

Doris Green: Was the rattlesnake story the last thing that we taped?

Michael Jepson: That was the last thing. Right.

DG: There's another little story that would be quite interesting too. It also happened here in the yard. Woodrow's mother, before we bought this house and moved here, she rented out rooms to winter people. There was a family that lived here and the elderly father was with him. He was the person that always is finding something to do. So, he got it way out there in the back one day and was cleaning up weeds in the tall grass. There was a little chicken coop – Woodrow's mother always had chickens – and a rattlesnake bit him. Just a small rattlesnake. It was in that little chicken coop. The old man, they were of the belief that – I don't know what religion it was, but anyway, it would heal itself. [laughter] He just talked about it. I guess it was a case of mind over matter. But anyway, he wouldn't go to the doctor. Boy, by that night, his arms swelled up terrible, and way in the night sometime, they had to take him into town to a doctor. He was really lucky that he survived that. But the doctor gashed his arm all in several places. I don't know why the venom would still be in the area where the snake had bitten him, but he survived that. But he would not go to a doctor until he felt like he – it was either that or die.

Wayne Nield: Did you tell me that they used to raise rattlesnakes at the Albion Inn?

DG: Joe Guthrie did. Now, Paul Taylor can really tell you stories about that because he worked for the Guthries. In fact, he was there when all those rattlesnakes escaped the [inaudible]. He told me a story about it. [laughter] He said that Joe Guthrie was a short man. He was bent over from arthritis. It had affected his back. He said, "He would delight in getting his mouth full of beechnut, chewing the bark and spit at those snakes and make them curl up and strike." [laughter] He said, "His wife, Ms. Bessie, was the post mistress. She would just stand out there horrified and beg him not to do that." [laughter] He made home brew. So, he probably wasn't feeling any pain when he'd do all these things. [laughter] Paul told me stories like that. He can really tell you some stories about working at the hotel and working for Joe and Ms. Bessie.

MJ: What do you remember about the Albion Inn?

DG: Well, Joe and Ms. Bessie, who was the post mistress, they had one daughter, Elizabeth Burnett, I still call her. She's since remarried. But anyway, she and I were good friends although she was several years older than I. She was in college at the time I was in high school. But when she would come on vacations, well, we were always good friends and together. That was the most that I ever was in the hotel, other than at the time, after the hurricane, when the building out on the dock that I said was the Bratton Store was destroyed before it was rebuilt. The post office in the local grocery store was in what was called the lobby of the hotel. Of course, we were in there all the time for getting groceries in the mail. It was not open to the general public other than the dining area. Now, I'm talking about other than just the regular borders who live there and their guests. But just people who wanted to go in for a meal, it was not usually open for that type of service.

MJ: I see. You were telling stories about rattlesnakes and I would like to ask you to tell a few more stories. There is sort of this infamous story of a man with a medical problem in Cortez.

You have told Wayne and I this story before.

DG: Oh, the man that was eaten alive with worms?

MJ: Right.

DG: That's such a coincidence that you asked me that. I just sent a letter today to his – I believe it's a great-granddaughter. Anyway, she was related to the family, and she has the medical record on that from...

MJ: Well, we could stop here a second. Well, let us go ahead and tell the story.

DG: This was one of the old pioneers here. In fact, James Mann was the gentleman's name. He was one of the first homesteaders over on Longboat Key. They later sold their homestead and moved to Cortez. But somehow, he was infested with this worm that there's only been two known medical history of this particular type of worm. One, I understand, was a case of some woman in Japan. But he was just literally eaten alive with the worms. The first time he said he noticed this was when he was out hunting and a little pimple-like place began to itch terribly bad on his arm. He reached down and he said he took the tip of his pen knife and opened it up and this tiny little worm crawled out. From there, it just spread all over his whole body. I don't know if there's anybody still living – I'm sure not from here – that remembers, but the Mann homestead was right next to where the one-room schoolhouse is and the property that the Sigma owns now. They iced his body down on a big tin box so it could be preserved until they could get it up to Manatee. They did an autopsy and his whole body was just literally eaten with worms. That must have been a horrible death. But to get back, I sent a letter today and asked Lillian, my friend, who has a copy of this medical report, if she would send me a copy of it. I said I had a friend who was very interested. [laughter]

DG: I had you in mind. I think I had mentioned to you one time about it.

MJ: So, there was a medical report?

DG: Oh, yes. It's in one of the government offices. I can't recall right at this moment where it is officially on record. But she let me have a copy to read once, and I didn't get a copy made. But I asked her if she would send me a copy.

MJ: We can go on. I think we can talk over that noise. You were talking a little bit earlier, while we were off the tape, about people using Watkins salve and different types of medicinal things. Could you tell us a little bit about what you remember some of the things that people used around Cortez to combat disease or colds or any illnesses?

DG: Oh, yes. One, it was really proven to be effective. I don't know what causes boils as such, but do you know what I'm talking about?

MJ: Yes.

DG: We called them (risins?). Rise, I-N. We didn't put the E on it, but if you had a (risins?) – [laughter] I guess, because it just would make such a large, raised spot on wherever it affected you. But octagon soap, it was a kind of a strong laundry soap, and you'd mix that with sugar to make a soft paste and put it on the spot and bandage it up. I guess it would make that area soft and make it, as we called it, come to a head. It would open up and drain and cure itself. It was a proven remedy. There were just a lot of home remedies. One incident – it wasn't a remedy, but it was sort of a superstitious idea that it was so horrible to me – that I witnessed was this baby that died. It was just right across the street here from me. The midwife had been called in to this dying infant. She had said that if you took a live chicken – did you read that, Wayne, in the book? A live chicken and just tear it apart and put this to the dying baby's feet – the temperature was terribly high. She put the infant's feet right down inside of this chicken that had just been killed. She said as the chicken's temperature cool, that it would draw the fever out of this baby. Now, I saw that. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it, but I thought that was the most horrible looking thing that...

MJ: You actually saw a midwife use that –

DG: Pardon me?

MJ: You actually saw a midwife use that practice?

DG: I did that. I did see her, yes. I helped deliver a lot of babies here myself and know that I so fondly remembered. But that was just the last resort and she was just desperate to try to save the baby's life. But I did witness that. Another superstition was if the father had died before they were born, that they were given this power to heal things. [laughter] I also witnessed this, taking a baby that had a mouth disease called thrash, or thrush, I don't know which is correct – thrash, I believe. This person would blow into the infant's mouth and it would cure it. This lady was sick in bed with the flu and she blew into that infant's mouth. I thought, "Oh, she'll probably die from [laughter] whatever this woman's sick with blowing into the infant's mouth." But there were just a lot of superstitions like that. But those are two that I really remember that I witnessed and saw these things. There were all kinds of home remedies. A doctor was not available everywhere like it is today.

WN: Where was the nearest hospital for Cortez?

DG: The Larrabee Hospital, which later, before it was the Manatee County Hospital or Manatee Memorial was built, it was called Larrabee's and then the name was later changed to Bradenton General Hospital. That's the one that I told you about in my book, staying seven weeks and it cost \$268.

MJ: This was when you were young that you stayed there?

DG: It was in 1945. I remember it so well because President Roosevelt died while I was a patient there. I remember they brought a radio into my room so I could listen to Harry Truman take the oath of office.

MJ: Why were you in the hospital at that time?

DG: Oh, I had a very, very serious spinal operation. I think every time there's been a tragedy in this country, I've been in the hospital. [laughter] It always happens when I was a patient there for some reason. I was there when the Pearl Harbor was born – I remember that – when the Challenger blew up, and President Roosevelt died. There was another tragic event. Oh, it wasn't. It wasn't tragic, but when this terrible hurricane that destroyed so much, not the [19]21, but the 1960 when Donna came. I was having surgery during that hurricane.

MJ: During the hurricane?

DG: Yes, actually, during the hurricane, I woke up. I was up on the fifth floor and in the recovery room. Both arms were tied. I was getting IV and blood and water was dripping through the ceiling down in my face. [laughter] I told the nurse, I said, "Water's coming from somewhere." She said, "Well, I think I better get you down on the first floor because you'd be safer there." We were up on the fifth floor. It just seemed to me, in my half-awake state, I could feel the building sway. [laughter] But so many things have happened when I was in the hospital. Kind of like Earl Guthrie said, somebody made the remark about how sad it is that that child was born during that twenty-one hurricane. The roof was blown off and water was pouring in and said, "Well, when in the world would we have a hurricane that there wasn't a baby being born in Cortez." [laughter]

MJ: Did you have something that you wanted to ask, Wayne?

WN: That hurricane story in the hospital, did you not mention Woodrow having to...

DG: That's the same one, Wayne. It was that the hospital hadn't been built – oh, maybe a couple years. It was just a new building. But it was so poorly constructed – that's what they blamed it on – that the wind just blew the rain in through the windows. There was no way for the water to get out. The water got so deep on the second floor, not from the ground up, but just blowing in through the windows. Woodrow was with me and he just pulled his shoes off and rolled his pants up and waded in water. That's how deep it was. They just called in help and started sweeping it down the elevator shaft to get it out of the second floor.

MJ: My gosh. Do you have anything right now? Can you tell me a little bit more about Woodrow and your life soon after you were married and living in Cortez and – when was Malcolm born?

DG: He was born the same year we were married, 1935. We lived next door, in the whole house, next door and...

MJ: To this house that we are in now?

DG: No. The one next door.

MJ: Right. Next door to this house.

DG: Oh, yes, yes. I'm sorry. I didn't understand what you said. We moved there when we were married and we had bought that house. I just remember it was hard, hard times. It was just the tail end of the Great Depression, but you couldn't tell much that the economy had changed a whole lot at that time. I remember, when we were first married, that, oh goodness, you could take \$5 and go buy a week's worth of groceries [laughter] for the two of us. Later, it just became so bad after we were married, that we could not afford to have electricity in the house. We'd just join everybody else that didn't have it. [laughter] So, they were just hard, hard times.

MJ: Where would you buy your groceries at that time?

DG: There was a little grocery store here. We would buy it on a weekly basis. You'd just go charge things. On Saturday, when you got paid, well, you go down. If you could pay the entire bill, okay. If you couldn't, if you were in good standing with the grocer, he would just carry it on [laughter] until the next time you could catch up. But we were fortunate to always be on good terms with the grocers.

MJ: Who was the grocer at that time? Do you remember his name?

DG: Yes. He had come here during the Great Depression. A Mr. (Paren?) from Oneco. He had a grocery where the shipping store is now...

WN: Ship Supply.

DG: Ship Supply. He had that little building. There was a tornado that came through here and destroyed the original block building that he was in. So, he acquired that lot and had a little store put there. He ran it until he retired. That's where we did our shopping. He sold almost everything a person needed there. [laughter]

MJ: So, then when was Marshall born?

DG: In [19]37.

MJ: In [19]37?

DG: There was only about twenty-two months difference.

MJ: When did things start to look up for you and Woodrow and Cortez in general?

DG: I don't think it was a noticeable difference until the Second World War. Of course, everything was rationed, but the economy in general was better, I guess, because of things being produced for the war. It seemed like, for some reason, that there were more fish to be caught. That's when they caught those huge catches of fish that seemed like everything turned to mullet. [laughter]

MJ: That was during the war?

DG: Yes.

MJ: Woodrow was a fisherman during the war?

DG: At that time, Woodrow, all during the war until he went in the Navy, he ran the fish house for the Fulford Fish Company.

MJ: He did?

DG: Ralph's father hired him to take care of that. Ralph's father never did himself. He just produced the fish. He was one of the best fishermen that ever was here. But Woodrow operated the fish company for him.

MJ: He did? Then you said Woodrow went into the Navy?

DG: Yes. He was drafted at – oh, about middle of the war. He had always said that he would never ask to be – what is it?

MJ: Exempted?

DG: Exempted from service. His two brothers were already gone, and my six brothers were already gone. So, he said he felt like he should do his part. It was hard, but he was really needed here until, finally, our family doctor asked for an exemption for him. He was already assigned to a boat and ready to ship out or assigned to a ship when my health became so bad that he was greatly needed here at home. We had the two children and then we were staying with my mother and father, and all the boys were gone. So, he got an exemption for him to come back home.

MJ: Can you talk a little bit about that time when your health did become bad and...

DG: When what?

MJ: About your health at that time and what happened?

DG: Yes. I developed a severe problem with my back and the doctors blamed it on drinking unpasteurized milk as a child. He said back then that the dairy cows were not tested for the tuberculin germ. He was going by the condition on my back. He was an older army doctor. He said that he had seen that in his practice many years before. It affected the vertebrae in the back and they had deteriorated and it was necessary I had surgery for that. So, I was in a body cast, a whole-body cast, and I was just helpless and no one to help take care of me. So, he just was really needed at home to help take care of the children and me.

MJ: So, he returned from the Navy and did he go back to fishing then?

DG: Yes. About that time, that's when the Fulford Fish Company was first started and he started working for them.

MJ: He was working for Walton Fulford Tink at that time?

DG: He taught Ralph how to drive.

MJ: He did?

DG: He was driving the old fish truck home from Bradenton with ice or something. Anyway, Ralph was with him and he said, "Ralph, you little pig, you want to drive?" "Yes." So, he let him drive the old fish truck home. [laughter]

MJ: When you were married and living here in Cortez, what did you do for entertainment?

DG: Well, everybody had a radio that could afford it, and, of course, you followed the soap operas and the weekend [laughter] programs. But we would play cards and what entertainment there was at – there's a community at the school building out here. It was just that sort of thing. Not too many parties or anything like that because towns were so hard, you couldn't afford it. You couldn't afford to entertain much. [laughter]

WN: Did you ever attend any of the events where the Culbreath family played music?

DG: Oh, yes. Even way before I was married, my family, my mother and father, bought the old Fulford home after my grandparents were in ill health and could no longer stay alone. That's where the bed and breakfast is now. The old Captain Billy Fulford Home. My family moved there. We needed the space too – the big five-bedroom house – for our large family. The Culbreaths lived right on the waterfront where Wayne Fulford owns that property now. There used to be a big house that was built by a former great – could be my great uncle, I guess – Augustine Willis. He built a beautiful, two-story house there. Later, after the Willis's were gone, the Culbreaths family, I don't know if they had just rented the place. It was in a very dilapidated condition at that time when the Culbreaths family moved in. We would often go over there in the evening and listen to them play. They were the happiest family. They never had electricity in the house. They'd have a smoke oil lamp and that room was dimly lit. They had old cow hide chairs or we'd sit in the windows that had no screens or sit on the floor and listen to them play. Every one of them played something. [laughter] But they were really happy people. Material things did not mean anything to them, just so they had something to eat and something to wear.

MJ: Before I forget, I want to go back and talk a little bit about Maida Culbreath. She was a fisherwoman in Cortez. Was she respected by the fishermen in Cortez, would you say?

DG: Oh, I think so. I think she was. You might be interested to know when they first came here – now, her parents were here when they were first married. Not in Cortez, but they were just squatters over on Tidy Island. My mother, I remember her telling me, before she and my dad were married, about visiting them. They lived in this little shack over on Tidy Island, the Bickfords did. But anyway, when Maida was – this was during the Great Depression too. They moved back here, the family. They had about five children, I guess. They had no place to live and Woodrow's mother let them move out in our garage, which is ours now. We were living next

door. It was just one great big open shed. It was large enough for two trucks and a car at that time – of course, the trucks were not as large as they are now – and a little washroom in the back. That whole family moved in there. The mother hung up bed quilts in between for privacy. But that whole family lived there for a long time until they scraped enough lumber together from here and there, just getting, wherever they could get, used lumber and build a little house. But they were hardworking people, very hard working, and just as clean as they could be. She just really kept everything clean. I think she was so fanatic about the cleanliness that it made her just determined to go the other way.

MJ: She did? [laughter]

DG: She'd rather fish and be out in a boat than keep the house. Maida was a great person.

MJ: Do you have a question?

WN: I do, too, of Maida.

MJ: Yes.

WN: You mentioned people living on Tidy Island coming to Cortez, or earlier, you mentioned people on Longboat then coming to Cortez. What about Perico Island?

DG: Yes. Well, you know, of course, that's where the people in Cortez first settled, on Perico Island, before they came across the Bay here. I'm told it was because it was the deeper water and it was a better way to get to the fish docks and for the boats on natural channel off the slew. But some stayed over there. The Prices were the most remembered people. They were immigrants from Alsace Terrain, but they came here from Missouri, I was told. They had two daughters and a son and they homesteaded a large part of the island. They lived there until they died. But one of the daughters married a local fisherman here who was a widower. She lived here until her death. I mentioned him in my book. He was another one, when you were asking about superstitions. I understand that before he came to the United States, that he was studying medicine as such as it was back in, I guess, probably the middle of the 19th century. He had a little knowledge of medicine, but he mixed that with superstition and the folklore, and he just was quite a character. They were real good people, fine people, but the people here would often go and consult him for medical purposes. I tell the story, in my book, about my father going over. My oldest sister, Pauline, was very sick with typhoid fever and they thought she was going to die. So, my dad, he'd go see Mr. Price, maybe he could do something. So, he went over. Mr. Price, with all his superstitious acts and whatever he went through, said, "Now, she'll be better when you get home." Well, sure enough, she was, but I guess the typhoid fever had peaked and she was on her way to recover. But they thought it was something that Mr. Price had done that miraculously helped her over that fever. But there were just a lot of people that really believed that he could do all of these miraculous things.

WN: When the people from Carteret County came to Perico and then came to Cortez, do you get the impression that there was much of a village here before the people from Carteret County came?

DG: Well, of course, I don't know anything about that period. But I've been told there wasn't anything other than just what shacks – that the Cubans had shacks they had that they got the catches for the boats to carry to Cuba. But I'm not really sure about any of that past history because that was way before the settlers even came here to the village. Spanish (smacks?) is what they were called. They were coming in here as late as – well, at the time, I'd say between 1900 and 1905. Because there was an item in the old Manatee River Journal about some of the local fishermen getting in fights with the Cubans that were off the boats out there. They all got to drinking and had a free for all. So, they were still coming in here at that time, taking the fish, sold it down probably, mullet, to Cuba.

WN: Do you remember people talking about buildings that were here that had been built by Cubans?

DG: No, I do not. No, I don't recall any of that. The only thing I've been told is there were no permanent houses here until the three Fulford brothers and the Guthrie and Jones came here and built. I have no recollection of any older houses prior to that time. But I hardly think there were any at all. There was no building at all down on the point down past the seafood shack down in that area where the Wymans originally lived – courses, I'm sorry. There were no houses down that area. So, I think the first ones were built here when the Fulfords and Guthries and Jones came.

WN: What do you think is the oldest house in Cortez? Which building or buildings seem like the oldest houses to you?

DG: Well, the others have been gone. So, I would say the one that Sue Maddox lives in, in my grandfather's first house he had built, where Ella Fulford lives. That was the original home of my grandfather's brother, Nate Fulford, and of course, the Guthries and other Fulfords. Now, the building that is the red hall down at the trailer park might be considered one of the oldest. That was another brother of my grandfather who built down on the waterfront. That was part of what was called the Fulford Hotel and that's quite old. Now, whether it was built at the time the home itself was built, I'm not sure about that.

WN: Was that Sanders Fulford?

DG: Sanders, yes. So, those three, I would say are the oldest ones in Cortez, Sue's house and Ella's house, and the others are long gone. Oh, well, I will take that back. Because the one-room schoolhouse was probably built just about the same time when they came here because they had to have something for the children. Of course, there were probably no school-aged children right immediately, but that is one of the older buildings, that one-room school.

WN: There is another house that is next door to the modern house where Ralph's daughter lives.

DG: Sylvia?

WN: Yes. The little house that's next door to Sylvia.

DG: Aunt Molly's house. [laughter]

WN: Yes. What can you tell us about that house?

DG: Now, that's kind of a mystery. I would really love to know about that house. I contacted (Tycee?) before she retired, (Tycee Watson?). She does not have any record of that house prior to – I think it's maybe in the thirties or something like that. But the house was there long before that. I don't know who had it built, whether the Halberts – what we call Aunt Molly and her husband Henry – had it built because I've learned from old newspaper items that when they married here, Henry and Molly, he was a cook down at the Albion Inn. She met and married him when he came here from Kentucky. Now, whether they had the house built or not – but this newspaper item tells about when they married and the chivalry they had for them that night. It said they were visiting neighbors next door, down closer to the waterfront, just down the street from this house that you're referring to. Whether they were living there in that house or not – but it must have been built before then, but I just can't find a record of that. I would really like to know just who had it built. But no one I've talked to knew when it was built or who had it built. It's one of the old houses here, but whether it was – I know it was in 1910, I believe it was, that Elizabeth Jones said her husband, Wanda's father, they moved there and he's a little boy, and they rented that house. The Halberts were not living in it. Whether the Halberts acquired it afterwards or not, I don't know. I just don't know who had that house built.

MJ: Doris, we have not talked much about your grandfather, Nate. Could you tell us a little bit about him?

DG: Grandpa Bill? [laughter] He was a character. Much loved character. Well, his grandchildren and especially the boys, they loved to fish with him. My oldest brother, that was his greatest delight, was to go fishing with grandpa back in the sailing days.

WN: Excuse me. Are you talking about William or Nathan?

DG: Grandpa William that owned the place where the bed and breakfast is. In the summertime, during the First World War, we lived in Tampa for two or three years during that period. As soon as school was out, he would come and go fishing, spend the summers down here to fish with grandpa. I think all of grandsons just fondly remembered fishing with Grandpa Bill. But my oldest brother, he could tell the stories about fishing with him in the sailboat days. To me, he was one of the jolliest and, well, most liked of the Fulford brothers. Some of them were so stern and they could only just see to the right or left. But grandpa, to all of us, he was different from that. My oldest brother told the story about his sister, Netty, that was married to Gus McDonald at the house that Sue lives in. They later bought that for my grandfather when they were married. But she was such a rigid person that – oh, and just sharp tongue. My brother said that he would come down tearfully and he'd ask grandfather, "Talk with Netty." He said, "That's the meanest woman." He said grandpa would laugh. He'd say, "Well, you married her. Now, you live with her." [laughter] But she just loved to show that she was a boss in the family, I guess. He was such a meek, mild-mannered man. But Grandpa, he was quite a character. In his young days, he always had his jug too with the snake bite stuff in it that he kept for snake bites. But not

in the days that I remember. I do not remember but I have learned I could not verify it. But they left here shortly after they built the house here and they moved down to Sarasota. He homesteaded a part of what is now Downtown Sarasota. I remember my mother telling us, as just a small child, she remembered living for a short while in Sarasota. But I don't know how long they stayed there or not. That's one of those things that I didn't follow through. It just didn't mean that much to me as a child. But it was what is Downtown. Of course, all of the fishing docks and boats were tied up on what is now the Sarasota Waterfront. I remember visiting friends in Sarasota and staying right down on the waterfront in the big house. His fish boats were tied up there where the big yachts and boats are tied up. But, of course, all that was destroyed in the twenty-one hurricane, and then it was rebuilt.

MJ: Why was that? Why was nothing rebuilt down there in Sarasota after the hurricane? Do you know?

DG: Well, I suppose it's because it was such, the land was so valuable. The Waterfront and the little city town was growing and they didn't want all those unsightly fishing boats. So, they all went to Hog Creek. It was another section further up from Sarasota. I remember an uncle, my father's brother, was living at Hog Creek. He was a fisherman there and going in a motorboat to visit them and all of the fishing boats tied up there. The fish houses pickup places were located there. But I don't think any of the commercial fishermen ever did relocate back on the Waterfront there where it is today.

MJ: I want to ask you something about the early tourists that came to this area. We have talked a little bit about that earlier. They had a name for those tourists. Can you tell me how they were referred to?

DG: Tin Can or Yankees. Everybody that was out of the county was a Yankee. [laughter] It doesn't matter if it was no further north than the County Florida line, they were Yankees. [laughter]

MJ: But they called them Tin Can tourists?

DG: Tin can. As they like to say, they brought all of their food supplies with them and a \$5 bill and a pair of pants and didn't change either one of them while over here. [laughter] But, of course, back in those times, there were no trailer parks or anything. They would just rent. If a person had a spare room, well, they would put in a little kerosene, cook stove and a bed, and they'd be set up for the winter.

MJ: But they have been here. I mean, you remember them from...

DG: Oh, yes. I remember the first ones that came to Cortez. My grandfather, Captain Billy, they had some kind of a homemade affair for their [inaudible] Lizzie. They had living quarters on that. Somehow, I can't recall just what it looked like, but it must have been a very crude affair. He let them set up housekeeping under a big cabbage palm down on the waterfront. They brought their pet monkey with them, and, oh, that was the greatest attraction to go down there and see that monkey. [laughter] They were just very like people and would entertain the

children. But that's the first one that I remember as such. I think, probably, they were from Georgia, not too far away. They couldn't have traveled very far in that rig. [laughter]

MJ: Well, you said that they were referred to as Yankees. How did people in Cortez treat them? How did they get along with the first tourists that were coming down?

DG: Well, I think we all became friends because, as I said, most of them would rent a room or two rooms and stay in the home with whoever owned the house. So, they had to be congenial and [laughter] get along, but I don't remember any that we were not friends with. But then after the bridge opened, they built the bridge and they began to have access to the island. Well, then they began to bring their homemade trailers and tents and what such over to the island. Most of them were just homemade trailers until they finally opened up the one, which is the Cortez Trailer Park now. That was way back in the early thirties, I guess, after my uncle – well, Sanders sold that property. That's when the Guthries started the trailer park there, (John?) Guthries.

MJ: Did you have something?

WN: I wanted to come back to Fulford family stuff.

MJ: Yes. What did you want to ask?

WN: You have been talking about your grandfather, and so, obviously, you met some of the settlers. What do you remember about Nathan Fulford?

DG: Well, he was a loving, kind father. I think he was a good provider. He was different from my grandfather, just a different nature. But I would often – my sister and I – go spend the night with his two youngest daughters, and we would eat with them and...

WN: In that house down here on the farm?

DG: Yes. It was really a storey and a half at one time. It was not a two-storey building. But this half storey, the two boys – he had two sons and they slept up there. The rest of the family had the bedrooms down on the first floor. He was strict, but he provided well for his family. As I said, he was a loving father, but he was very strict and he was set in his ways, as Woodrow's oldest brother recalls. So many times I've heard him tell the story about, he was walking from his father's fish house up here. They had built the house here then in 1925. He had on this old, long, one-piece bathing suit that came clear down to his knees. Uncle Nate came out, and boy, he gave him a tongue lash. He said, "Don't you ever walk past my daughter's again in a rig like that." [laughter] But I wonder what he'd do today if he'd see some of the boys and girls. But he just thought that was awful to see him in that one-piece, old bathing sit that came down to his knees and his legs showing. [laughter]

WN: What was that house like when you spent the night there as a girl? Did it look the way it does now?

DG: Oh, no. That jalousie closed front porch was just an open porch. It was always that way

until they remodeled. They took off that upper half storey. It was just an open front porch and open porches on the back. I don't remember it ever being painted inside or ever being painted outside from day one when it was first built. Those things didn't matter a whole lot, just so the roof didn't leak and the bugs couldn't get in the house. [laughter]

WN: Was that hallway open or was there a front door?

DG: There was a front door from off the open porch and it went clear to the back. Now, the kitchen part and dining room has been torn off, but it was – let's see, about one, two, three bedrooms downstairs and a big dining room. Well, it looked big back to us then – and a kitchen and then the area upstairs. It was small for a large family. I don't know how did nine children all squeezed into [laughter] a small place.

WN: The park that has been torn off, were those rooms connected or did you walk across a porch to get to the park?

DG: No, no. No. It was just all one building. The hall just went clear to the back of the house, but it was not separate. The kitchen was not separate like some of the places were. But the kitchen and the dining room and the back porch are the areas that have been torn off. I think part of the hall is there now, I believe.

WN: Are you familiar with the house down at the History Park called the Settlers Cottage in Bradenton at the County History Park?

DG: The cracker house?

WN: Yes.

DG: Yes.

WN: Did it have anything in common with that house? Were there houses like that here in Cortez?

DG: No. I think the houses – that's a very crudely built place. I mean, the cracks on the floor – now, I don't remember ever going in a house where there's such wide cracks and nothing to keep the cold air out or the mosquitoes or bugs. [laughter]

WN: I am talking mostly about the plan, the way it is laid out, how the rooms are laid out.

DG: Well, just like this house, when it was first built, this was just an open porch. The hallway went clear to the back door, which was another open back porch, no screens or anything. The rooms were on each side. It was more of a dogtrot type of house. But later on, part of the partition to the hall was removed and opened up. Well, Woodrow's mother had it done. But it, originally, had just a long hall all the way from the front to the back. I think that was what they called them dogtrot houses. [laughter] Cracker houses. This is about the only house that I remember was built like that. Woodrow's father built it himself. That was the type of house he

was used to living in up in north Florida and South Georgia. So, he designed it, I guess, to suit himself. He had a long, drafty, cold hall with no way to heat it. [laughter]

WN: What other settlers do you remember that you would've known of, that same generation as William Fulford and Nathan Fulford.

DG: Sanders?

WN: Yes.

DG: Oh, I remember the Guthries, the original – well, he would be Peggy Guthrie's grandfather. He was one of the first settlers here. I remember their house well. It was exactly – I believe the same man must have built – exactly like the Burns Taylor house that was next to the church building here. They were exactly alike, except the Taylor House had an upstairs – well, the second storey had a porch and the Guthrie's only had one downstairs. But the plan of the house was exactly the same. I just suspect that the same person built both of them. Most of the earlier houses were two-story houses. I guess I was in every one of them at one time or another. [laughter]

MJ: Doris, I want to ask you some questions that about Cortez. Do you think Cortez is unique?

DG: Is what?

MJ: Is Cortez unique in any way?

DG: Well, to some extent, I would say yes, but I can't compare it with any other fishing villages because this is the only place I've ever lived. But I do think the people are.

MJ: In what way?

DG: Well, that's kind of a hard question to answer, but sort of clannish in a way, I guess, would be one way to express it. A lot of suspicion, too, among – suspect other families, and, in some ways, a lot of probably envy if one person has a little bit more than others and a lot of that type of feeling.

MJ: Do you think those are negative aspects about Cortez?

DG: Well, there have been a lot of them, but I think a lot of those things are gone. A lot of them were imaginary. I don't believe that, as we call, outsiders really felt as much as we thought they did and just looked down on us. I talked earlier about when I went to high school. We just sort of had an inferiority complex. We thought maybe because they lived in a little finer house and had just better living conditions, they lived in a town where they had sidewalks and things that we did not have, indoor plumbing and that type of thing. But I don't think that – I mean, I know they had no resentment toward us, but it was just an idea that we had that they thought they were a little bit better than we.

MJ: Do you like having grown up and lived in Cortez?

DG: Yes, I do. I wouldn't take anything for the memories that I have. But at the same time, we've been through a lot of hard living conditions that I wish had been better. At one time, there were maybe one or two families, not native people, that lived around us and that we visited. We could see how the other side of how life was. I know I remembered wishing that I could have some of the things that they did, things that we didn't.

MJ: Things like what?

DG: Well, a beautiful house, for one thing. They dressed better. They had cars. I visited a granddaughter of one, and she and I were real good friends. Oh, I just stood with my mouth open and looking at how they lived and just couldn't imagine anybody living. Today, I probably have as much of the good life as they did. [laughter] But I remember thinking, "Oh, how wonderful it must be to live and dress and have those things." They even, probably, for \$5 a week, they had a maid and all that sort of life. But those were few and far between, just unusual for – and they did not associate with the people here as such. In fact, for a long time, they would not even send the granddaughter to school out here. But they finally gave in and did let her come to school. She enjoyed it as much as we did having her. But it was a different life to see how the other side lived. But that was during the Florida boom when northern people were coming in and buying up land and starting to develop it. That's how I became acquainted with them.

MJ: Has Cortez changed much?

DG: Oh, my. Has it changed? [laughter] I guess so. Everything has changed just like fishing and the method of fishing has. It's so much easier today than it was when I remember it so. It was a hard, hard life. Very hard. The methods they used to fish and nothing convenient. Today, all the houses are better and we have things to make living easier. But that's the way it is everywhere, I guess.

MJ: Has Cortez's character changed any?

DG: Yes. I think so. Well, I know we're not as close as we used to be. It's just a sad commentary to say that at times, we don't see each other unless maybe it's at a funeral or something like that. Each family is living his own life and doing his own thing. We just don't associate. It's not because of any resentment or feelings. But it's just that it seems like everybody is so busy and doing their own thing anymore, that we're not like a big family like we used to be. It has changed greatly in that social side.

MJ: Would you say Cortez was a nice place to grow up?

DG: Oh, yes. Nothing to fear. No crimes. I don't guess any of the houses had locks on the doors and you knew a few of fishermen left working material down. If he pulled his boat up on the beach and left it there, well, paint or anything, it'd be there when he came back the next day. But you better not leave it today. [laughter] Better not leave anything unless it's nailed down today. But there was nothing to be afraid of. Just no crime of any kind, unless it was somebody

getting too happy on Saturday night. That was about the only thing.

MJ: Do you think today Cortez would be a good place to grow up?

DG: Well, it could be. [laughter]

MJ: What would make it a good place to grow up?

DG: Well, my youngest son feels that it's just no longer Cortez. He has such happy memories of just being free, but it isn't, of course, like that anymore. But his son that lives here, he just loves Cortez. But Marshall himself would never want to come back to live, or my other son. Now, they love it to visit here, but to come back as a home, no, they would not like to come back here and live. It has just changed so.

MJ: Do you like to come back to Cortez?

DG: Sometimes, I get the feeling, when I've been gone for several months. "Well, I don't care if I ever see it again." Then when I get here and it's time to go, I don't want to go because it's home. Then I think of all the fond memories and the roots I have here, and I don't think I'd ever be happy to move away and live somewhere else permanently.

MJ: Wayne, do you have any other questions?

WN: No.

MJ: Well, thank you, Doris. I think that is all, unless there is anything else that you would like to say.

DG: Well, I think we've about said it all. [laughter]

[end of transcript]