

Bernard Russell: Through Whale Harbor really. I had this. The one time he moved was to the corner there on that road too. You see that down there?

Karen DeMaria: Yes. Which side of Robbie's did you...

BR: Yes, that's the one.

KDM: That side.

BR: [inaudible] and he used to bring the younger fish into Whale Harbor [inaudible] when he was having issues with going [inaudible] fishermen [inaudible]. We had the little camp there [inaudible].

KDM: So, he actually was in Whale Harbor that side of [inaudible].

BR: Well, most of the time, yes it was. That was happening in [19]35 [inaudible] something like that. Before that we'd catch that. Before then we were doing nothing there other than fish houses. There were two fish houses built on the side of the railroad down there. [inaudible].

KDM: When did you all go to the fish houses?

BR: The two fish houses were the ones in the – of course, the railroad was still [inaudible], the highway was down here. Then Whale Harbor, the highway was in the east-west of the railroad. [inaudible] because it was on the west side. The highway was on the west side [inaudible]. There were two fish houses after that built on the highway [inaudible].

KDM: What is inside of the [inaudible]?

BR: I think the [inaudible] fish was one [inaudible].

KDM: Was that for the local people mainly or would they bring them up and get them on the train?

BR: They'd ship them out of the trains and a lot of mackerels. There were a lot of mackerel fishing back then. I would put a net down there [inaudible], a lot of people coming and put their nets [inaudible].

KDM: They did not have a [inaudible] either, did they?

BR: Now they can't put a [inaudible]. We had a lot of bad days. We were first off [inaudible]. Then there was a lot of [inaudible] to catch [inaudible]. We had a really good [inaudible] on both sides [inaudible] hurricane.

KDM: That was back in the hurricane?

BR: Yes.

KDM: Before the hurricane in the [19]20s?

BR: Early [19]30s.

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: [inaudible]

KDM: Tell me.

BR: [inaudible]

KDM: Were you born right here or?

BR: Yes. My family and my grandfather [inaudible].

KDM: That is when the name [inaudible] got the name?

BR: That's when. [inaudible].

KDM: Let us [inaudible] on the water. [inaudible] diving, whatever this is.

BR: Now, of course then I was [inaudible] most of the time I took care of the boats for him best as I could. [inaudible] all my life that country and the ocean, have lived in me every day.

KDM: Well, that [inaudible] down there?

BR: Yes, right.

KDM: The last time you were out on a [inaudible].

BR: Yes. [laughter]

KDM: Those should be [inaudible].

BR: I think we decided that going down the [inaudible] would happen.

KDM: (The Coin?) documents that [inaudible] had occurred. I am trying to get some of my [inaudible] that something had occurred, that he kind of developed more of – there is another reason. But I am also trying to document what the [inaudible] used to be like. There is not a lot of us who have done regulations and stuff, I do not know. I am fairly new to this area. Usually, the first question I ask people is what do you think the most significant change has been, first thing that comes to your mind.

BR: Of course, in the last few years, there's been [inaudible]. There have been a lot of fish

because nothing was happening back there. Because when there used to be on this [inaudible] and because there were people like [inaudible] to stop it. What they would do is they would [inaudible] but they used to come in by train then and then from the highway. [inaudible] most of the people could drive down there. Before they had to come by boat. Others came by boat, or actually most of them came by [inaudible]. Then the railway and most of the highway [inaudible]. But by that time, of course the railroad [inaudible]. It allowed it to be possible to [inaudible] and the fishermen we had to [inaudible] and there's a large amount of [inaudible]. When the ocean started [inaudible], my dad would tell me [inaudible]. Now, once I included my friends [inaudible]. Back then you know that we did not have [inaudible]. But we never agreed because it was [inaudible]. As much as that is, and they're fresh [inaudible] they that could fish, well, they'd reap all that they could. [inaudible] because they were trapped like that. Fish were [inaudible]. But I think that came out of the fish [inaudible] back then and he'd put it back there and then they'll turn them. [inaudible] at that time. But when they came out, then my grandmother [inaudible] and he said that the fish came to the harbor. Then after that [inaudible] but there's nothing you could [inaudible]. But now I have [inaudible] because I have [inaudible]. I have already done away [inaudible] and I have been made fun of because [inaudible]. Actually, one of the [inaudible] that I think that the pressure has been [inaudible]. I think that has a lot to do with it. But when you stop and you look through, there is a lot of things that should change and it's in our [inaudible] because it changed and it's caused a lot of [inaudible], what we call the [inaudible] because when it all starts and it's not just here but on the harbor. When I was a kid, every afternoon or every other afternoon after the [inaudible], I would come out in the (pool?) and then we just never ran out one time. They used to have that [inaudible]. They all got it in [inaudible] County and they went back there with the other [inaudible] and collecting up the water [inaudible]. It wasn't happening because in the back country in the Everglades was when in the afternoon would bring its own and the tide was going up. Of course, when the rain comes, it was after then. The Everglades would splash and we all know it. We completely allowed the Everglades but it was really not like that. [inaudible] it was bringing – and it would splash that black water. It was back then. I had a [inaudible] for three years. When I first came out there, I...

KDM: When was that?

BR: This is back in the [19]50s, I believe it was. If you found a [inaudible] where you could build a little cabin on top of, that was all right. But most of the time, you would have water up to here and everything would [inaudible]. In fact, it was based on that. [inaudible], your fish liked [inaudible]. Everything was from that. But what he did is, I know that you have written on that [inaudible] absolutely wonderful. But nobody wanted to listen because no one [inaudible] and put a finger on a dollar because I've seen it happen. They met with the [inaudible]. They threw the fishline or the bird line over there. But then you could see as the freshwater supply started to diminish. All the change that was happening was because the freshwater supply diminished. The destruction is all man-made as far as I'm concerned. When you take away what the good Lord made, we operate it together, you get to [inaudible] as much as I could change because then they're using [inaudible] and this is exactly what is happening.

KDM: [inaudible] more and more of the Everglades [inaudible] because now the Everglades today [inaudible].

BR: I think they all have changed.

KDM: People are starting to think that way.

BR: It took more of the [inaudible] to do that than what you've said. We destroyed what was mainly a source of joy and now we put it in a pile of [inaudible].

KDM: On the highway.

BR: That's exactly right.

KDM: Is that ever [inaudible] [laughter]?

BR: Yes, that's all new. But when you put it all down, no matter what you take, when you get back to it, [inaudible] and it's bad because I've seen that [inaudible] would blow your mind. I think as the time keeps going, [inaudible]. But I'm hoping they didn't do that. I've made up [inaudible] valley in the area where we're actually that has water that's not going to come down. Then that took a lot of planning [laughter]. It's just like the [inaudible] the way it is. But it's just the same thing. I've got a friend up there that owns miles and miles and is on the way apparently of where they came through. Where they build it absolutely destroyed [inaudible]. Now, it's costing them three times the amount to [inaudible]. I'm hoping that they know that they've made a real big mistake. But I guess they overlooked a lot [inaudible] the way he kept his property with lines for miles and miles and never went [inaudible] because they were specific. I think that this is where the deterioration started because it was a federal grant back then, we heavily looked at it and you can see that the plan was finished. [inaudible] came up to one place on the shore back then and you couldn't move that, it deteriorated and deteriorated and deteriorated. We didn't have any fisheries back then, now there's no surprise.

KDM: Tell me about the fish you would catch. [inaudible]

BR: Well frankly, I [inaudible].

KDM: What kind of fish?

BR: [inaudible] Mainly mackerel, there were snooks and bluefish, there were snappers, there were trouts, all of the normal fish that you happen to fish for now. [inaudible] is just what it is as it was back then and we had to [inaudible]. Sure, there was every type of fish. I remember when I was kid, if we had to race, it was the fish you got as a present. [inaudible] crocodile.

KDM: You know that I was telling you about [inaudible] that were not ready for the [inaudible]. Now, he caught every one of them [inaudible]. It was like somebody made himself, you could see that there was something there and he could ask you about it.

BR: Well, what they needed to do is they need to do a lot of [inaudible]. Then they could then weigh [inaudible] whether they could walk on them. Really, they could hang them then do

whatever they had to do. They would [inaudible] there was a place that they could probably go back and have [inaudible].

KDM: Were there ever any clear amount of [inaudible] you can create up close?

BR: Not that I know of. We did have water bridge, that's where we [inaudible]. They wanted to wait for another bridge [inaudible]. I don't remember [inaudible] but I do remember of what was called the [inaudible]. They were structures built along the [inaudible] where they would lay after this, let them dry, and then do whatever they wanted to.

KDM: Those poor arms. I know back then the water from [inaudible], what did the bottom look like? So, you had the comments about the change in the floor, et cetera. What did the floors tend to look like? What did that [inaudible]?

BR: Well, it happened. [inaudible] and you didn't go past the building because they wouldn't let [inaudible] with all that and that's what it was. We used to have [inaudible] but when you got into the (channel drive?), it looked alike. It didn't look it was [inaudible]. We didn't do a lot, [inaudible] because there was mud stuck in the bottom. We were fishing as a panel. [inaudible], you didn't get much. [inaudible] when my uncle [inaudible] we built them maybe then with my uncle and it would get [inaudible]. That was what everybody was doing. [inaudible] there was more than enough that were different, so we brought them in. The water became [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible].

BR: [inaudible] that's what the brothers did. They were essentially [inaudible] back then. Put it on the end of the pole, tie a string, tie the rope to it, put it on the wood. It was a long hold driving in [laughter]. Of course, they were a little bit [inaudible]. They were everywhere. [inaudible]. I don't know whether that was the plan, but [inaudible] or not as far as the market, [inaudible]. But commercial-wise, I don't know whether they were that big enough.

KDM: [inaudible]. All I know is that he left [inaudible] to getting that done.

BR: Absolutely.

KDM: When did you see that the [inaudible]?

BR: Well, back then [inaudible]. But I don't know if you've heard this or not, but once you [inaudible]. I don't see much about this freshwater but back here you can watch bird up here and you can [inaudible]. The bird lines would go all around there in the water and [inaudible]. The [inaudible] were more adapted to that kind of environment and that was [inaudible] because they had [inaudible] and when you put all that kind of [inaudible] they would be all over the [inaudible]. I still go back to the statement that water was the main after the dark water, the freshwater, that water, [inaudible] something was wrong with it.

KDM: Do you think that – [inaudible] where they can.

BR: Well, they did build for a long time but that was [inaudible].

KDM: That was before you had a [inaudible].

BR: Yes.

KDM: When did that [inaudible] begin?

BR: Well, it all goes back to the [inaudible] when all this [inaudible].

KDM: A couple of months ago, the [inaudible] down here [inaudible] the only bird that they caught in a few days [inaudible] drinking for the first time.

BR: They got to get cleaned up. All that, if they're doing it, and whatever reason it is, it brought that out down the railway. But if I can tell you why the [inaudible], I can't tell. Something is happening when they find that out because we could see right now there's really much [inaudible] all over [inaudible] and all different times.

KDM: There used to be a lot of white collared kingfisher?

BR: There used to be a lot of those back then. I don't know whether you remember or anyone has told you, the [inaudible], like the little ditch on the side. [inaudible] were coming back there and they'd come in every year. But then they would [inaudible]. I could tell they were going down that way, down right in the valley they were getting back but they wouldn't do that. I don't know where the [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] when you go up to the other [inaudible], what fishing [inaudible] was there a difference on the shorelines [inaudible]?

BR: Well, on the shoreline because you [inaudible], they looked pretty much same. But I think that the [inaudible], is not that flourishing. They were pushing [inaudible] kind of a little they're seen doing this.

KDM: Did the [inaudible] in the photograph, do you ever remember seeing any of that kind of graphs? It pretty much sounds like you always [inaudible].

BR: That pretty much sounds [inaudible].

KDM: Well, it really is not like the (hard country like coal, and you sell coal?).

BR: Well, [inaudible] dropped by when there was [inaudible] picking out of every [inaudible], picking all that, [inaudible], whole group of snappers, whatever, hang around them [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: Oh, sure. There's tons of mullets out there, mullets and everything. Mullet is like a

[inaudible], everything is [inaudible]. There were tons of mullets actually back then. In fact, they could put them and get them back to [inaudible] because they were all over the place. They would drift out of the bay. But mullet was the – even though when [inaudible] that is a very important fish.

KDM: What kind of mullet was it? Which mullet?

BR: Most of them [inaudible] and I seen it come back down this [inaudible] going around. [inaudible]. But if you go back there now, I bet you [inaudible] to get a group of mullets, there's over a dozen of them.

KDM: Yes, like I was watching that man and I talked to some other people on that, and you all have used nine mullets a day. Now it's [inaudible].

BR: Once they get it, you don't know where it's going, nothing about it. There was always plenty of mullet. But what they would do, it would affect the mullet that [inaudible]. Here is a guy that's a commercial fisherman, their whole life depends on it. Yet he's destroying its very existence.

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: One time we used to catch these fish [inaudible], what you call [inaudible] let them out in the morning and the crab fish would go in. There's nothing [inaudible] and you could tell when there's nothing you could hang to get them out and that they would just move it or something like that. Well, I remember one time that that [inaudible], but anyway, he came to me and said, [inaudible].

KDM: None of this [inaudible].

BR: Pardon.

KDM: [inaudible] what year?

BR: What year did they stop that?

KDM: In the [19]70s?

BR: No, it was before then. I think I was eleven, yes, because this is [inaudible]. It was declining in the day. The other thing to me was fascinating but [inaudible] what in the world could you find in this [inaudible]. If you want to look for it, you can find it. But if you don't know what you're looking for, or you don't feel like, you say, "Go out there and look for it." They just went for it. Nobody could make that move. That's years and years, right? That was always [inaudible]. When was the last time you've seen that [inaudible]?

KDM: A year.

BR: A year. There are almost real [inaudible]. The more they cut off, the worse it's going to be.

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: Well, when it doesn't fit that, once you get [inaudible] and then the water gets high, then this is what is done.

KDM: That was before [inaudible].

BR: I never remember seeing that. Never.

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: Everyone will show you [inaudible] because it was always like [inaudible] but that conditioning was the first [inaudible]. That was already there and that's where you lived and [inaudible] and all that.

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: Next thing I know [inaudible]. What more can you ask for? What more really can you ask for?

KDM: What kind of mullet [inaudible] when you go out?

BR: Well, the mullets, they were terrible back then. You couldn't [inaudible] anymore. [inaudible] pretty much.

KDM: [inaudible] were coming out of where?

BR: Coming out from the bay side [inaudible]. The last time when the water was high, you put down the flag. You had to know where you were because you couldn't tell one from the other. Fish are not going to stay [inaudible] and like I said, the birds were going with them.

KDM: Did you notice anything [inaudible] and there is a lot more sediments in that?

BR: There were sediments but not like [inaudible] because now like some of the [inaudible].

KDM: Much of the different color or same?

BR: From the bottom, yes.

KDM: What colors were there?

BR: [inaudible]

KDM: Like really fine?



BR: Yes.

KDM: More like brownish and grey?

BR: Yes, brown was common. The grey, most nights the normal [inaudible] but not that brown, grey-looking [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] now it is brownish and real fine. That is why I wanted to ask you.

BR: Absolutely.

KDM: But I cannot really tell you then, so you tell me [laughter].

BR: That's right.

KDM: [You said a lot more coming in now like you do not have this [inaudible], is there a big change since [inaudible] and all that that you have noticed?

BR: Well, it's hard to put that [inaudible]. Maybe that doesn't flask back [inaudible]. I never did seem to [inaudible] in the day-to-day. [inaudible] back there. But again, I have to say that there's no water flow coming [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] was there ever really a flow in Biscayne Bay and North Beach Florida Bay, through that area? Was that ever really a connected area? It came up like it was part of the road. Before that was it...

BR: Yes, I think they connected.

KDM: Right. Was it...

BR: Well, right there by – you know where they got those two [inaudible] at the end of the road? Not out of line at two thousand foot there was another [inaudible] north of that right where the [inaudible] was a little camp there. Just south of that [inaudible], for a long time you could come in, [inaudible] with a friend of mine, we used to go down there all the time [inaudible]. That's where they made a mistake. Whale Harbor out here was a solid [inaudible], there was no opening in here whatsoever. There was no way to [inaudible] across the bay. We actually verified [inaudible]. It wasn't that great but it wasn't bad by the railroad. That kind of [inaudible].

KDM: Have they opened up?

BR: The road? No, they haven't. But that question you had for the railroad my dad told me [inaudible] the water cutting out there could not get by. The water got out there and [inaudible] and washed it out. The water was [inaudible]. It was washed out all between Whale Harbor, all that was washed wide open. The water could flow right by. [inaudible] back there. But they tell

me [inaudible] in the water.

KDM: Because you had them?

BR: Yes. They were just like [inaudible].

KDM: That is [inaudible].

BR: That doesn't look like you can go around. But I think it all goes back, not everything is in there. Like it or not, if you look they've changed it into something [inaudible]. Then the [inaudible] thing is, of course, if there's a [inaudible] this may not have been able to dry. But they keep putting [inaudible].

KDM: Mike had planned to [inaudible]. After that, there is not enough of freshwater in the Everglades and everything else. [inaudible] grew out here way back in the [19]60s, and that was still [inaudible] and that way was from groundwater. [inaudible] what about the groundwater? It is because you put another ground field up there.

BR: Yes, it's the same thing. I can't [inaudible]. Then what would you do before they build a [inaudible] there? Then you put a wall around there and put a meter [inaudible]. The fact that that [inaudible]. But it's almost like there's no return. Now we got a [inaudible] with everything and that all I have to [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: You got it. That's right. If they could have limited all of that, they might as well have [inaudible]. I don't think we're even going to have [inaudible]. Many, many years ago, [inaudible], and I would have been very willing to go along with it.

KDM: What about owning of the bridge?

BR: The shoreline out there was [inaudible]. They know but yet they will cut it off. I know one time that I had my tent out in the Everglades [inaudible] and another fellow who was [inaudible], we got together [inaudible]. In fact, the saltwater was in here and the freshwaters were in here, like that, and they were that deep. Those main roads were [inaudible]. It blew our minds and they wouldn't move past there, it was nothing new that they had found and that the new way [inaudible]. We were out down here to get to the main road where the saltwater was coming in and where they were meeting them and the [inaudible] was really that long, all playing all together. [inaudible].

KDM: Even at the water level.

BR: The water levels weren't there. You would go back and that would have been made. In fact, the main [inaudible].

KDM: Kind of the gate mouth of the bay area was down the railroad.

BR: That was back at [inaudible].

KDM: That may get you [inaudible] and they went out to where the boat was going around to make sure [inaudible]. I remember one time [inaudible].

BR: [inaudible] [laughter] and the last time I [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: That's right. I can remember when I [inaudible] and I'd get my [inaudible] and I'd go out and try to [inaudible], there used to be [inaudible].

KDM: You got to find it.

BR: You go out there now and it's miles and miles and you never fish. You just don't fish.

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: I never did find out what was the actual [inaudible] or whatever.

KDM: It was concerning bacteria [inaudible] because of the [inaudible] were dying of from [inaudible], it had to be a bacteria.

BR: It was the same thing as that [inaudible], same thing.

KDM: That was a good point that you reached out and [inaudible]. That is the only time you ever had anything like that, that you remember?

BR: Yes, that's the only time. [laughter].

KDM: It is like you are getting a [inaudible] and after you can get it out.

BR: [laughter] That is right, because [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

BR: It doesn't fit in.

KDM: It would have been – yes. I think that is a certain way I would feel hurt for everything kept that way for a long [inaudible] for the rest of your body picked it up. It finally got to a point I am going to catch (the spine on my knee cap?). I did not even realize it was there.

BR: The same thing with [inaudible]. I never knew. I was thinking it was like [inaudible] something you could pull it out [laughter].

KDM: If you pull it out, that is something that happens pretty quickly too.

BR: Yes, sure.

KDM: [inaudible] is there any difference between now?

BR: Yes.

[Inaudible/Dead Air]

[end of transcript]