows what everybody's doing. In a little community like this, everybody knows what everybody's doing.

PPDS: [laughter]

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

LA: Oh, it's a good thing because everybody helps everybody. This is a nice little village. This is about one of the nicest little villages there is. We don't have anyone that causes any problems. Most little towns, you'll have problem people. You know as well as I do. But this is one little town that we don't have no problems with anybody. We don't have no kids that's bad. Well, most of them's gone.

PPDS: Wow. Most of them are gone.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Why are there no kids in –

LA: All grown up.

PPDS: They are all grown up.

LA: We have two little ones down here that she's got a little Vietnamese boy they adopted and now, what do they have? Romanian.

PPDS: Oh, they adopted two international children.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: This is becoming a very international village.

LA: Oh, we get a lot of these young fishermen that's going into business. Their wife is going to have babies. So, there'll be more.

PPDS: So, there is sort of a layer of youngsters that still have not had kids –

LA: No, that's right.

PPDS: – that live around here.

LA: There's fishermen now. Because the fisherman takes a sternman now. They didn't used to. Now, they take a sternman. The sternman learns all the ropes, then he ends up with a boat, and he's fishing. Then he takes a sternman. Then along comes along another one, and he's a fisherman. See, that's how this keeps (happening?).

PPDS: Keeps going. Is there enough places for everyone to live?

LA: Oh, there's some that don't live in the village because some live in Prospect. The sternmen, they come from out of town. My son's sternman comes from out of town.

PPDS: So, the fact that they take on a sternman, is that a sign of good times? The fact that they are not having –

LA: Yes, and it helps them. I'd rather have somebody out on the boat with him than alone.

PPDS: So, it is good for safety.

LA: It's good for safety and they also make a good living.

PPDS: But they did not do it so much before, you were saying.

LA: No.

PPDS: Why was that?

LA: I don't know. I guess they had different boats and stuff. So, I guess they just went by themselves. Now, it's bigger and better boat every year.

PPDS: Every year. Trucks?

LA: And trucks and cars.

PPDS: Do people actually have the money to pay for it or do you think that a lot of it is on loans?

LA: Oh, if that fishing ones, they got it.

PPDS: They have got it?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Because I have heard before that when you have so much money coming in, it is easy to get loans as well to make even [inaudible].

LA: Oh, yes, they do. They get loans for that. Like my son, he built his new boat and he got a

loan from the bank. But then he sold his other one – because it wasn't that old – to a kid that lost his in a fire. So, he just paid off his new boat. So, he doesn't owe nothing on his new boat. He has a new home over here. That's his home over here on the Corea Road. The only one that's on it on the left-hand side coming in. It says, "Anderson" over the road on both –

PPDS: I will look when I am on my way out. You cannot see it from here, right?

LA: No. It's going way over. You've got to go past the cemetery and everything.

PPDS: Okay.

LA: Then he's got a cabin up to the pond.

PPDS: So, it is good times for lobstermen. Before, did lobstermen lobster full-time or was there other stuff that they worked on?

LA: To my knowledge, most of them in the village have fished. Years and years ago, I know my husband's father fished after he came here.

PPDS: What did they fish for?

LA: Lobsters. Then they used to fish for cod and stuff, which they don't do now because there's no cod.

PPDS: Because there is no cod.

LA: Yes. Over fished. Over fished. But lobster will never be able to finish. They tried to say it is. It isn't. Every year, they do more.

PPDS: So, things are getting better and better.

LA: They don't like to say that. They're making it harder and harder for the fishermen every year. They're coming up with these new laws and all this regulation. Yes.

PPDS: To keep new fishermen from coming in?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: To make it harder?

LA: Someone can't just come right in and go fishing now, a young fellow. He's got doing his –

PPDS: It is like an apprenticeship program.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Yes, I have heard that too.

LA: Yes. T

PPDS: But it takes a long, long time.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: They make it very hard.

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: Is that the case also if you are the son of a...

LA: No. It never was that way. My son just applied for his license. But that's the way it is now. It wasn't then, no, because there was very few fishermen.

PPDS: Right. So, there was no more or less...

LA: Now, there's more. They used to be able to put as many traps as they wished, but they can't do that now. They cut down to eight hundred a piece.

PPDS: Did they used to have more than eight hundred? It seems like so many.

LA: Well, you know how it goes.

PPDS: Yes.

LA: There's probably some up there that's not that.

PPDS: Oh, right. So, when you were younger, did people eat herring fresh here? I always ask that because I like herring. [laughter]

LA: I don't. You like them?

PPDS: I do. [laughter] A lot of people do not.

LA: Yes. I've heard people say – and they put them down in jars. They –

PPDS: They pickle them.

LA: They pickle them.

PPDS: Where I am from, they rub them with rock salt whole. If they are really small, I do not even think they scale them. But bigger ones, they scale, rub with rock salt, and put them on the grill outside because inside, they will make your house smell.

LA: Yes, some people do. Yes. I know it. That's like mackerel. Cook them out on the grill.

PPDS: What was the season for mackerel here?

LA: Lord, we have mackerel showing up all year round inside. Little ones and big ones, some of those mackerels are...

PPDS: Okay. But they are not in large quantities.

LA: No.

PPDS: They are mixed in with the other ones.

LA: Yes. They're mixed in with the herring. I don't know if there's anybody that fishes entirely for mackerel or not.

PPDS: Is fish a staple food at people's houses here?

LA: I think so. I think about everybody. Most people had chowders and stuff.

PPDS: That sounds great.

LA: Of course, there's some people that don't like lobsters.

PPDS: Because they are just –

LA: Some of the husbands are fishing members. Their wives don't like lobsters. Now, I got a grandson that don't like lobsters. I got two that love lobsters, but I got one that don't. We just had a wedding last Saturday down the northeast. My oldest grandson just got married. His girlfriend's from Michigan and they've just gone way back to Dallas, Texas.

PPDS: To work in Dallas?

LA: He's an archeologist. He's a professor. He's getting his Ph. He's working on his Ph.

PPDS: Wow. That is pretty amazing. This little town is so connected now to so many different people. Do you feel like that is happening with the other houses too, that their children are –

LA: Yes. All of these houses – as fast as somebody moves out and puts up sale, it's gone to an out of stater.

PPDS: Is that right?

LA: It's gone. That one's sold. That one's sold to an out of stater. This one's sold to an out of stater. That one's an out of stater. That one over there is where my sister-in-law used to own – where that new house is. Then the Rich people – their last name's Rich – they built that.

PPDS: Their last name is Rich?

LA: Yes, and they're rich.

PPDS: [laughter]

LA: But he helps a lot of people in the village. He helps a lot of people. He does good. He just did our Grange Hall over there with a new roof and he put in heat for us. He really helps us.

PPDS: So, he has been contributing to sort of a common community –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: – fund or things that need to be done.

LA: He owns quite a few places in the village. He owns that yellow place right up there, and he owns that. They own that one over there. They own a great big one – no, they sold one on the island.

PPDS: They rent them out or something? What does he do with so many properties?

LA: No, they don't rent them. No.

PPDS: They just leave them empty?

LA: His own family.

PPDS: Oh, okay. He put his family in them.

LA: [inaudible] they come.

PPDS: So, that is a lot of houses that you are saying are now people who are not from here anymore.

LA: That's right.

PPDS: So, that must be changing the way your community works a little bit or –

LA: Yes. But they're all nice. They're all just like we'd always known them.

PPDS: So, they are good neighbors?

LA: They're all good neighbors and they're all there to help you.

PPDS: The ones that left, where did they go? You said that these houses have been coming up for sale. Where were they going?

LA: Well, most of them have passed on and their families have sold and the kids – and things.

PPDS: The folks that are coming in, do they live here year-round?

LA: No.

PPDS: They do not.

LA: Very few of them live year-round.

PPDS: And their kids? Or they obviously do not fish?

LA: No.

PPDS: They do not fish?

LA: No.

PPDS: So, do you think that fifty years from now or forty years from now, that harbor is going to look different than it does now?

LA: Forty, fifty years from now, there'll probably be more boats. I don't see how they can be because the harbor's pretty well filled out.

PPDS: It looked like there were a lot of boats down there.

LA: It's pretty well filled up. If there was a bad storm, I don't know what they'd do. But this is a nice little harbor.

PPDS: It is an absolutely stunning harbor. But if this is owned by people that do not fish here, then the people who fish here, their boats will be here, but they will probably live a little bit farther away.

LA: Well, the younger people – my house, for instance, will go to my son and daughter. But he won't sell it. Well, if he had kids, that'd be their house.

PPDS: Oh, that is great.

LA: See, and that's what a lot of them do. Passes on to...

PPDS: They try to keep it in the family.

LA: But these are older people, but there's none that I know. There have been some that's come in and fished. Then there's some that grew up here and their kids. Now, when they get ready to retire, they're coming back and go fishing.

PPDS: So, in their retirement...

LA: We've got a couple of them that's going too.

PPDS: You think they do that because...

LA: It's something to do.

PPDS: It is something to do?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Not necessarily because they need the money.

LA: Because they're retired. Not for a living, just something to do.

PPDS: To keep them occupied.

LA: Yes, and there is some people that just has a few traps out just for their own need.

PPDS: As almost like a – not like a hobby, but just to –

LA: Gives them something to do.

PPDS: – keep connected to the water.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I was going to ask – I just had it on my mind. Where did it go?

LA: See, I lived up the road first. We moved down here.

PPDS: Did you build this house?

LA: No. This house was ten years old when we purchased it.

PPDS: What year was that?

LA: We bought it in [19]63.

PPDS: So, it was built in the [19]50s.

LA: Yes, [19]51. Then when my husband passed on, I had the opportunities to sell, but I said no.

PPDS: Where would you go? I mean, how much nicer could it be?

LA: No, but it's hard being by yourself living alone. I have my children and they come, but there's times when – yes. I don't drive.

PPDS: Oh, you do not drive. Yes, that makes a big difference.

LA: Makes it hard.

PPDS: How do you get to work?

LA: Well, I go with this girl that goes to work in Trenton. She rides me over in the morning.

Then my sister-in-law comes and picks me up over at the post office in Prospect. But when it comes to winter, somebody bring me home.

PPDS: Right, because it is pretty cold. I bet it is pretty cold.

LA: I used to walk all the time. I used to walk home after work up until my husband passed away. Then my son didn't want me to do it anymore. I mean, he'd come get me, but I liked the walking because I was a lot younger then too.

PPDS: Could you potentially have someone else live here with you?

LA: Oh, yes, I could, but when I retire, I just go follow my sisters. I'll go stay with them when I want to. When I want to come back home, I'll come back home. If I want to go to my daughter's, I'll go. If I want to go to my son's, I'll go. I'm going to help people that need help. That's what my plans are.

PPDS: Any idea of when you're thinking of retiring?

LA: No. But I know it isn't going to be too many years. [laughter]

PPDS: Do you enjoy working at the plant?

LA: I do.

PPDS: You do?

LA: I like being with the people. I like talking to them. I enjoy it.

PPDS: When I was in the plant, I thought, "I wonder if they can talk to each other because it is really noisy."

LA: Oh, yes, we do.

PPDS: Yes?

LA: But my partner left. She worked with me twenty years.

PPDS: When you [say] your partner, do you mean she got another packing line?

LA: Yes, she quit.

PPDS: You always worked with the same person?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I did not know that. I was actually –

LA: They haven't put someone with me yet.

PPDS: You are working on the packing line?

LA: I'm working on the big packing line. I'm working alone. I work –

PPDS: So, on that little screen that I saw that has one to ten teams –

LA: I was number one yesterday.

PPDS: You are number one and you are working alone. Everybody else is working with a team member.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, why have they not paired you with somebody else then?

LA: Well, they're not ready yet to.

PPDS: So, that must be different working –

LA: I hope I don't get a Mexican – a fast one – because I want to do my own speed, but I don't want to go lickety-split.

PPDS: So, how your partner works is important.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: How does it set the pace? Like, if you are working –

LA: Well, I run the belt to what that pattern can keep up with.

PPDS: Your pay is related to it?

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: So, if somebody wants to go faster and you are going slower, –

LA: The more you make.

PPDS: – they are going to get frustrated because they want to make more money?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: And the opposite, if somebody is going slower than you, you might get a little –

LA: Yes. Well, they might not –

PPDS: – (work?) like them.

LA: They might not like it either, you know?

PPDS: Yes.

LA: But my partner and I, we really worked good together.

PPDS: That is why they keep you together for so long. Is that right?

LA: Yes, unless you want to be moved. If you want to be moved with somebody else – I've worked with other people. See, when we did scissors, we worked with someone on the other side of the table.

PPDS: What do you mean by when you did scissors?

LA: We packed here. When they first built this plant after the old one burned, when we packed before in the old one, we used scissors. Fish is here and we pick them up, sniff them, put them in the cans. Put them in the cans.

PPDS: How big were they then?

LA: We did little ones.

PPDS: Like 2.5 inches?

LA: Up to the ovals.

PPDS: Like the size of your finger?

LA: Up to twenty-two in a can.

PPDS: In a little can? Like the cans that they have –

LA: Like we were doing. Two layers. Ten on the bottom, ten on the top or whatever. Ten on the bottom, twelve on the top or however we were doing. Those were pretty fish. When we done those little ones, they were pretty. That's what I liked, was those little, tiny ones coming hot out of the steam boxes. Ah, good.

PPDS: Just out of the soup without any sauce on them. Just out of –

LA: No, just oil.

PPDS: – the steam boxes. Yes. I actually like them just with oil too. Yes.

LA: I don't like all those sauces, hot ones and stuff.

PPDS: I do not either. I like the slightly smoked. Do you like the smoked ones?

LA: I never tried them.

PPDS: Yes? I like them when they are not too smokey, but a little bit smoked though or plain.

LA: They do one over here in the smoked griller.

PPDS: Yes. I have seen them or I have eaten them probably because canned herring –

LA: Of course, they're good for you. Canned sardines are good for you.

PPDS: They are very good for you. Do you eat them?

LA: No. Not really. No.

PPDS: But they are good for you. They are good for your memory and they are good for –

LA: Well, I need that.

PPDS: Yes. Well, I need it too. For some reason, I have a really bad memory. That is why I have to tape record everything because my husband is like, [laughter] "That just happened. How can you not remember that?" [laughter]

LA: I know. It's what my son says. My son, he said, "I'll build your place over by me if you want to come over closer." "No, no. I'm not going to live over there in the woods." Then my daughter lives up on the Point road going by Eileen's. They got plenty of land. I said, "No. I'm going to stay in my own house and do as I want to do."

PPDS: So, your father was a lobster man? Sorry, –

LA: Woodsman.

PPDS: – a woodsman. He was a woodsman.

LA: In the wintertime, they cut ice. See, in the old days, they used ice a lot. You didn't have refrigerators. You had ice boxes, right? They cut the ice on the ponds in the wintertime. That's what he did for one of the jobs in the wintertime.

PPDS: What was the ice used for?

LA: To put in the ice boxes because they didn't have refrigerators there.

PPDS: Oh, in people's houses. Could not people just put things outside? [laughter]

LA: Yes. They used to have a place in the ground.

PPDS: Do you remember that? Was that in there –

LA: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. But they'd have an icehouse and they'd had what they'd call sawdust. That's what they put on the ice to keep it. Stay all summer when it's hot. That ice wouldn't melt.

PPDS: Oh, right. The sawdust would sort of preserve it. Was that ice also used for the fishing

industry at all?

LA: No, I don't think so. Not to my knowledge because I said I didn't go to work over at Stinson until later, [19]56. I worked there fifty years.

PPDS: I know that they have changed over a number of times since probably since you got there.

LA: Oh, my. I've seen it all. I've seen (cutler?) scissors sniping, little ones to big ones. Buses that took us to the factory, which don't do no more.

PPDS: What do you mean buses that –

LA: Buses used to take us into the factory. They had a bus driver that went around and buses and collected us.

PPDS: Was that because people did not drive?

LA: No, they just did it and it made it nice.

PPDS: It was kind of nice because –

LA: It would be nice for me now.

PPDS: Yes.

LA: But when I no longer have a ride, I'll just be done.

PPDS: How does everybody else get to work?

LA: Their own car.

PPDS: They all have their own cars.

LA: I think I'm about the only one that don't. I had a car. My husband – we had a brand-new car when he passed on, but my son has it.

PPDS: You do not want to drive now?

LA: No. I used to drive in high school, but I never liked it and I didn't pursue it.

PPDS: You would not want to learn it again?

LA: Too old.

PPDS: Because you are quite close to work.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: You could almost use a little golf cart.

LA: Yes. [laughter]

LA: I told my son I'll use a snowmobile for this one. But Peter said he'd see I got to work and I got home.

PPDS: You could four (wheel?).

LA: They will. They will. There's people that'll bring me home.

PPDS: It sounds like it.

LA: My son, when he takes his traps up, he'll take me over until he's gone. Then his buddy down here will take me. I don't have no problem getting to work.

PPDS: So, do you feel that you go to the cannery because you like to or you go to the cannery because you financially need to?

LA: No. Of course, it helps anybody because I get more social security. But no, I like working and, as I said, I like being with the people. I enjoy being with the people.

PPDS: You have breaks and things that you can – you can talk to people, have lunch with them, and you bring lunch?

LA: Yes. We have breakdowns. We have a chance to talk. Oh, yes. When the sardine boats used to come in and we cut with scissors, a lot of times, we'd have two, three hours to wait for the boat. We'd play cards. [laughter]

LA: A whole group of us get together and we'd play cards.

PPDS: What kind of cards? Like bridge or?

LA: Eighty-three.

PPDS: Eighty-three?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I have never heard of eighty-three.

LA: You have to have –

PPDS: I have heard of five-hundred.

LA: Well, it's almost similar as cards called sixty-three and you have four people.

PPDS: Do you have a team or –

LA: Oh, yes.

PPDS: – everybody is on their own?

LA: No, team. Two to a team.

PPDS: Two to a team.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: You would switch teams or you would always have the same partner?

LA: No, we had the same partner.

PPDS: Would it be the same partner that you work with on the line? [laughter]

LA: No, not necessarily. No. Just somebody that wants to do something while we're waiting. Sometimes, in the summer, some of us walk around the block.

PPDS: Take a walk?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Do people swim around here?

LA: I don't think so. I haven't seen any since – they used to when my sister-in-law was there. She used to swim around here all the time. But too cold, the water. I don't like it. I don't like salt water.

PPDS: You do not like saltwater? Is there...

LA: I don't like saltwater swimming, no. My father-in-law talked me into jumping in and I thought I was in an ice cake.

PPDS: [laughter]

LA: I did it twice and I said, "Never again." I don't go fishing because I get seasick.

PPDS: An ice cake?

LA: Oh, you feel just like you're in – you ever tried swimming in saltwater?

PPDS: I swim a lot in saltwater, but I have a feeling that up here, it is a little colder than where I swim.

LA: It is.

PPDS: It gives you a headache.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Or makes your feet freeze.

LA: Good for you though.

PPDS: Is it?

LA: They say it's good for you to swim in saltwater.

PPDS: I like the smell of it.

LA: Because I was born and brought up on freshwater ponds.

PPDS: But nearby.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Did you swim in them?

LA: Big town and little town.

PPDS: Because that is probably pretty cold too.

LA: Yes, but it's nice in the summer.

PPDS: That is where people did the ice fishing. Is that where –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: They do it on the ponds?

LA: Yes, on the ponds.

PPDS: Not on the ocean?

LA: Yes. I was always planning to do it in the wintertime. They cut their own firewood. They didn't have electricity at first when I was young, very young.

PPDS: So, the houses were all heated off of...

LA: Yes, by wood. All by wood. Now, they all got furnace and electricity. My old homestead burnt down.

PPDS: In a fire?

LA: Fire, yes. Burnt a couple days before Christmas. My sister was living in it.

PPDS: You call it your homestead. Does that mean your –

LA: Where the family grew up.

PPDS: Where the family grew up?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Your homestead?

LA: Yes. Farms, where they all had farms.

PPDS: Was it a lot of land? Did it have...

LA: We didn't have too much land of ours, but the majority of the farms around, they had all pastures for their cows and horses and pigs. I mean, there was plenty of land for farming. Plenty of land for gardens. Everybody had their own gardens. You had to have –

PPDS: Their vegetable gardens.

LA: – when you was growing up. That's right. You had to have and put the vegetables down in the wintertime. My mother cooked [inaudible] all summer and that took us through the winter. We picked the blueberries. She'd make the blueberry sauce. We picked the raspberries, the wild strawberries. She'd make the sauce. We cut off apples and put them down for pies – put them down in barrels and carrots, you put down for – salt, you put down for winter. So, they did all of that for winter when I was a kid.

PPDS: So, people were pretty busy making sure that you had what you needed to have through the winter?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: When do you think that that changed?

LA: Gradually, over the years. There's not many farms no more. Not many farms. What are they going to do when the farms are all gone and no cows give milk?

PPDS: Yes. [laughter]

LA: There are so many that's gone out of business. Where I come from, there are no cows. Nothing. Everybody's gone into the modern-day stuff.

PPDS: So, your father was a woodsman but your husband was a lobsterman?

LA: Yes. My husband worked on the railroad. My father worked on the railroad.

PPDS: They both worked on the railroad.

LA: Not my husband. My father.

PPDS: Your father worked on the railroad.

LA: Worked the railroad.

PPDS: But your husband was the lobsterman here in this harbor?

LA: Yes. As a little boy, he started, until he went in the Navy. When he came out of the Navy, he went back.

PPDS: That is why the house is here because I was just trying to piece together –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: – why do you live in such an incredible place? So, before, you could actually see his boat coming in?

LA: Oh, yes. Because the house next, the other side of the post office, that was his home. That big house, that was his home.

PPDS: Can you see it?

LA: You know where the post office is?

PPDS: Yes, I do. I saw a post office.

LA: You go around the island way, the first house that's on the other side of the post office, that was my father-in-law's home.

PPDS: That is amazing. Is this a religious community?

LA: Well, at one time, we had two churches in here.

PPDS: That is a lot of churches for a small place.

LA: Latter-day and one is a Baptist.

PPDS: Latter-day and Baptist.

LA: Now, we only have the Baptist.

PPDS: What happened to the Latter-day people?

LA: They sold it – well, they came in for Bill's Island in Jonesport and had their services. Then they sold it. Someone's made it into a home. Some persons made it into a home.

PPDS: Everyone else here is Baptist?

LA: Well, no. They go out of town to whatever church they want to go to. They go to this one

if they're Baptist. If they're Methodist, they go to Prospect. Some are Catholics, they go to [inaudible].

PPDS: So, it is not like everybody –

LA: No. No.

PPDS: Your community is not based in a local church.

LA: No.

PPDS: Okay. Everybody has their own religion. Nobody is –

LA: No.

PPDS: Is that a problem?

LA: No. That's not a problem with anyone.

PPDS: Okay. That is good.

LA: They got boat shops here that build boats. Yes, right down this road, then you'll see they build boats.

PPDS: Oh, I saw a sign down the street.

LA: Young Brothers Boats.

PPDS: Young Brothers, that is right. They custom make boats?

LA: Yes. They built my son's boat, the one that's riding now.

PPDS: Is that right? I bet you, they are doing good business these days.

LA: Oh, yes. There was two of them. I guess, there's still two boats, a smaller one and that big one. A lot of changes. A lot of changes. Like you say, there's going to be a lot more. There'll be a lot more.

PPDS: What do you think is going to be –

LA: Well, the older people are going out. I mean, face it. I don't know if they've got any real older ones fishing now here. Most of them are all young ones. Most of them's got families and –

PPDS: So, sounds like lobstering is really important for keeping young people here all year round.

LA: That's true.

PPDS: Is that right?

LA: Yes, that's true.

PPDS: That if there were not lobster – God forbid – people would need to do something else.

LA: Yes. They would.

PPDS: What would they do?

LA: Well, they'd have to go on and learn a trade. They'd have to.

PPDS: Do you think they could stay here and make a living?

LA: Oh, yes. They'd travel somewhere else and come back.

PPDS: They would move like your brothers and sisters did?

LA: Yes. We have people that travel [unintelligible] Jackson Lab by having work from here.

PPDS: Jackson Lab?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Is that what you said?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I just saw that place for the first time.

LA: If I was younger, I wouldn't mind trying it.

PPDS: Are there places for people to take night classes and things around here?

LA: Oh, yes. At the high school, there are classes during the wintertime. My son's wife's going to go up to language. But he can help her a lot because, like I said, he's a teacher.

PPDS: Oh, that is true.

LA: So, he can help her.

PPDS: I had not thought of that, but it is true.

LA: But he's learning Thai too.

PPDS: Wow. It is good, I think, to learn from other people as well because each person uses different words and speaks differently.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I get it.

LA: I like to hear people speak different languages. I think it's nice.

PPDS: It is nice. I am really amazed that even with without the influx of people from the outside, that this community itself seems like it is branched out and intermarried with lots of different people and adopted kids from abroad. Because that seems like the lobstering plus those things, plus people coming back, is keeping this community alive over time, right?

LA: Yes, it sure is.

PPDS: Because if it was just tourism, you would just have a part of the year population.

LA: Yes, that's true. Which part of it is?

PPDS: I bet that would affect your year-round businesses too, like your grocery stores and your – where do you get your groceries?

LA: I go to Winter Harbor.

PPDS: Somebody will take you there?

LA: Oh, yes, my sister-in-law.

PPDS: You will do some shopping together?

LA: Yes, but I go with my son too. They take me and my daughter if I need to go somewhere.

PPDS: How about doctors and things nearby? Is this a good place to –

LA: Yes, she takes me – I go to the clinic. I used to go to Bar Harbor, but after he passed on, I had to make a choice. I had to go closer. Then I can have friends who'll take me.

PPDS: Yes. Bar Harbor is a bit far.

LA: So, friends will take me. If my family isn't available, then there's people right here in the village who's nice enough to take me. Everybody helps each other.

PPDS: That is really nice.

LA: Yes. I got a lot of nice friends from here and from (away?) and stuff.

PPDS: But you still said that sometimes, you feel alone here.

LA: Well, you do. You do. Yes.

PPDS: That is probably because – I am kind of guessing with a house full of eight kids when you were little living on your own feels a little quiet.

LA: Yes, that's right.

PPDS: How long were you married?

LA: Forty-some years.

PPDS: Forty-some years is a long time.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: How long has your husband –

LA: Ten years in September. Time goes slow too. Now, I had my dog, but now, I ain't got him.

PPDS: How about getting another dog?

LA: I'm going to when I get done with work. But I'm going to wait till I get done with work because I don't want to leave him home alone.

PPDS: Yes, especially when they are little, right?

LA: Yes. I had a good dog, Teaspoon.

PPDS: Teaspoon?

LA: Her name was Teaspoon. My husband named her.

PPDS: [laughter] That is nice. What kind of dog was it?

LA: Poodle and terrier together. White. All white.

PPDS: They are smart, poodles.

LA: All white.

PPDS: All white. So, I bet it would get lost in the snow.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: [laughter] I am just going to see if there are other – I made a list of things, but I feel like we have talked about so many that I –

LA: Tell you anything you want to know.

PPDS: I think we talked about quite a – what have I not asked you about?

LA: I don't know.

PPDS: [laughter]

LA: Just let me show you the Thai girl.

PPDS: Oh my God, she is beautiful. How wonderful. She looks like a doll.

LA: Yes, she's pretty.

PPDS: Absolutely. Was this their wedding?

LA: Yes, over there.

PPDS: That is amazing.

LA: They pass their dresses on right through the family.

PPDS: So, she is wearing –

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Well, that works as long as you are the same size as your parents.

LA: Well, she's tiny. She's shorter than I am. She's tiny. Ninety pounds, I think she said she weighs. Afraid she's put on a pound.

PPDS: She is concerned with her weight?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I have gained a lot of weight recently.

LA: It don't take long.

PPDS: What is hard is to get it off. To get it on, it is really fast. [laughter]

LA: I know. It's easy to get it on than it is to get it off.

PPDS: It is pretty fun to get it on too.

LA: You live around here?

PPDS: I live in Cape Cod.

LA: Oh.

PPDS: In a place called Woods Hole.

LA: Wow.

PPDS: It is not quite like Bar Harbor, but it has a lot of places like Jackson Lab.

LA: Yes. We lived in Massachusetts for a while.

PPDS: Oh, you did?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Where?

LA: Brockton that way.

PPDS: How does that fit in with the lobstering and the –

LA: No, my father.

PPDS: Oh, your father.

LA: Yes. We went down there, but we didn't stay when we came back. I liked it in the country better. The country is better.

PPDS: Did your siblings also – everybody seems [inaudible] them.

LA: We all came back.

PPDS: You mentioned something that there was no bad kids around here. I am assuming that all the kids are good and respectful and people and stuff.

LA: Yes, they are.

PPDS: What do you see as the problems outside of your community?

LA: Well, they do such bad things – breaking up mailboxes, going to the cemeteries and destroying them. We don't have none of that. I'll tell you why, in this little village, people go with their kids. If the kid is in something, they go to it. They go to the functions and they join them. A lot of kids are just left alone. They don't have anybody that cares.

PPDS: Where are their parents?

LA: Well, they're off working nights or something and –

PPDS: Where would they work nights?

LA: Well, in the city. A lot of places back away from here.

PPDS: So, the kids...

LA: They're just on their own. They're just on their own. Here, the parents is there for them in everything they do.

PPDS: They are involved.

LA: They're involved. I said that's why my daughter has such good kids. One lives in California. One lives in Dallas, Texas, and one is going to college in Ontario, Canada. But no matter what they're in or where they are, they'd go there. If they was overseas, they'd go there to be what they were in. Now, they're firm, which is wonderful. My second grandson graduated from Newbury, Mass.

PPDS: Oh, right. So pretty there too.

LA: Yes. He's out in California doing the same thing, but he wants to come back to Massachusetts.

PPDS: What does he do?

LA: He's a basketball coach and he went to school for broadcasting and he's working on a big golf field in California.

PPDS: Working on a what?

LA: Working on a golf field.

PPDS: Golf course.

LA: They call it golf course.

PPDS: Yes.

LA: Make good money too.

PPDS: Yes. I bet. California is expensive though.

LA: His girlfriend is a nutritionist in the hospital.

PPDS: That is a good job. Yes. So, she can take care of him. [laughter] It is always good to have a medical person in the family. [laughter] So, you can call and say, "What do I do about this?" But as far as you know, are there a lot of drug problems or drinking problems?

LA: Oh, drug's everywhere. Drug is everywhere.

PPDS: What kind of drugs?

LA: Everything. Everything. I mean, we've never experienced any – right in this little village, people can leave their house unlocked. I don't even lock my house at night.

PPDS: That is great. So, it is just not a problem here.

LA: Maybe I should worry, but I don't.

PPDS: I do not know. You would probably hear somebody coming, right?

LA: Yes. That's why I like the dog because they –

PPDS: They bark.

LA: They do warn you, you know?

PPDS: Yes. That is true. Your bird does not?

LA: I had another bird like that. She told me every cow that was coming in the door yard. This one don't. I just got this one. This is a different one. I had a big yellow one.

PPDS: It is pretty.

LA: That one was a beautiful beauty. She was bigger than this one. She was all yellow and gray. She died from laying an egg.

PPDS: Oh really? She died in childbirth?

LA: Yes. The egg was too big.

PPDS: [laughter] Sorry, I am laughing.

LA: No. That's what happens sometimes to them. They call it egg-bound.

PPDS: Oh, I did not realize.

LA: Yes. That happens to them once in a while.

PPDS: So, what happens to kids that – people that have drug or drinking problems?

LA: Well, they'll get caught. I mean, I'm not saying it's not here. But I mean, we have seen no trouble from it or anything.

PPDS: If it is here, it is not apparent.

LA: No.

PPDS: Any local festivals? I am wondering if you know any sort of –

LA: Oh, yes. In the summertime, there's a lot going on. They have stage shows over at Winter Harbor you can go to. They have the Lobster Festival. They have a lot of different things you can go to.

PPDS: Any ones that are your favorites?

LA: I like going to the stage shows. I like those.

PPDS: What are stage shows?

LA: They put on plays.

PPDS: Oh, right. Oh, that is nice.

LA: Then I have some friends that live down here on the Point from Connecticut, and we go out to the church suppers. They take me to the church suppers with them and then they take me out to supper. Somebody's always taking me out to supper or something. There's always somebody calling me out and wanting to go somewhere and I jump aboard and go.

PPDS: That sounds pretty good.

LA: There's no sense to stay around if you got nothing.

PPDS: Wow. If there is something better to do, why not?

LA: That's right. If I didn't work, I'd get into a lot of things like they do. They make quilts. Then we have our Grange, which they put on suppers and –

PPDS: Your grange?

LA: The Grange, yes.

PPDS: What is the Grange?

LA: It's a steak grange.

PPDS: I do not even know what that is, a grange.

LA: Oh, you have to take degrees to belong to it. It isn't just something that you can just go into. You've got to take degrees to work yourself into it.

PPDS: It is a club?

LA: Well, I don't know what you really call it.

PPDS: What do they do?

LA: But people from out of state can come in and join it or – we do all kinds of different things. We have meetings and we do things to help – if there's somebody sick or in distress or like that – and put on suppers and put on yard sales.

PPDS: It is called the grange?

LA: Yes, grange.

PPDS: Is there other granges in other communities?

LA: Oh, sure. Every community has a Grange Hall. A lot of them have had to give them up because they can't get enough people to run them. But believe me, we got a good membership now because we got a lot of the people that live here now, that are out of state. That keeps us going.

PPDS: The people who do not live here year-round –

LA: Yes, they join it.

PPDS: – they join it and they support it. So, you pay a membership fee?

LA: Yes. We pay a membership. It's \$20 a year.

PPDS: So, you really do need numbers to get enough money to do stuff with?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: You raise money, I guess, through yard sales and things like that?

LA: Yes, yard sales and bake sales.

PPDS: Do you sell those molasses cookies?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Are you going to give me one?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: [laughter]

LA: Yes, you sure can have one.

PPDS: Are you sure? [laughter]

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Can I grab one?

LA: Yes. Grab you one.

PPDS: That has been driving me crazy since I sat down. [laughter]

LA: Well, you could have had one a long time ago.

PPDS: They just smell so good.

LA: I like them with milk.

PPDS: Oh, my goodness. They are so good.

LA: I like them with milk.

PPDS: I like them with milk too. [laughter]

LA: You can have milk if you want it. Two percent milk. I'm a diabetic. Those don't have no eggs and no sugar.

PPDS: Really?

LA: No sugar and no eggs.

PPDS: Do you think I could take the recipe with me?

LA: Yes, I can copy it down for you.

PPDS: You do not mind?

LA: No.

PPDS: Because I just got told that I have...

LA: So, I made those a little bit thicker than I usually make them.

PPDS: That is beautiful.

LA: I'll get you a...

PPDS: I love the way they are not really sugary.

LA: No, they've not got no sugar in them.

PPDS: I absolutely love that. You know what? I thought of that when I was bringing cookies over. I said, "I wonder if," – because I was told not to eat a lot of sugar recently. It is bad for you.

LA: Yes, I'm diabetic. We're all diabetic, all my sisters and I. My feet's been bothering me lately. So, I know I got to watch it. You want my copy on that?

PPDS: You better believe it. [laughter]

LA: Yes. That's been used. Look at that.

PPDS: That has been used. Where did that recipe come from?

LA: My friend. Because the one I had had a lot of sugar in it.

PPDS: My husband is going to be so happy. So, does that mean you have to time your sugar intake?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: During the day, you eat small meals? Mornings?

LA: Mornings. Yes. I take it in the morning. But he's going to make me do it more when I go back because he said my hemoglobin is high. That's molasses right to you. You can use the right kind of oil too.

PPDS: What kind of oil?

LA: I use liquid.

PPDS: Oh, as opposed to like Crisco or something?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: So, the liquid vegetable oil?

LA: I'm going to change that for you. One cup of Crisco oil.

PPDS: Crisco is the hard one, right?

LA: No, you can use canola because that's good for people with heart trouble.

PPDS: Okay, good.

LA: So, any oil. Any oil.

PPDS: Because I never have Crisco at home. One cup of oil. I wonder if I can use olive oil.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Oh, really?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Because that is even better for you.

LA: Yes, you can.

PPDS: But it tastes a little bit different but could be good. They are beautiful. They remind me of a cookie I had when I was like ten in Colonial Williamsburg.

LA: Ginger. That's what makes them good.

PPDS: Is it powdered ginger?

LA: Yes. I don't put that one teaspoon of salt in there either. I just put a little sprinkle.

PPDS: Okay. Because you are trying to not eat as much salt either. So, that grange thing sounded really interesting actually. It is not a church because sometimes churches – remember I asked you if everybody goes to the same church and you said, "No, but it is not a problem." But the grange is for people from all different churches –

LA: That's what makes my cookies different. Because I was supposed to put five tablespoons of water and I made a mistake and put the cup of water. No one's supposed to. So, they would be softer if I had put the five tablespoon of water instead of the –

PPDS: Instead of a cup?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: That seems like a big difference, five tablespoons and a cup.

LA: Five teaspoons of soda. That sounds like a lot, don't, it? But it isn't.

PPDS: It does sound like a lot.

LA: Yes, and flour until enough so you can roll them.

PPDS: Enough so you can roll them.

LA: You don't want it soft. You don't want it real soft.

PPDS: You do not want it sticky or runny.

LA: No.

PPDS: You want it kind of – is that why put flour on the outside? You put flour on your hands or something?

LA: Yes.

PPDS: Okay. So, you roll them out.

LA: Yes. See if we get it all. One and a half cup of molasses, one cup of Crisco oil or whatever oil you want to use. One teaspoon of cinnamon, a half a teaspoon of clove, one teaspoon of ginger, one salt. But I'd say I use just a little sprinkle of salt. You probably don't need salt in when I do. Five tablespoons of water and five teaspoons of soda, and flour enough to roll. You judge that yourself.

PPDS: I cannot wait to make them.

LA: You'll make them. You'll have good luck too.

PPDS: I will let you know what happens too.

LA: Cook them on about three-fifty.

PPDS: Oh, let me write that down. For around how long?

LA: Well, you can tell.

PPDS: [laughter] Is that right?

LA: Yes, you can.

PPDS: Maybe not the first time, but the second time. [laughter]

LA: The first pan, you can tell. When you cook the next pan, you will be –

PPDS: The next pan, I will know. [laughter]

LA: Yes.

PPDS: I will have to make them twice.

LA: Yes.

PPDS: That is great. That is excellent. All right, let me just double check this. I think that we are all set. Those are just some talking points. I had given this to Arlene too and I am going to give one to you. I have your address, but you can write it down anyways. I am just going to write my name here. Basically, this says why I am doing this. Then it says your name and it allows me to use this life history for whatever scholarly or educational purposes. But I also say that I want to send you a written copy and I probably can send you a disc too with the audio on it. You may not want it, but maybe somebody in your family wants it. I know that if it was my grandmother, I would want it. So, I will do that. I did not hear you say anything that I was concerned about, but if there is anything that you would not want me to use you just let me know.

LA: No, there's nothing.

PPDS: So, that is just for my record. So, I would need your name, the date, and your signature.

[end of transcript]