

Patricia Pinto da Silva: Why we want to do this? I said yesterday at the Cannery that it is – on one hand, it is because normally when people talk about fishing, they talk to men. I want to make sure that we hear the stories of women that are involved with fishing. Processing is also often forgotten when we talk about fishing because processors do not go out to sea. They are not on the boats. They are not seen as necessarily the heroes and the people that we make statues out in front of our restaurants and stuff. The stories are a little bit more hidden. I work on herring for the federal government. When they make decisions, or when the Fisheries Councils make decisions that change how you fish herring or how much of herring you can catch, that impacts processors like the Cannery. It impacts fishermen and lobstermen. I have to write about how those changes might impact people. But I will not know how those changes impact people unless I talk to people, right?

Nancy Harrington: Right.

PPDS: I am just sitting in an office in Massachusetts. How would I know whether reducing the catch of a herring by 10,000 metric tons will affect you in your living room in here? So, hearing the stories will help me to do that. It is not a perfect science. But at least when I am sitting there and I am writing, I am thinking about my time with you and my time with Arlene and Lela and thinking, "Okay. How might that affect the processing plant and their work hours or the seasonal changes in a year, or the Cannery?" That helps me do my job better. The idea is to keep these in a place so that they can be archived, and maybe the next person who has my job or maybe school children or our children's children will be able to comment and listen to it. Audio is really cool because they are going to hear it just like we are talking it. You know how when you read something that is written down, it is not always – at least for me, it is not always the same one I hear and I think of. I wonder what the room was like. Where they were sitting?

NH: Right. Yes.

PPDS: What was it like outside? Was it summer? Was it fall? But just for the record, today is Saturday, the 21st of October. What is your full name?

NH: Nancy L. Harrington.

PPDS: What was the year of your birth?

NH: May the 9th, 1939.

PPDS: I would say before we get started, but I think we already started. Is there anything that you want to ask me about? Any worries? How are you feeling?

NH: I feel great. [laughter] No, this doesn't bother me.

PPDS: Good. Excellent.

NH: As long as there is no TV camera in my face. It doesn't bother me.

PPDS: I would not want to.

NH: I'd rather talk to you in the (main?).

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I thought that too. I mean, I think we already thought that we have a couple of anthropologists that are women and we thought, "Well, it is just nicer to sit down and talk woman with woman.

NH: Right.

PPDS: So, it is nice. So, I thought maybe if we could start by possibly telling us where you were born.

NH: I was born in Bangor, Maine. My mom lived in Bucksport. That's why I was born in Maine. She moved to Milbridge. She married a guy at the Milbridge. She worked in a sardine factory.

PPDS: She did?

NH: And so, when I turned sixteen, she said you're going in the sardine factory. So, when I turned sixteen, I started at Wyman's here in Milbridge. It was a little factory down about three miles from here that called Wyman's.

PPDS: Wyman's. It was one of...

NH: Jasper Wyman's

PPDS: Was that where your mother works as well?

NH: Yes. Same.

PPDS: Same sardine cannery.

NH: Same sardine cannery. He has a blueberry cannery now in Cherryfield.

PPDS: They canned blueberries?

NH: Yes. Jasper Wyman. So, I started out at sixteen. She made me go down right after school on Saturdays. The very first day I went down they were packing double rows. You know what I mean by double rows?

PPDS: No.

NH: Well, do you notice that sardine cans is packed per row?

PPDS: Yes.

NH: Double rows, we had laid flat on the bottom. Then we done another layer on top. I was all day getting the case of fish. I went home and I cried, "Mom, I'm not going back to sardine factory." "You're going back to sardine factory tomorrow morning. You're going to work if you want extra money." Because there were twelve of us. "You've got to work."

PPDS: Twelve children or twelve...

NH: Twelve children.

PPDS: Twelve children and two parents?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Both parents?

NH: Yes. So, she says, "You're going to work in the sardine factory. When I graduate from high school, I'm not going to work in the sardine factory." I never graduated from high school. My junior year, I got married. I was married at sixteen, divorced at nineteen, remarried at nineteen. My husband won't let me work. He said, "You're not going to work because we had two kids," my second husband. My first husband I had one. So, he says, "Until the kids are in school, you don't work." I live in Steuben, Maine. We moved from Steuben to Southwest Harbor.

PPDS: Where in Southwest Harbor?

NH: He worked in a boatyard over there so – four, five years. Come this summer, they all got laid off. So, he said, "We got to go back to Steuben." I said, "Okay. No problem." So, in 1965, I started at Stinson's, the summer that he got laid off. My sister-in-law said, "Why don't you come over to Stinson and work?" I am not working no sardine factory. I've done it once or twice, and I don't like it. Because I didn't have no education, so I couldn't get any different job than sardine factory or babysit. So, where did I go? Stinson's. I like the one that I learned there was tool to a table. We had the wooden tape. They were stainless steel tops, tables, and there was one on each side. We cut them with some scissors. It was fun. I was, I think, twenty-two or twenty-three years old then. My daughters grew up – my two daughters, they went in sardine factory. They worked there.

PPDS: They worked there too?

NH: Well, it was in high school, they worked there because when they graduated in high school, they didn't work.

PPDS: But they graduated from high school?

NH: Yes. All the while they were going to school. When they got old enough, sixteen. When they got old enough to go, they work there. I'm still lagging. But there's been a lot of changes made there. So, that old factory burnt. Let's see if I can describe the old factory. I don't know the other two did or not.

PPDS: They did not.

NH: They didn't. It was a big wooden building and downstairs that's where they case stop. They had a little cafeteria. That way you go down and have muffins and coffee. Upstairs we packed the fish because they come in on boats and trucks and everything. We did have good times there. There was a lot of men. Lela worked in that place too. There's a lot of them that's gone that worked there because that burnt. Then I went from there to Addison.

PPDS: Addison is north of Herring.

NH: Addison is the east of Herring. There was a cannery there. I worked there for a while. There was another cannery here in Milbridge.

PPDS: Did your husband and you and the two girls moved to Addison?

NH: No. Just travel. We moved from Steuben to Milbridge. Yes. Then when I lived in Milbridge, I worked in Addison from here.

PPDS: You would drive there? How far is that?

NH: Probably fifteen minutes, twelve minutes.

PPDS: It is still that close?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Oh, my God, I got to go there.

NH: Then there was another cannery here in town, L Ray Packing. I worked down there for a while. But I didn't like that place. I never liked that factory. They never had no paper towels, nothing.

PPDS: What made one factory better to work at than another?

NH: Well, I guess it's because they supplied more. Like, in the bathroom, they supplied the toilet paper and paper towels to wipe off, while L Ray didn't. You have to bring your own towel from home. Another thing about L Rays, they started 4:00 a.m. The first woman that walk upstairs, they put tissue out. You work from 4:00 a.m. until whatever time you want to get down to 3:00 p.m., no set hour. I didn't like that. I like to set hour of work. Usually, we start at 6:30 a.m. and done at 8:30 a.m. usually, but he didn't. They started 4:00 a.m. Some of them worked 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and go home. Then some of us had stayed there until 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

PPDS: That is a lot of hours straight.

NH: Of course, I never went in it for. I usually went in 6:00 a.m., 6:30 a.m. Those times I get my kids up and get them ready for school.

PPDS: If you have two people working in the family and...

NH: My husband was driving to Bar Harbor every day to Southwest Harbor and around. He actually quit after the boat shop for a get-down. He worked for Southwest Boat Shop. He went house painting over there for (Tommy McIntyre?). So, he was traveling back and forth. I stayed in here because I told him and said, "I'm not moving back over on the island now." Although Stinson had a factory over there, I never was in it. That's where Peter Colson started. It was over Southwest Harbor.

PPDS: Stinson had a cannery in Southwest harbor?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: When did that one close?

NH: That's close since I've been over here. It hasn't been any more than ten, twelve years ago. Because they had one Bath – in Belfast and Bath and they closed. Well, I don't know just how long they've been closed.

PPDS: Why do you think so many of them closed?

NH: Well, I really don't know whether it was the fish or the ones that was buying them. They couldn't make a go of it. They didn't have enough exports. I don't think you'll know when to send out. This one has been sold to three since Stinson had. Stinson had it. Then Klingaman had it. Now Blacks Harbour got it, the Bumble Bee. Hard to tell who had it next. They're not supposed to sell it for I don't think ten or twelve years. But that don't mean nothing because they always make a move if they want to.

PPDS: Have you noticed when it changes ownership like that? Do you, on the floor, feel changes or how do you...

NH: Yes, there is.

PPDS: How is it affect you?

NH: Yes. We never used to get insurance. We never had insurance, never had paid holidays, never had vacations.

PPDS: Really?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I did not realize that.

NH: Twenty-nine years ago, I had to have my gallbladder out. We didn't have no insurance.

PPDS: Your husband did not either.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: So, neither of you have insurance?

NH: Took me quite a long time to pay that hospital bill back. But I paid it by the month. They sent me a set price and I paid. Then after I had my gallbladder out, he had to have open heart surgery. So, he had to go to Portland to have open heart surgery.

PPDS: With no insurance?

NH: No insurance because he was a veteran, which was a big help. Veterans paid for it. Matter of fact, he had two open heart surgeries. He had that one. Then seven years later, he had to have a valve put in.

PPDS: But because he was a veteran, he was covered but that did not cover his family?

NH: They gave you a little bit. I think the girls got \$12 a month, that was it.

PPDS: Do you remember how much it costs to get your gallbladder removed?

NH: My gallbladder was \$24,000. His first open-heart surgery, just the surgery, no doctors, was \$54,000. We never did see the bill on the doctors. In his last open-heart surgery that he had, I never – we didn't know what it was because he had insurance. Because he was sixty – in his sixties, so he got Medicare. We had a supplement on it too, so that was all taken care of.

PPDS: So, the 54,000 was covered by the veterans?

NH: I guess the government, and we never got to – we never had to pay it.

PPDS: But the 24,000, you had a monthly payment...

NH: I had a month...

PPDS: – did not have an interest on it?

NH: No.

PPDS: Or it was just a monthly payment? For how many years?

NH: Five, six years, I paid it off in. I don't know, maybe a little longer.

PPDS: Because that is a lot to pay every month...

NH: That's...

PPDS: – even though for five or six years.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: It is a few \$100 a month.

NH: Yes. It became hard. Because in the end, he get pretty near totally disabled. So, I had to work to take care of the kids and him too.

PPDS: When you got your gallbladder removed and you are paying this back, at that point, your husband was out of work and you are supporting the family plus have this additional burden?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: When was that?

NH: I was thirty-eight years old.

PPDS: You were thirty-eight.

NH: He got \$212 a month for the veterans, that's what he got.

PPDS: As sort of a pension...

NH: As a pension.

PPDS: – sort of a thing.

NH: As a pension. That's what he got, \$212 a month.

PPDS: A month. So, that alone would not even have covered your surgery?

NH: No. Because back then it was cheaper to live. I mean, you can get a loaf of bread for a little to nothing and a quarter of milk them out for a little to nothing. But you can't do that now. I mean, \$5 back then went quite a ways. We get by, but how we did it? I do not know. I don't know. Just by the grace of God. I had helped from my family. My families would help. They would give me this money – loan money to help out.

PPDS: So, when you were thirty-eight, you had eleven brothers and sisters? Where were they

all around that time?

NH: Some was home, most of them. They all live right around here.

PPDS: They all live right around...

NH: They live right around here. Harrington, Milbridge, Steuben, Gouldsboro.

PPDS: Are they some help?

NH: Yes. They're a big help. Yes.

PPDS: That is a big family.

NH: That's a big family. They have a new one, one of them right there.

PPDS: Wow.

NH: Yes. There's not much sickness in the family. I've had a few problems, and my brothers had – one of my brothers. I had three brothers.

PPDS: So, mostly girls.

NH: Yes. Well, she lost twin boys.

PPDS: My sister was...

NH: I had five brothers and seven girls. There were seven of us girls. I'm the oldest, and my youngest is...

PPDS: You are the oldest?

NH: Yes. My youngest is forty-five, my youngest sister.

PPDS: That is incredible.

NH: Yes. It's a very close family.

PPDS: So, what did you had said before that the canneries were – that was the place – that was the option that was available to you for working?

NH: Yes. When they hadn't had fish, my sister-in-law had clam shuck in Steuben.

PPDS: What is a clam shuck?

NH: You shuck clams.



PPDS: You shuck clams.

NH: Shuck clams. She had one. My uncle had one in Wyman, and I would go in shuck clams when days he had clams. If he didn't have any, I go to Steuben in my sister-in-law's. My uncle also done crabs. I call them wrinkles but probably you call him cock.

PPDS: Oh, cockles.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Little shells?

NH: Yes. They would pick the bigger ones. I do those.

PPDS: You also said crabs?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Crabs, would you do them at home?

NH: No. He had a shop.

PPDS: Oh, he had a shop, and you would do them there?

NH: Right. Right in his clam shop, he would do crabs. I never picked out lobster. But I picked out crabs and clams. I call them wrinkles but...

PPDS: I have never heard them call that.

NH: That's what we call them up here. It's wrinkles.

PPDS: Wrinkles?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Are those jobs still available?

NH: No. My sister-in-law sold it out and she died. My uncle died. His clam shuck is just a workshop now for the boys with their lobster traps.

PPDS: It is a workshop for – because the boys are lobster fishermen?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: All of the boys were lobster fishermen?

NH: My three brothers are. My uncle's two boys were.

PPDS: But your father was not?

NH: Well, he went on, he didn't lobster fish. He didn't have his own boat. But he went on...

PPDS: As a sternman.

NH: – as a sternman out of Corea. Because my – his sister lived in Corea, and he went with his brother-in-law.

PPDS: But this was after his surgeries you are telling me...

NH: Not my husband. My dad.

PPDS: Not your husband, right? Your dad.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Was your husband ever lobstered?

NH: He was before I ever knew him.

PPDS: But when he was much younger?

NH: Yes. When he was younger, he was lobstered. Then he went...

PPDS: But you married him when you were nineteen, right?

NH: Yes, but he was twenty-nine. He went in the service. So, he just got out of the service when I met him. So, he was in the service for four years.

PPDS: Where had he gone? He had been posted...

NH: He'd been in Corea.

PPDS: In Corea?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Is that what they call it, Corea?

NH: No. He went over across to Corea. I don't know how come they call that little place down there. It's a cute little town, but that's...

PPDS: It is adorable.

NH: Yes. Right on the water.

PPDS: I do not know why they call it Corea. It is spelt with a C but...

NH: When you went around that corner to go to Lela's, my aunt usually grew here. That's why dad did lobster fishing.

PPDS: No way.

NH: Yes. There's a ton of boats in the water. It was really amazing actually. They looked so jampacked in there. It was neat to see that.

PPDS: So, your husband lobster fish earlier on. But then after he got sick...

NH: He didn't lobster fish while I was with him.

PPDS: That was when he was younger. Then he was working for a boatyard in Bar Harbor and Southwest Harbor. Then later on, in Steuben, he was not working because that when you were.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Did he work again?

NH: House painting.

PPDS: House painter. So, he was never lobstered.

NH: No. He doesn't have faith in him. After his first heart operation, he couldn't house paint because he couldn't put his hands up over his head. So, he patted around a little bit what he could do. Hang a little bit of paper and stuff. I mean, my daughters will tap and hang paper.

PPDS: Was he eligible for other types of assistance?

NH: No. The only thing he ever got was the help from the veterans. I tried. But I made too much money, they said. Because I was a good fish packer. I am not as good as I was. I was fast.

PPDS: Do you still pack?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: So, the packing is the most...

NH: The best way you make your money.

PPDS: That is where you make your money.

NH: Piecework.

PPDS: And so, Lela still packs too, right?

NH: Yes. We love to pack...

PPDS: But Arlene does not?

NH: Arlen doesn't. Arlene is on the switches.

PPDS: She is on the switches.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: But the two of you still pack?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: That is incredible.

NH: Yes. There's good money in it. If they put the fish on the belt so that you can get fish. It's not a lot, then a week before last, I had packed for long because again Lela packs with me. We have two, so we have to split the money on the station.

PPDS: You work sort of as a team like...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I saw that little screen with the one through ten on it.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I guess there are ten teams.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: And so, you cannot really tell of that number who has done what?

NH: Right.

PPDS: But you probably know between each other?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Down below she is on the...

NH: Down below, there's a computer that tells you how much you got on that, the two of it. Now, I packed all along because she was on the beach. She had her vacation. I made \$741.

PPDS: Wow. In a week?

NH: Yes. Six days – or five days and a half.

PPDS: That is a lot of money.

NH: That's a lot of money packing fish. Yes. Her and I together this week because the two of us – I only made 500 – I think it's 581 or something like that. But I mean, that is good money.

PPDS: So, why was it higher when you were...

NH: alone?

PPDS: – alone?

NH: You make more alone.

PPDS: Because you have more incentive to work harder?

NH: Well, she's not quite so fast as I am. I have to go a little slow of – so that she can keep up with me. But I don't complain because I am not so fast as I used to be.

PPDS: It is probably better to be a little bit faster than the other person than have somebody who is much faster because you do not want to...

NH: Right.

PPDS: You probably would not feel bad holding somebody else down.

NH: She feels bad some days. Some days she said, "I'm holding you back." I told her, "You weren't holding me back. You're doing all right."

PPDS: Oh, that is nice.

NH: But I mean you have to because...

PPDS: What are you going to do?

NH: What are you going to do? They might put somebody on with me slower than she is.

PPDS: Or someone who is too fast and...

NH: Too fast and I couldn't keep up with them and then I'd quit.

PPDS: So, it is not...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: – so bad.

NH: So, it's not so bad.

PPDS: How long have you worked with that other – with her?

NH: This is my second year.

PPDS: Second year?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Who was it before?

NH: Oh, I've been down through a dozen. I used to work with Lela. Right. Yes. Lela and I worked together for a long time and then they separated us. [laughter] Then I worked with a girl from Gouldsboro. She quit and moved to Clinton, but I wish she was still right there. Her and I dang good together, real good. She moved to Clinton two years ago. Then when they moved to Clinton – (Josie?), the girl that's damn really good is (Josie?). She rides with me because she don't know how to drive. So, her and I goes together.

PPDS: Lela was saying that she does not drive either.

NH: No.

PPDS: So, a lot of girls that do not drive?

NH: Not too many over there. Yes. I drove them because they don't know how to drive. I tell them to go get the driver's license.

PPDS: They have to around here.

NH: Yes. Lela lost her husband. Josie lost her husband. She got a cab, but no driver's license.

PPDS: Your husband was quite a bit older than you are?

NH: Yes. My husband was ten years older. Lela's husband died first. Then Josie's husband died three months before mine. He didn't die with heart trouble. He died with prostate cancer.

PPDS: When was that?

NH: He died four years, 10th day May.

PPDS: So, not very long ago.

NH: No.

PPDS: No, not at all.

NH: He almost died on my birthday. We thought we're going to lose him on my birthday. But he pulled through. He died the next morning.

PPDS: Your daughters were here?

NH: Yes. Two of them. Well, I got one that lives right beside me. One lives in Milo, and one lives in Charleston. I got three but only two by him.

PPDS: Two of the other. Who is the father of the other one?

NH: The other one was my first marriage.

PPDS: Yes, that is right. Is your first husband nearby?

NH: He lives in Steuben.

PPDS: He lives in Steuben.

NH: He's a lobster fisherman.

PPDS: He is a lobster fisherman.

NH: At the time we were married, he was going to school. His father was a barber in town. He was going to school to be a teacher. He was going to college when I left him. I think he might have taught two years. Then he met a woman over Steuben. Her father had a boat and everything. He fell right into the boat lobster fishing. (Now he's happiest?).

PPDS: Can I ask why things did not work out?

NH: Because he's getting another woman when he went to school. [laughter] That'll put it right and show you things. He said he goes home, but he never come home.

PPDS: So, when he went to school?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: What kind of school?

NH: He went to a college out and tries to be a teacher. So, we get married right after high school. He graduated in June and we get married in December. We lived with his mother and father. We never had a place of our own. I had Diane born in March. He went on the Great Lakes to sail for Merchant Marines for a couple of months, but he never worked. He was a mama's boy. He never done much work. His mama wanted him home, so home he down. After mama died, he had to go to work.

PPDS: That is when he started lobster fishing?

NH: That's when he started lobster fishing. He married a woman quite a bit older than he is. But they get along good. I guess [inaudible]. I mean, we speak and everything.

PPDS: So, you are not bitter anymore? [laughter]

NH: No. I was bitter for eighteen years because...

PPDS: It is a long time.

NH: – eighteen years he never fathered his daughter. Never bought her a Christmas present, birthday present.

PPDS: That is sad.

NH: I was upset. When she graduated from high school, he came here and gave her \$100. Then she went to college for four years to be a teacher. She just student taught to get – to go. I guess you have to do that in a way to get your license. But she went right into University of Maine. Now, she's way up in University of Maine. She's been there twenty somewhat years.

PPDS: She works for the university?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Oh, wow. That is Maine.

NH: She's quite a smart girl that way.

PPDS: It sounds like it.

NH: Yes. She is a smart girl.

PPDS: She had kids?

NH: No. She's 50. She just turned 50. But no, she never like kids. She likes them when they



get like seven, eight, nine years old but not babies. But my daughter next door had two. My daughter in Milo had two. One in Milo...

PPDS: Two. You got four grandchildren. You are pretty good. [laughter]

NH: I got one grandson, three granddaughters, and a great grandson.

PPDS: A great grandson. Wow. What are the other two daughters that stayed here, are they stay-at-home moms? Are they work in the house?

NH: No, they got work. They used to be stay-at-home mom. But the one next door here work for the [inaudible] funeral director. She worked for them for a while. They had a flower shop, and she bought the flower shop. She had the flower shop for fifteen years, but she had to give it up on pain of her back. Well, I don't know whether they're going to take a disk out or what they're going to do. But she got to be operated on. She said that she don't want to be operated on the first year, but they're talking November.

PPDS: Does she have health insurance?

NH: Yes. is Bangor firefighter so she has health insurance.

PPDS: So, the other daughter at university I am sure has health insurance.

NH: Oh, yes...

PPDS: The last one?

NH: – and the other one. They all three have insurances.

PPDS: So, everybody now at the plant – at the cannery has insurance?

NH: Well, some of them don't. Some of them were like got insurance but it's MaineCare.

PPDS: Why did some have it and some not?

NH: Because some of them are single. They had MaineCare for they went over that to work and they won't shift over.

PPDS: It is cheaper for them to keep their MaineCare?

NH: MaineCare, they give it for nothing.

PPDS: Through the cannery, you have to pay into it.

NH: We have to pay \$21.16 a week.

PPDS: A week.

NH: A week. No, it just went up. I'm sorry. It just went up to \$26 and something now a week. But that's not bad.

PPDS: No.

NH: No. So, I said I have that and my Medicare now. So, my knee replacement did cost me nothing. I went in the 15th of March and had my knee replaced. Went back to work – of this year. Went back to work in last July. 2nd of August, I had to have an emergency operation on the summer. I had two hernias, and one of them was blocking off my small intestine. So, I had to had that operated on. So, I lost another six weeks for – so I've – this hasn't been a very good working year.

PPDS: So, even though you have insurance that does not cover your salary when you are not at work? When you are not at work...

NH: You don't get no money.

PPDS: You do not get no money.

NH: Just my social security.

PPDS: You will get your social security? So, how do you get your social security and work at the same time?

NH: So, yes. I started my social security, which I didn't want to.

PPDS: Oh, I guess you can...

NH: As daddy did at sixty-three. Because I knew I had to get down to work to take care of my husband. So, I put into my social security. I got one or two checks. She told me I could make – I think it was \$11,800 a year and still get my social security. Well, I told her, I said, "Well, I'm not going to be able to work anyway probably much longer. Where she says, "Take your social security now. Don't wait to be sixty-five." She taught me right into it. I turned to social security. I lost one of two checks because that went over my 1100 – 11,000.

PPDS: Equivalent to 500 a week or something, you would be good. That is like 2,000 a month full time.

NH: My husband died, then that's that. I said if I'd known what was going to happen, I would not take it until I was sixty-five. Because when you're sixty-five, you can make 30,000 a year and still get your social security.

PPDS: Because you started it earlier, now you are stuck with this 11,000 cap?

NH: No. But now I'm sixty-seven.

PPDS: So, now you can earn up to 30,000.

NH: Now, I can earn in a little over \$30,000 and still get my social security. Like this year, I haven't made that money – usually, I made about over the factory about 20,000 a year is what we may not make –what I make.

PPDS: Is that after taxes or before taxes?

NH: Before taxes. But I've had usually around 20,000. That's good.

PPDS: That must be very good.

NH: It is good. But this year, where I've missed too much work. I've missed five months work. I've been lucky if I make 16,000. I'm a little over right now. The check I got yesterday, I've got almost 11,000.

PPDS: You mean for the year to date?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: When there is no fish...

NH: You can draw unemployment.

PPDS: –you can draw unemployment.

NH: Yes. I opened up my unemployment claim last year in November.

PPDS: What do you mean by that, by you opened it up last year?

NH: When you start at work, you have a year. I think it's a year. In the fall, you can work a year. Then if the next year, you can draw unemployment if there's no work.

PPDS: But then the year after that?

NH: You can keep on as long as you've got money in there. Now, like last year, I've been drawing unemployment. But last year, I opened up my new claim. You have to open a new claim every year. I opened it up in November. That's good to list November. The last November, I've got open up a new one for next year.

PPDS: When you say as long as there is money in it? Is that money that you have contributed during your career?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: It is almost like an account?

NH: No.

PPDS: Is that it?

NH: It's just what I've made per year. They based it on a year, what you're making a year? Then they go for it. Mine starts November and it ends in June. So, last year, I could draw – I can't remember exactly what it was. But that was at 200. I'll say...

PPDS: Once a week?

NH: Yes. I'll say \$250 a week. They will take so much away from that social security. So, that I lost over that a week. I think last week I took \$72 a week away from what I could draw.

PPDS: From your social security?

NH: From my unemployment.

PPDS: From your unemployment. So, social security and unemployment kind of battle each other. You cannot take a...

NH: You can't take a...

PPDS: – full amount of both of them.

NH: Yes. I have to made out better, so I wasn't drawing so scared out to get more on the unemployment.

PPDS: You probably would not need to draw on social security until you retired?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Is that right?

NH: Yes. That's about...

PPDS: Because the money that you make from the cannery sounds like it is probably...

NH: So, we never used to work a year-round.

PPDS: When did that start?

NH: We used to have winters off. Oh, I can't remember when it started. We used to have February – January, February, March off, sometimes April. That was good to have winter

months off.

PPDS: There was.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: What do people do in the winter?

NH: Draw their unemployment.

PPDS: What they drew their unemployment?

NH: They drew for their unemployment. Since I wasn't getting so scared in any those to get this unemployment, it's all right.

PPDS: People did not mind having a few months off in the winter?

NH: No.

PPDS: No.

NH: But they did have a few days off in the spring because I wasn't working. I was laid off anyway. They'd work maybe two or three days a week, which I don't mind in the spring working two or three days a week because I mean, "Hey, you've been down there two, three days, we'll make 3, \$400. You don't need your unemployment.

PPDS: Because you are working less time, you do not mind working a little harder. Is that it?

NH: No. You work just as hard.

PPDS: You just work just as hard.

NH: Yes. You work just as hard. Like you might work Monday, Wednesday, and Friday or Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. He's gone and have the boat to gets the fish. They freeze the fish now. That's why we work a lot in the winter because they freeze them. We do the frozen ones in the winter. Now, Monday, we get frozen fish.

PPDS: How does that differ, frozen fish from regular fish?

NH: They're nastier. Sometimes they cut them before they freeze them. Then sometimes they freeze them whole. But in the past, we haven't now for the last four, five, six years, they do what they call [inaudible]. They're come from Norway. They'd be little herring about like this. They'd be frozen when they come in. They'd thaw them out. We have set up tables. We'd have to cut them.

PPDS: This is now or before?

NH: This was four, five years ago.

PPDS: Four, five years ago.

NH: Yes, in the wintertime. They'd cut them. They'd be so many cut and so many pack. We kept shifting. So, some would cut for a while, and some would pack for a while.

PPDS: I never knew that you – that the cannery imported fish from – all the way from Norway.

NH: Yes. I don't know where they're getting these frozen fish until now.

PPDS: I wonder if that is to make sure that they can keep – because they cannot get the fresh fish.

NH: So, we cut little fish and little ones. They're like eight, nines, and tens. Our cutters aren't set up for those. They have a hard job cutting anything over six, no smaller than a six.

PPDS: Smaller than a six.

NH: That white truck that you see – I don't know whether you see that outside the factory yesterday. That's full of frozen fish.

PPDS: So, you think that the frozen fish is used when they cannot get the fresh fish?

NH: Yes. They've done a lot of frozen fish this summer. Usually, we don't do it until winter.

PPDS: So, I wonder where the frozen fish comes from?

NH: I don't know they said they got...

PPDS: Would they stockpile it?

NH: Yes, they stockpile them, but I don't know what – because we were getting them from Canada. Canada was freezing them. They said they were buying them from somewhere else now. But I don't know just where, whether they're coming from (Gloucester?) or not because a lot of that fish comes from (Gloucester?).

PPDS: They are working all year round. Is that something that has happened since the changing of hands of the cannery?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: That is something that is more corporate?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: It is like let us keep it running.

NH: Running as much as you can. Yes, it has. Because when the other Stinsons, the real Stinsons had it, we didn't work year-round. It was seasonal.

PPDS: Apart from collecting unemployment, did people have odd jobs that they would...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: – do during that time.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: What kind of things could they do?

NH: Well, Lela never did. Arlene used to work in store. They had a little store there. Before you come to the driveway, Stinson had a little store right then. Arlene used to work in that store.

PPDS: Any of these other cottage industries like the crab picking or...

NH: Some of them did.

PPDS: – shucking.

NH: Some of them did. We just had one lady quit. She's has gone clam shucking in an hour's worth. She got mad and quit. [laughter] Lela is [inaudible]

PPDS: Is it just sort of regular things that might make somebody quit her job like that?

NH: Yes. Because they're bringing in these tents from Bangor. She doesn't like Negroes because some of them are Negroes. She says, "I won't work here with them." I won't say what she said but – [laughter] but you got to shut your mouth and work with whoever they bring in. I mean, hey...

PPDS: A job is a job.

NH: – a job is a job. I've gone through things down there. I've got mad before too. If I was going to quit, I've quit a long time ago. I wouldn't been there forty-two years. I worked thirteen years down there, never took a day off, never lost a day.

PPDS: Like a sick day?

NH: Never a sick day.

PPDS: You never does a sick day.

NH: My gallbladder was my first time I ever – worked thirteen years where I never had a sick day. We don't get paid for sick days. The men do, I think, because the man has more vacations than we do. We only have one week. Some of them has two, some of them has three.

PPDS: How was that determined?

NH: I don't know what it isn't fair.

PPDS: It does not sound particularly fair.

NH: I think they ought to give the women sick days. I mean, they ought to do something if you don't miss a day, go there for a month, and don't miss a day, I say give them a couple of days.

PPDS: Like provide incentives for people to work...

NH: To work.

PPDS: – consistently.

NH: Right.

PPDS: To be good workers.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: You get a week's holiday after working there for how many months?

NH: We get a week of pay. We never had that for about – I think this is the third or fourth year.

PPDS: Before you did not have holiday. When you do not work, you never get paid?

NH: We never had a paid vacation until Blacks Harbour took over. The women. The men, we had paid holidays. I don't know at this time how many holidays we have a year. But we had paid holiday. We'd have paid holiday, but we never had a week's vacation. It seemed good. Not to weeks' vacation, I went to Florida. My husband would never go anywhere when he was alive. But my grandson graduated from Tampa University. So, my husband was dead. So, I went to Tampa for graduation. Then last year, in October, he's at Idaho. I went to Idaho. My daughter and I, we went to Idaho. I didn't get anywhere this year. But next year, he's moving to Ohio in that last November to go to school. He's going after his master's and got in Botany. I'm going to Ohio for a week.

PPDS: So, you are getting to see America now.

NH: Right.



PPDS: The joys of finally having paid vacation.

NH: We have now.

PPDS: Can I see their book?

NH: Sure. Yes.

PPDS: It is like a guide for conditions of employment?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Hourly production and piecemeal employees.

NH: So, does this tell you, for example, why men's jobs...

PPDS: Probably I never read it. [laughter]

NH: I only read just the state holidays. This is all I looked at.

PPDS: Oh, my God. So, New Year's, Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day. The day after Thanksgiving Day, that is a good day...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: – to have off. We do not have that off Christmas day.

NH: But last year was the first time we had it – no, a year before last, was the first time we had the day after Thanksgiving off. The man knows this, but we didn't. So, when it comes to our paycheck, we had – I had an extra day. We had an awful time on a break because nobody knew it. We all went in, ended up in the office, wonder how come we get so much money, we get overpaid. Because you are not getting overpaid, you had Thursday and Friday off, which we never did. We always got paid for Thanksgiving.

PPDS: I just noticed you also have bereavement leave. So, if there is a death in the family, you have three days.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: That is like quarter and a half too.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: So, all of these things are new from being part of this corporate?

NH: Right.

PPDS: That is really interesting. What about safety there? Are you getting hurt if not by work or...

NH: Yes. I used to be one from getting can poisoning. So, I get cut. I don't now, but you – when I first started, I got a can cut right down that crease, I'd end up with infection.

PPDS: Wow.

NH: A year before last, I fell down there. One morning going in, it was icy and I fell down and I hit my head in an awful wall. I felt sure when I get up, my head to be split wide open. That's how hard I hit but no blood. But it knocked me out for a minute. I get infection. They helped me out to get in there. I ended up going to the hospital. I had a stiff neck out of it. But I think I cracked this collarbone or something right here because right here is always a bulb ever since I've done it. I didn't have that checked. But I think...

PPDS: You have not had it checked since?

NH: No because they'll tell me I cannot work. I've lost much work this year. I don't have to say anything because I could have the job. A girl had tied my apron up for me. But I can't get my hand behind there enough to tie.

PPDS: Is your fear that they might tell you that you should not go back to work because of the money or is it because you like going to work?

NH: I like going to work.

PPDS: I stayed home. Three months, I was like up here with money. I thought I would go crazy – [laughter]

NH: – here all alone. The first week, I came home from the hospital. My oldest daughter was with me. Because the daughter next door had to go to Idaho with her son. His girlfriend lost a baby, so they had to chat throughout with him. Then my other daughter, middle daughter, came down for a week. Then I was all right to get up and down by myself. I could get up right by myself then because they went home. I thought I would go crazy. I said I lost my dog. I had a pug. Right after my husband died, I had her put away because she got blind.

PPDS: So, you lost both?

NH: I lost both. She was fourteen years old. She was our baby.

PPDS: Oh, no.

NH: She got blind and hard of hearing and had arthritis so bad, the poor thing. I took her to the

vet. She said "She was like an eighty-three-year-old woman with arthritis. She's just blind, hard of hearing. There's nothing I can do for you." So, I kept her for two, three months after that. But she was running into everything. She started peeing now over everything. So, I had to have her put to sleep. That was just like losing a kid.

PPDS: It is crazy. It is a long time.

NH: So, no more dogs.

PPDS: No.

NH: No more cats.

PPDS: Why not?

NH: I said now that I can get out and travel.

PPDS: That is right.

NH: I can't have a dog.

PPDS: That is right. I have heard a lot of people say about that.

NH: When it comes so that I'm going to retire – I want to work until I'm seventy-five. Peter says I'm going to stay there long. I can't leave. Lela and I can't leave until he retires. He's got twelve more years before he can retire. I also like being here when I am seventy-eight years old.

PPDS: Who has twelve more years?

NH: Peter.

PPDS: Peter.

NH: You said you're good because I've always been there. Peter is a heck of a nice guy.

PPDS: He seemed like it.

NH: Very nice boss and he's been awful good to me. I thank the world of it. So, he said you can't get down until I get down. So, what if I die, he's going to die is different [laughter] until I retire. So, first poor Lela. Lela has failed terrible. Lela is not well.

PPDS: No.

NH: I'll be like Peter, I don't know what's going to happen. I don't know what I'm going to do when something to Lela. Lela and I have been there for so long. Lela is not well.

PPDS: Is that affecting her at work?

NH: Yes. It slowed her down. Yes. They slowed it down.

PPDS: But she is still at the packing line?

NH: She is still at the packing line. She was the fastest packer for – my Lord, I had been there fort-years. She was the fastest packer for a good thirty-eight. She was the fastest packer.

PPDS: With scissors?

NH: I could keep up with a pretty good arm force, but that was the only thing I could keep up with it. Other than that, forget it.

PPDS: Wow. So, you notice that – what other sorts of things are...

NH: She don't eat. She can eat. She said she can't swallow. Everything she swallowed, she said it sticks right here and she loses it.

PPDS: You got to eat.

NH: You got to eat. Because she was never very big, but she's lost.

PPDS: She has...

NH: She has lost weight. She is not going to die on that. I keep telling her, I said, "Lela, go to the doctors and get there –" She has to keep going to have a throat stretch. But I don't know whether she's afraid of cancer or what? Maybe she knows something that I don't. It could be. I don't know.

PPDS: People do not like going to the doctor because they do not want to know if there is something that is...

NH: Same with me, if a doctor told I had a cancer, I don't know how I'd accept it.

PPDS: It is almost better. I mean, not...

NH: Not at all.

PPDS: Right, it is better not to know because you can survive cancer. But it is definitely news that you do not want to get.

NH: Yes. That was like me with my stomach. I knew there was something definitely wrong. I had this done four years ago. I only had one hernia. At this time, I had two. So, I can't do no lifting now. Because cancer is bad in my family, and I was scared to be...

PPDS: [laughter] So, that is kind of neat. Did you have a handbook before Bumble Bee?

NH: That's the second one we've had. But like I said, I've never really – I've never sat down and read that. I bet two thirds of the women in that factory haven't taken the time to read that.

PPDS: Do you think that the men have read it?

NH: [laughter] I doubt it.

PPDS: So, it is not like the men know what is going and the women do not. So, it was interesting when you said that you felt like the men – how do the jobs that the men do differ from the jobs that the women do?

NH: We get one woman that runs the forklifts, so I can't say anything about the forklift. Most of the men has forklift drivers. They put the cans for us to slows down, for us to use.

PPDS: No, the empty cans.

NH: The empty cans. Yes. Then they had them in because they have the maintenance man that keeps – tries to keep things when they break down.

PPDS: Arlene's husband is a maintenance person?

NH: Yes. Arlene's husband is one. Yes. Because they're man out in the cutting room. One of them used to be our supervisor on the floor. He's out in the cutting room. He was nice.

PPDS: Are there men who cut?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I mean, who packs?

NH: Yes. Some of the Mexicans. Well, I don't know if they're Mexicans or Hondurans. I guess they're all the same thing. I don't know. They're one or two packs. But none as quite fast. No mistake on what they call the state line.

PPDS: Do people mind working with them?

NH: No. I don't.

PPDS: Well, because you had mentioned that one of your colleagues definitely...

NH: There is some will say, "Oh, I don't want so and so packing with me. But they don't bother me.

PPDS: Are they year-round workers or temporary?

NH: The ten percent.

PPDS: The ten percent.

NH: Some of the Mexicans there because they bought houses in Gouldsboro. Yes.

PPDS: So, they are here to stay.

NH: Yes. We get two that's real fast. I don't want the names. They don't speak English that well either.

PPDS: No?

NH: They're very nice. They pack next to me. They're the fastest ones on my side. Three of five stations on my side. They're the fastest.

PPDS: How is your Spanish? [laughter]

NH: I'm trying. I just go down there that I'm trying to learn a few things from. But I'll never make it.

PPDS: Well, very good. Who knows maybe your next holiday will be Mexico. [laughter]

NH: My daughter did go. I had a chance to go because my oldest daughter booked me a cruise with her.

PPDS: Wow.

NH: She went on a cruise last January.

PPDS: What a good time of year to go.

NH: She booked it from Maine. She called me up. She said, "Mom, I got it all paid for us." I said, "I'm sorry. But you know I don't like boats. You know, I didn't like boats."

PPDS: But they are so big.

NH: That's what she said.

PPDS: Did you see them in Bar Harbor?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Oh, my God, they look like skyscrapers.

NH: But I'm scared to death of water.

PPDS: Really?

NH: So, I said no.

PPDS: She said "Mama, it cost me \$1,700." I said, "You should have asked me first [laughter] before you bought something for me like that."

NH: So, (Laurie?) went with her.

PPDS: Who is Laurie? Laurie is your other daughter?

NH: My baby daughter over here. They went to Cancun, Mexico, Jamaica, and I can't...

PPDS: Pretty balmy in January.

NH: Oh, but she said it was beautiful.

PPDS: Oh, wow.

NH: They love it.

PPDS: Wow.

NH: They want to go back, but I told them no. They want me to go. No, I am not going.

PPDS: So, you do not swim?

NH: No. I get pushed into a lobster pen when I was a kid.

PPDS: Oh, wow.

NH: There's no lobsters in there. The lobster has been taken out. I've been scattered of the water ever since. I was about nine years old.

PPDS: Wow. Who pushed you in?

NH: A friend of mine. But he thought I could swim, but I couldn't.

PPDS: That is pretty scary.

NH: I was sitting on this lobster keg. That's just a big wooden – great big wooden thing that floats in the water where they put lobsters in. There was rope on it and I was sitting on it. I was going to take hold the rope and dock myself down a little bit. Well, the next thing I knew I was on the middle of the lobster pen. He snuck up behind me and give me a shove. He felt so bad.

PPDS: Oh.

NH: I've never tried to save myself. If it hadn't been for my cousin, I would have drowned.

PPDS: Because you just – you said it...

NH: I just panic.

PPDS: Wow.

NH: Yes. When I come up, I just never offered to paddle or anything. I went down twice.

PPDS: Are there any pools around here?

NH: Yes. I got a nice one right over here.

PPDS: Is that right? Really?

NH: I will get in the pool.

PPDS: You will get in the pool? So, you are afraid of the ocean?

NH: Yes. I know I'm not going to drown in that pool.

PPDS: Because that is good exercise.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: That is not bad for your knee.

NH: I get in the pool. I love it, but I won't get to the ocean.

PPDS: That is so nice. I am so jealous. We do not have – well, we do but I mean it is about forty minutes away for us to get into a pool.

NH: Yes. She has one out the back. They get one out the back here. It is a above the ground pool.

PPDS: In the summertime, you will use that.

NH: I've been in it. I love it.

PPDS: Yes. That is amazing.



NH: But I just wait to grab it. But I do have a good time here. I get in with my kids and my little great grandson. I didn't get in with him this year. Now, they're here, I'm able to get with him.

PPDS: He is so cute.

NH: Then four of that is my grandchildren.

PPDS: Amazing.

NH: Under the moose, they sat.

PPDS: Amazing.

NH: That's my grandson and his sister. Then the one on the white shirt on is the mother of this little boy right here.

PPDS: So, cute.

NH: Then her sister. The other ones are my nieces and nephews.

PPDS: The legacy of working in canneries and really with – I know you said your brothers were lobstermen. Next generation, is anybody doing fisheries?

NH: One of my brother's son. He only got one boy, and he's lobstering.

PPDS: He is lobstering.

NH: Got his own boat.

PPDS: The only one of that generation that is still doing fish-related stuff?

NH: Yes. He's the only one. His grandfather died and left him his boat. So, he's got his own boat. His own traps. Yes. He's twenty-two, twenty-three years old.

PPDS: How are they doing lobstering? How is lobstering?

NH: I guess they're pretty good. I haven't seen my brother lately. He usually brings me a lobster once a month, but he hasn't been in this month. About time for lobster. [laughter]

PPDS: How do you cook them?

NH: Boiled.

PPDS: Wow.

NH: Yes. I am not crazy over them.

PPDS: No. I like them grilled.

NH: I've had one grilled.

PPDS: Or baked.

NH: I had it baked.

PPDS: Slice it in half when it is alive. Then you just put some salt and...

NH: Butter?

PPDS: – pepper on it and butter and just put it under the broiler for like five minutes.

NH: Yes. I had it that way.

PPDS: It is less watery, I think. I mean, anything with butter and salt on it tastes good so –  
[laughter]

NH: No. I used to have crab meats. I had lobster. My granddaughter over here likes lobsters. She loves it. Oh, I think she'd eat six.

PPDS: Wow. Well, that is an expensive habit unless you got somebody lobstering in the family.

NH: Yes. I had lobstering family on it, but I'm not – I am not getting crazy over them. I used to be, but I don't know. I think if you grow older, your taste buds change or something. Just like these sardines, I used to love sardines.

PPDS: Fresh or cooked? I mean, fresh or canned?

NH: The canned sardines.

PPDS: The canned sardines.

NH: I used to bring them home and eat them. I love them.

PPDS: But you do not them anymore? I like them.

NH: I think it's because I'm packing them. I've done it so long now that...

PPDS: You just do not want to see them when you are not working.

NH: No, I don't want them. I bring them home for different people, different one who wants them. Because we're all allowed two cans a day.

PPDS: Why not take them, right?

NH: Right. Maybe once every six months I'll go get a dozen cans,

PPDS: Have you ever eaten them fresh, I mean, not canned? That you bring them home and cook them?

NH: Yes. There is an aunt. I liked the bigger herring taking – and putting them and fry them. They're delicious. They're bony, together with the bone.

PPDS: They are bony. Well, you have to know how to eat them with bones.

NH: Yes. But they're delicious.

PPDS: Yes. I like them too. We grill them...

NH: I love to have them grilled.

PPDS: – with rock salt, just cooks – we do not even clean them. We clean the outside. If they are small and fresh, we just grilled them on the barbecue outside because they smell quite a lot.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: But when you fry them, they probably smell. Yes, we have them. I am Portuguese and it is like our country's national dish. [laughter]

NH: I like mackerel on the grill

PPDS: Oh, on the grill?

NH: Oh, you put mackerel on the grill and put barbecue sauce on it. Oh, great.

PPDS: Oh, I have never heard that.

NH: That's delicious.

PPDS: Wow. Because their skin gets really crispy, right?

NH: Oh, I told you.

PPDS: I want it.

NH: Yes. They're good. I love fish. I'm a big fish eater, salmon.

PPDS: Salmon runs are open again in Maine, right?

NH: Yes. I buy big every week. I go to [inaudible] I'll buy me a salmon steak. Put it in my broiler oven.

PPDS: That is great.

NH: Put a lemon juice on it. I stay away from the butter, but I put a little lemon juice...

PPDS: But that is the broiled fish. It is a great source of protein.

NH: Yes, I love fish.

PPDS: What about memberships to different groups and things? Are you a churchgoer?

NH: Yes. I go to church. I belong to Faith Bible Fellowship right over the road here.

PPDS: Is that an important part of your community, that you know people through church?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Do your family go to the same church as you did?

NH: No. None of my kids go. Laurie used to go once in a while, but she doesn't go anymore. I had cousins and things it goes.

PPDS: Yes. With that many brothers and sisters, they bound to be...

NH: But I have a brother that's a preacher. My oldest brother. He's young than I am., but he's a preacher. Church Christ, that we hear.

PPDS: So, the same church?

NH: No.

PPDS: How does he feel about you being a member of a different church?

NH: Don't bother a minute.

PPDS: It does not bother him.

NH: He's been going to church for a lot longer than I have.

PPDS: How do you choose one church over another? Is it by which ones sort of in your neighborhood or...

NH: Well, the reason I don't go to his church, they believe the only way you get in heaven is

good words. You don't get to heaven by buying – paying for good words. I mean, you can do good works and stuff. But the Bible tells you, the only way to get to heaven, you've got to receive the Lord and ask the Lord [inaudible]. You got to get me reborn. I'm not going to say he's not going to be in heaven because I don't know whether he's ever asked the Lord into his head or not? But his beliefs and my beliefs aren't the same.

PPDS: But that does not cause a problem or anything?

NH: No. We don't argue over it. We don't argue over it. Yes.

PPDS: I was talking to Lela about her community. She was saying, "Oh, it is really very tight community here." I asked her whether or not everybody went to the same church. She said, "Well, there are two churches. There were two churches here but then one closed and one stayed open." But she said, "But a lot of people go to different churches around." I thought that was kind of interesting that in a small town not everybody goes to the same church.

NH: No. See there's two churches right here in town – downtown here. Plus, two over here on this side. I don't – I mean, go to the mall.

PPDS: You might go to another church for a church dinner or something like that with a friend or...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: But on for your mass or your –

NH: That's right.

PPDS: You go to your church?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: The rest of your family, are they particularly religious?

NH: No. Diane, my oldest daughter, is Catholic. But the other one, [inaudible], I don't know whether she goes – she lives in Charleston. Whether she goes to church or not, she never mentioned it.

PPDS: So, your oldest daughter is Catholic, how does your oldest daughter become Catholic? She decided to become Catholic.

NH: A guy she married was Catholic. So, she – he got her in Catholic. But he died right after my husband did because he was quite a bit older than she was. So, she's single now.

PPDS: So, what do you do for fun?

NH: I scrapbook. I collect salt and pepper shakers.

PPDS: Oh, they are great.

NH: I go shopping with my daughter. [laughter]

PPDS: Thank God, Congratulations.

NH: I mean, that isn't half of them. [laughter] I don't have room to put them all out. Kids when I was lined up with [inaudible] they painted for me. They didn't get my bottom covers done yet, but they don't like. They painted for me. I sat at my chair and washed all on top pepper shakers. That was the one that put them back didn't put them back right because I didn't get a stepstool. I didn't get a stepstool so I can put them back right. I can get them all up there, but she didn't. She put them out too close together. Too far [inaudible] and not close together.

PPDS: You can fit more on the shakers.

NH: I can fit them all in there. I got two boxes upstairs. That belongs up there.

PPDS: Unbelievable.

NH: I got some that was my grandmother's. That's how I started receiving some pepper spray because my grandmother saved them. Before she died, she sent any of the grandkids that wanted any of the salt and pepper shakers that she would give them some. She gave me four sets. That's how I started. I've got over 500 piece of sets. I might have three pairs that's alike. I told the kids – they used to buy. I said, "Don't buy no more because I get old. So, I'll have put shelves all the way around the house here because I just started fixing the house up a little bit. I had a wood stove over there. My daughter made me take that out. I have got no chimney thing yet. After we get that, she said, "Mama. I wished you wouldn't have that wood stove." Because I used to have wood fire in the winter. Because I can't smell and she said, "I'm afraid the house go and catch fire and you're not going to know it."

PPDS: You are not going to know it.

NH: Yes. So, I said Laurie, "I got smoke detectors in every room." No, she said, "I wish you'd take it out." So, my brother came up and took it down his garage. He said if you want it back, you can have it. [laughter]

PPDS: But you will have to get it. That is a little heavier, are they not?

NH: They were a little bit heavy. So, I've been fixing her up a little bit as I go.

PPDS: Well, the color of the kitchen is beautiful. I love that color. Actually, I think it is the same color of my kitchen. Sort of like an eggy creamy.

NH: I got to get me some new curtains because I still got the biggest highchair set in here. You

don't come down.

PPDS: When I saw that, I thought "Oh, maybe I am in the wrong house."

NH: I get a highchair. But no, he don't come down that often. But he went down for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. So, he's got to have the highchair.

PPDS: Where do you spend Thanksgiving and Christmas here at the house?

NH: Right here.

PPDS: Right here.

NH: I did for two years ago Milo. I know I didn't go to Milo. I went to Charleston.

PPDS: Charleston, North Carolina?

NH: Maine.

PPDS: Maine.

NH: My daughter lives there. She wanted us to come back because she's got this old great big house. She loves to entertain.

PPDS: That's nice.

NH: She goes all the over.

PPDS: That is the kind of house you want to go...

NH: She is lobstering.

PPDS: – for holidays.

NH: She cooked.

PPDS: That is great.

NH: Because she worked in a restaurant. She don't know, but she did. Oh, my word, you wouldn't believe the food that girl does. Everything was got reduced so-so. But I told her I said, "You know, when you come home, mama are not like that." [laughter] You clean and mama is not going to have fancy stuff on the table because I noticed that I am not that type of a person. She didn't care. So, last year, she said, "I'm coming home for Thanksgiving and for Christmas." I said, "Good."

PPDS: That is nice.

NH: My grandson is coming home. He has not been home for two years. He's coming home for Christmas. Him and his girlfriend. So, I can't wait.

PPDS: That is really nice thing to look forward to.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: It sounds like you have a big but it is pretty tight family?

NH: We're very close. Yes. We're very close. We are very close to my grandkids. The mother of the little boy here, her and I are close, but her boyfriend is not. He don't like me, but I don't care.

PPDS: Well, not everybody likes everybody, right?

NH: That's why I don't see the baby that often. They won't let me have him. They won't let me bring him down. But Rhonda, his grandmother, brings him down every now and then. He was down last July. I haven't seen him since.

PPDS: So, very cute children.

NH: But he is a darling.

PPDS: I just want to make sure we've covered all around.

NH: I hope I've helped you out here.

PPDS: I think you have absolutely helped me out. It is interesting. I thought that each of the stories were going to be fairly similar. They all start in the same place, at the cannery. But they all go a different direction.

NH: They go different ways, different directions.

PPDS: Yes, there are similarities. You are all...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: – grandmothers. But...

NH: Arlene doesn't get any grandchildren.

PPDS: She does not?

NH: No. I mean, great grandchildren.



PPDS: Yes, great grandchildren.

NH: He got three grandsons. One just got married. So, I'm hoping that he hurries up. Gets on the ball so he can have his granddaughter – great granddaughter.

PPDS: Let us see here.

NH: You've been easy to talk to.

PPDS: Oh, I am so happy.

NH: Very easy to talk to.

PPDS: I am so happy.

NH: When Peter asked me, he called me in the office and asked me, I said...

PPDS: God only knows who is going to come and talk to you.

NH: I said, "Peter, I don't know." I said, "You know, I'm very moody." And I said, "I can't be nasty and [laughter] I don't want to be nasty to anybody." I said, "It might be someone that I really don't want to talk to, and then I know I've be nasty." He said, "No, you won't be." Well, I said, "Meaning, it's for – you ask me. I will do it for you."

PPDS: That was nice.

NH: So, I wasn't expecting you to quit that same day.

PPDS: Oh, he had asked you that day?

NH: He asked me that moment. I said that "When I was supposed to do this?" He said, "I don't know." He didn't tell me he was coming that day. So, it's kind of surprised. Then I thought, "Well, gee, she's a woman. She'd be easy to talk to. I'd rather talk to a woman than I had to man. So, it made it nice.

PPDS: I do not have a really [inaudible].

NH: I probably would have backed out if it's a man.

PPDS: Yes, I think I might have to. I might have done it differently. I do not know how I would react. Normally, I contact the person directly. But because I live so far away from here, I could not. Because it is not like going down to the docks and...

NH: Right.

PPDS: – talking to somebody making a personal connection. I had to go through your employer,

which is awkward for me. Luckily, I was really nice. Peter was really nice. You guys trusted them. It all worked out beautifully. But normally, I would come up to you and say, "Hey, this is who I am." You would already know who it is you are going to sit down with. But that was a leap of faith to say, "All right. What is the worst that can happen? I will be nasty to her and –" [laughter]

NH: Yes, that's right. They just had a [inaudible] for Lela down the factory. Oh, she told you no.

PPDS: She told me off after we turned off the tape, but I am glad you are mentioning it because it will be written down.

NH: That's when I was laid off with my knee. So, they contacted me and said that we're having a surprise luncheon for Lela, and we want you to come down on a Friday, 11:30 a.m. I said, "Okay." So, Friday, 11:30 a.m. I bullied into the factory. "What are you doing down here?" "Well, I came to visit. Don't you like to see me?" [laughter] Of course, nobody knew what was going on. I'm not the one who keeps a secret.

PPDS: I am a terrible to keep secret.

NH: But I did. I shut my mouth all that day. I never said a word all that week, even to the girl down the road that she'd come up every day to see me after work. Never even told her that I was coming down. It was very nice. She got quite a few plaques. We bought her a jacket and different thing. But it was a surprise to her. Had a nice mansion.

PPDS: Where she moved?

NH: Yes, she was. Yes. Her daughter was there and her husband. Her son was in Thailand, so he couldn't be there. But one grandson was there. It was very nice.

PPDS: That is a long time.

NH: Fifty years.

PPDS: What do you see as the future of the cannery?

NH: Going to close. She's gone downhill fast.

PPDS: What are things that give you that impression?

NH: One thing is some of the mess that we've been putting in a can, we didn't put up some nasty stuff. But the cannery do nothing about it. They've taken pictures of it, Peter has, and send them to Blacks Harbour and pack them. Going to pack them. Too much money tied out. It might pull out but...

PPDS: So, it is the quality that's down?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: What about the resource? Any thoughts on, are there enough herring to keep going the plant?

NH: There isn't here. If they had to depend on Maine – The Maine waters for sardines that they used to, they'd never really won't be working. I had a brother-in-law that shut off. They used to go – used the seine. They call it seine.

PPDS: Stop seine?

NH: Yes. In the summertime, because they don't do it no more down here. But they – he used to make good money at it. He done that for probably eight to ten years and then started slacking off.

PPDS: Who did he sell to – or not who particularly but did he sell for the bait industry or for the cannery?

NH: Cannery.

PPDS: Canneries.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: When did they he stop seine?

NH: Let 's see. He's been dead eleven years, twelve years, probably fifteen years ago. He was a lobster fisherman and seiner.

PPDS: Seiner. So, he would use his – what he seined for his own bait?

NH: No, some of it his bait.

PPDS: Some of it.

NH: His wife works that through. Now, she's been there thirty somewhat years.

PPDS: There are a lot of dual-income homes. Most people you know, both the wife and the husband, both work?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Is that something that's changed or is that...

NH: No. No, that still – was still going down. But I don't know if the factory. I don't see how it

possibly can keep going. The way things are going over that really. They put a lot of money in that place. But I had a fella tell me that worked there for a long time, he got down last year. He said "I'm getting out of this place." I said, "How come?" Well, for one thing, he says, "They won't give me any help. I need help." He's the one that unloaded the traps in boats and things when they came in. He said, "No, I can't do it on my own." He was working eighty, ninety hours a week. He done this for years.

PPDS: Eighty to ninety hours a week.

NH: Not every week. But right, in the summertime, yes. So, he got down. He says, "I wish to get down." I said, I cannot afford to get down because there's nothing else for me to do. I said, "I can't live on social security I get because it isn't enough." I said, "I don't want to use my – I've got a little bit of money saved up on CBs and things." But I said, "I don't want to use my IRAs up right now." He said, "Those doors are going to close." I said, "You really think they're going to close?" He says, "Yes, I do."

PPDS: Why does he think?

NH: He said it's going to be a warehouse. I said, "Do you think this place is going to be a warehouse?"

PPDS: Oh, wow. He even saw as far as to what it might be used for afterwards.

NH: Yes. He says, "Eventually, this place right here will be a warehouse." Some of the things that he said has come true. I don't know whether it will be warehouse now. But he said, "It's going to be either a place to work just for the hour and no piecework or a warehouse." I said, "Well, If they are bringing something in, so it's going to be just hourly work, I'm not working by the hour."

PPDS: You would not want it either because you like the fact that you can control your income?

NH: I was \$8 an hour over there. Now, when we get decent fish, we will say fours for instance or threes. We just added these threes. We always pack fours. We never pack a three.

PPDS: What is a three?

NH: Three sardines in a can.

PPDS: Oh, three sardines in a can.

NH: We always pack four sardines off.

PPDS: They are getting bigger.

NH: Yes. But now they pack threes because it's more production. So, thereafter, the figures that are after production.

PPDS: They can make more...

NH: They sell them for the same price.

PPDS: You can do it faster. They can put three in a can faster than four in a can.

NH: They get the same price selling them.

PPDS: Did you get the same price packing them or they reduced the price?

NH: We get 83¢ for three in a can for a hundred cans. That's two people, 83¢ for a hundred. So, that's 41.5¢ a piece for a hundred cans. On fours in a can...

PPDS: For a hundred cans. How many cans is a decent hour?

NH: Well, it's gotten how whether you're off or on a lot. If you're off a lot, it's how fast you pack them. You can make good money on them.

PPDS: So, if the hourly rate is \$8 an hour, you can make much more even on a bad day piecework?

NH: Yes, because you can make at least \$10 an hour. I take local \$15 an hour. Some days more. It's gotten how the fish [inaudible], and some days worst. But we get \$1.06 with four in them for hundred cans.

PPDS: So, that really is a fairly high salary for this area, yes?

NH: Yes. You make good money. There's a lot of people around here that won't work for \$8 an hour. A lot of places don't start you out at \$8 an hour because that's not the minimum wage.

PPDS: What is the minimum wage, seven?

NH: It's right around seven, I think, or a little low? It might be a few cents removed.

PPDS: The cannery starts at above minimum wage?

NH: Above minimum wage. After that three months, you can work your way up. Like, they give you a raise. They just got a raise. The hourly crew just got a raise 25 to 30¢. I don't know why we didn't, but the hourly crew did.

PPDS: If the cannery were to close, where do you think people would work?

NH: That is a good question. I don't know. I know where I'd work If I was younger. Because now, I wouldn't know but a twelve hours work. I'm working all night or somewhere. But that was 20 years younger, but I wouldn't draw that path now.

PPDS: Who do you think would be the worst off?

NH: The younger ones. I would you say these thirty years old – the thirty-year-old ones. We get some down there that's twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five. That's got children, not married. They'd be the worst ones.

PPDS: They would be the worst ones.

NH: Yes. The older ones won't be a headache because they can get their social security. The older ones have got IRAs because when Stinson sold out, we all had what they call profit sharing. So, we all put them in IRAs, and we have a 401(k).

PPDS: Did you all decide that together to put them in IRAs?

NH: No, some of them took it and spin it. But I put mine in an IRAs. I'm saving for a rainy day when I retire. Then we get the 401(k). They take so much – we put in so much.

PPDS: But that has been only started now. You have 401(K). I mean, now, ever since Bumble Bee.

NH: Since Bumble Bee took over four or five years.

PPDS: So, the younger ones would be worst off because they really depend. That is their only income for their household.

NH: That's their only income.

PPDS: There would just may not be someplace else for them to work or...

NH: Right. Yes. I've heard some of the young ones. There's one that sits with me at lunch. She's probably thirty-four, thirty-five. She's got a little girl that's nine. She lives with her mother. She isn't married. She said her mother would like to sell her house and move to Bangor because has had two sisters live in Bangor. She said, "But I can't go to Bangor." I said, "Why?" She says, "I can't. If mom sells the house," she said, "I don't know what I'll do." She says, "Because I couldn't work at Bangor." I said, "Why, there's all kinds of work in Bangor?" Bangor would be the place to go. PPDS:As you go to Bangor every weekend anyway, that's all in stores at to Bangor. She said, "Well, I won't make the money I am here." I said, "No, but you've got to start in the bottom and work up." I said, "You were to start low here and work up." So, at the moment that cannery actually does provide good salaries in a place where there are really not good salaries.

PPDS: That is right. It does. So, even better than moving to Bangor. Maybe Bangor or a city would be the next best place to – but it would require that they would have to move probably if they have kids like in school or something. That might be not an easy thing to do. If people do not have faith like the girl you mentioned, you said she had a...

NH: A mom.

PPDS: – mom or an aunt or something in Bangor.

NH: A mom. Yes.

PPDS: But somebody else might not have any contracts there.

NH: That's right.

PPDS: It might be a lot harder there to move by yourself if you have children.

NH: It would be. Yes.

PPDS: So, that is interesting. So, single moms will be the worst off.

NH: Right.

PPDS: Then who would be the second worst off? You had to think of another group.

NH: Probably this (temps?). They call these (temps?) but I don't – someone said they're homeless people. But I don't know whether they're homeless people or not. I really don't know whether they're homeless or whether they're just...

PPDS: Where would they live? Where do they live? Can you not have a home in a place where it is so cold?

NH: They're coming from Bangor. Some of them I would say has been in the city because you can tell the way they talk. They're not Mainers.

PPDS: They are not Mexicans? They are local?

NH: They're some that's Mexicans.

PPDS: Some are Mexicans. Some are Mainers.

NH: Some are Mainers.

PPDS: But they are from the city?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: You can tell by the way they talk?

NH: Yes. They're friendly. They're nice. I can't believe that they live on the street. I just can't

believe it. Because, I mean, they don't – they're not dressed like they live on the street. They would be dirty.

PPDS: Yes, you would think so.

NH: But they're not.

PPDS: So, maybe they are not homeless?

NH: I don't know where they're getting their information, some of them down there but...

PPDS: So, it sounds like there is not a terrible – a lot of mixing between the different groups. It is like you have got the core group of people who have been there for a long time.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: They know each other really well.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: You have African Americans.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Then you have Mexicans or some...

NH: Yes.

PPDS: – Latin Americans. Then you have this group of other temporary workers that are possibly from Bangor, possibly homeless.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: But people kind of stick to their own group.

NH: Yes. Now, I talked with anybody. I talked with a couple of the men down there. They're one of my – I wish I can talk to because I don't know. I get to talk and ask him how he is and everything because I talk – I always say good morning to everybody. Anybody when I meet in the morning, when I go to work, I say good morning to. But him, you can't get rid of until it comes time to go to work. Wherever you go, he'll follow you way around. [laughter] I don't know. He just likes to talk, I guess. Yes. We laugh and talk. I mean, hey, I don't have no problems with him. Don't make no difference to me. No, they don't bother me. They talk. I even taught to speak to Mexicans. I can't understand them but I speak to them anyway.

PPDS: You speak to them anyways. That is good.



NH: Yes. I've always been friendly with everybody.

PPDS: What about the management process? When I taught to come down here, I thought, "I wonder if the people who work at the cannery are connected or understand or pay attention to how herring is managed at the regional level by the Fishery Management Council or by the federal government, or do people really have any idea of?"

NH: I don't know. Al West, because he's upstairs, he probably hidden [inaudible] probably would be the...

PPDS: The sort of are the ones that are, I mean, insiders to that. Just try and sort of represent the cannery and their meetings and stuff like that.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: The sense that I am getting is that they are very knowledgeable about what things are going on. It is sort of left up to them to represent the people in the cannery.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: It is like an informal thing.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I feel like we have covered a lot of stuff. If I had another question, it would probably be related specifically to, as time goes on, if anything does happen to the cannery, I may ask you again who you think might be impacted the worst by it, or something like that.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: But I do have your address. What I want to do with these tapes is have them transcribed onto a piece of paper. I had never done this before, but I thought of it when I was at Lela's houses to also copy it onto a disk. By copying it onto a disk and sending you the hard copy, then you can give it to one of your family members or something like that.

NH: It's funny you should say that because I was talking to my daughter last night. I said I got a lady coming tomorrow night. She said, "You have?" I said, "Yes." She said, "What's that about?" I said, "Well, she wants to ask me some questions about the factory." She said, "Well, I think that's wonderful mama. I said, "You do?" She said, "Yes." She said, "You know, you could pass that." I said, "She's going to give me a copy of it on paper." She said, "Well, don't you know your grandchildren would like that and your great grandchildren." So, it's funny you should mention that.

PPDS: That is what I thought. As I thought, paper is maybe just going to get lost. But a disc...

NH: A disk.

PPDS: If somebody can load and already make a copy and send it around and it is audio...

NH: I don't know how to do it, but she does.

PPDS: If you do it, that is nice. The point is that whether it is your great grandchildren or your great, great, great grandchildren, but somebody else's great, great grandchildren, if they want to know about the history and culture and – in a way you said somebody wants to come and talk to me about the cannery, but what we wanted to talk to you about is about you. The cannery is one thing, but the people – what makes the cannery a special place is the people who work there and work there for as long as you guys have.

NH: They used to have bus.

PPDS: Lela said that.

NH: They used to run it one from Jonesport, one from Milbridge, and one from Sullivan. Years ago, I didn't, but I used to drive a van to [inaudible] of Stinson until the insurance kept getting high and high and high as we took it off the road. But I drove it for quite a while.

PPDS: How did the folks get there from Bangor? Is there not a bus from Bangor?

NH: No, they come in their own cars.

PPDS: Oh, they come in their own. The (temps?) come in their own cars?

NH: Yes, I don't know. They're paid from the time they leave Bangor until they get – so, they get paid every day, I guess.

PPDS: They are day laborers. Oh, so, I understand now what you mean by they might be homeless because they might be rounded up.

NH: But they...

PPDS: But did they come in their own car? Well, I guess they have their...

NH: Stinson don't pay them every day.

PPDS: No. But they have...

NH: I don't know what that group is called and mean. That's how they get paid.

PPDS: It is like a (temp?) agency or something that used them. Then the cannery may pay for their [inaudible]

NH: They must have.

PPDS: Yes. Something like that.

NH: That's how I think the Mexicans come here first because they used to be a woman that come. When the Mexicans first came here, a few of them, we didn't have very many of them the first year. There would be a woman that would come once a month. She'd go around and talk to the Mexicans.

PPDS: Maybe checking to see...

NH: Checking papers. Did they have some papers and things? Then all of a sudden, all kinds of them came. There's no woman that comes in that now. But that's what happened in the beginning.

PPDS: What about this the other ladies mentioned – or maybe it was Al mentioned, a sea cucumber processing factory?

NH: Right here at Milbridge.

PPDS: Really?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Where is that?

NH: As you go around the corner to come into Milbridge, there's a road that goes to your left.

PPDS: Where Inland Seafood is?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: I went down there. I went down there because...

NH: No, Inland.

PPDS: Inland is to your left as you are coming into town. I mean, you have to make the left and you have to go about three miles...

NH: Yes, that's it.

PPDS: – when it is down on the left hand-side.

NH: Is it down with the water?

PPDS: Yes.

NH: No, that's the lobster place.

PPDS: Yes, that is the lobster place.

NH: The sea cucumber place is just as you sat down on that road, there's a boat on the left. That used to be the old fish factory. They tore it down. You'll get down there just...

PPDS: What kind of fish? From another cannery?

NH: Yes. L Ray Packing.

PPDS: Oh, that is L Ray Packing.

NH: Yes. You go down there. That's a trailer and a house and a trailer. The next house is where [inaudible] placed down, is where the family owns a sea cucumber place. I never been in there.

PPDS: Never been in there. Nobody works there?

NH: Yes. There might be people that works there that I know. I don't know. I know there's Mexicans that works there. (Jane Haycock?), at the factory, used to work there. She did know some of the people she had worked in, so she come over there. But no, I never been in that place.

PPDS: How do they catch – like catch the sea cucumber? Whether they are diving for it or trying for it?

NH: I don't know if they're diving or whether they have like they get shrimp and stuff. Like they have nets and stuff. I don't really know.

PPDS: Yes, I do not know either. Interesting. Any idea of how many people might work there?

NH: No.

PPDS: No.

NH: No.

PPDS: Yes. I had not really thought of sea cucumbers. Ever heard of another place?

NH: I have seen them. I've seen the orange stuff that they take out of there. At Japanese, I guess, that's quite a delicacy.

PPDS: The orange thing, that makes me think that you are thinking, is that sea urchin?

NH: Urchin.

PPDS: Urchin is orange, right? It is like this orangey peach.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: But the sea cucumbers?

NH: The sea cucumbers, I do not know what they take over there.

PPDS: I do not know what color it is. I have never seen them eaten.

NH: I've never seen them eaten.

PPDS: Never eaten one but I have seen them under water.

NH: We had some come in – not now, but when they used to seine the herring out around the factory there, seining for her, they'd come up in the nets.

PPDS: Stop seine or purse seine?

NH: Stop seine.

PPDS: Stop stein.

NH: It may come in on the slippery and slimy and nasty looking.

PPDS: Yes, I wonder how it is eaten?

NH: I don't know how. They can – Simon is there. How they can...

PPDS: Grab onto him.

NH: – grab onto him, to cut him open. What they take out of him. I don't know how they do it.  
[laughter]

PPDS: I do not know either.

NH: I'm number one. [laughter]. No, I don't want to wonder, but I know that people that owns it.

PPDS: Oh, you do?

NH: Lawrence and [inaudible]. Yes, I know them.

PPDS: How long have they been open? Any idea about that?

NH: Quite a while, probably eight, nine years, maybe longer. Time goes by so fast. You'll paying no attention to the time now because it just – you think, well, it's only been a year. It might be thirty. [laughter]

PPDS: I feel like Bumble Bee. I remember hearing about Bumble Bee buying, and I feel like it was last year, and it really was not. It was quite a few years ago now.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: It did not really come up in our conversation, but local problems in your community, drugs, drinking?

NH: Yes. There's drugs now and drinking.

PPDS: Is that...

NH: They're everywhere. Everything is right here.

PPDS: Yes.

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Is that Milbridge more than other areas or...

NH: No, they're all about the same.

PPDS: It is all about the same. What kind of drugs are people doing?

NH: Everything.

PPDS: Everything.

NH: Yes. Anything they can get their hands on.

PPDS: So, it is definitely something folks are worried about a year?

NH: We got a house down the road here. Second house down from Maine. It's bad. (Josie?) is over there, but (Roger?) may live through down below her. They have never bothered me. There's no problem. I don't have no problem going because they never bother me, but I don't trust them. I know they do drugs because they can't prove it but...

PPDS: What did they do for a living?

NH: A couple of the girls were working over the factory in the sealing room. But I guess they quit this week. But I don't know.

PPDS: How about other neighbors? Do they work or what kind of work might they do? Just to get an idea of what people work on.

NH: The one across the street from me, she's the principal over on MBI. He was a principal in [inaudible]. She took over and he got down. But he's got problems so he had to get down. He's retired then. The one right next to me, he cuts firewood, but he's an old man. He cuts firewood and sells them. He just lost his wife last year. My son-in-law on this side, he's a Bangor firefighter. He's twenty-four hours on, twenty-four hours off. [inaudible] right now.

PPDS: You all are so close to the water. I saw there is a town pier right there. Nobody on the street is a fisherman or fishes?

NH: Yes. They get to you to...

PPDS: You too?

NH: Yes. There is the small way down on the peak point, there's a fisherman. There's fisherman over the end of this road. They're all fishermen over here.

PPDS: So, would you say that fishing is an important part of this community?

NH: Fishing and climate and worming. They dig worms.

PPDS: And worming? What do they do with the worms?

NH: I think a lot of them goes out of state. They sell them for handline and fishing stuff because they can't eat them.

PPDS: But they are ocean worms?

NH: Yes.

PPDS: Never heard of it.

NH: They kind of digging in the mud. Of course, November and the first week or two of December is wreathing. They make wreathing here and sell them. They have a wreath place in (Columbia?). Then they had one right here in town, [inaudible]. I used to do it right here at the kitchen table. But thank God I don't have to do it anymore.

PPDS: You would do that on top of your work at the...

NH: Factory.

PPDS: Factory.

NH: Yes. I used to have orders from [inaudible] Foundation in Massachusetts. I made for them for years. I'd have to have fifty, sixty dozen [inaudible] farm. They'd come up the day of Thanksgiving after. I go brush on weekends, work in factory, and go brush in weekends.

PPDS: What is brushing?

NH: Tipping the brush to make trees.

PPDS: Tipping the brush...

NH: Off from pear trees.

PPDS: Oh, that is really good off the pear trees.

NH: Off from pear trees. I used that to make two or three dozens and reads at night before I go to bed after I've worked all day.

PPDS: Wow, and that was to make ends meet?

NH: Extra help [inaudible] my Christmas. If I didn't have do that, I didn't have any Christmas.

PPDS: Where do you get the – what did you call it?

NH: The brush?

PPDS: Yes, where did you get the brush?

NH: We'd have to get permits off on other people's land. We got to go and get a permit.

PPDS: But you can get a permit to get it off other people's land?

NH: If they let you.

PPDS: If they let you.

NH: Some people won't. Some people don't want to pick it. They don't have to treat it [inaudible] because one or two people with an axe and cut the [inaudible 01:40:06] off because that ruined it for everybody else. But I don't have to do that anymore. I make two to the cemetery. I own this piece of land here – between here and the next house. I can get mine right in there.

PPDS: That is good. So, you do not have to get a permit anymore?

NH: No. Go right along here the road. Big enough to make me a couple of [inaudible] cemetery. That's all there is down here for work in Milbridge.



PPDS: I walked into a rest house. Can we use the restroom there? But there was a sign on the door that said, "Restroom's for Customers Only." So, I said I'll just go over to there.

NH: The restroom?

PPDS: There is a little restaurant with a motel.

NH: Oh, that's the Red Barn.

PPDS: In the Red Barn.

NH: But there is a restaurant there.

PPDS: But it said on the window, " Restroom's for Customers Only."

NH: I don't know.

PPDS: It probably meant for like busy summer. But still, I do not want...

NH: I don't go in.

PPDS: – bother anybody.

NH: I don't go there because I don't like it.

PPDS: No

NH: They haven't got a decent restaurant here in town now. There's a [inaudible]. You come right by. They're all right, but they don't have no seafood. Just mixed up [inaudible] and seafood lasagna is the only seafood you can get there. You can't get no crab, clams, or anything like that. You can at the Red Barn, but I don't like it.

PPDS: You do not like it.

NH: It's dirty.

PPDS: Yes. That is no good.

NH: [inaudible]

PPDS: That is not good. I am going to turn this off.

NH: Okay.

PPDS: I almost forgot that it is on sometimes.

[end of transcript]