

Carrie Kline: Test. Okay?

Thomas Welch: This is him. It's five years old.

CK: Can you say, "My name is," and say your full name.

TW: Thomas Welch. Your name?

CK: Say, "My name is" and introduce yourself for us.

TW: My name is Thomas Welch.

CK: Okay. Your date of birth?

TW: 1920, 23rd of May.

CK: Of May. This mic is so sensitive. It hears everything. It even hears you twiddling your thumbs.

TW: [laughs] Are you going to put me on wanted list?

CK: Wanted list? [laughter]

Male Speaker: You are already on the wanted list. [laughter]

CK: We want to hear about your people and where you were raised.

TW: Little house over here. We already with fourteen of us all together. Eight boys and six girls, all born right here in (Venedig?). There's a little small house here. We had four bedrooms and the kitchen, dining room, living room or something, whatever you call it. Yes, yes, I've grown up here. Oh, been here all my life.

CK: Who were your parents?

TW: My grandmother called, [inaudible]. My mother. She lived on a farm road here. But my grandmother and I don't live with grandfather. But he's out west somewhere in LA.

CK: What kind of people were they?

TW: If this is our shore, we come over [inaudible]. Grandma call [inaudible]. She was a hurdler from Eastern Shore. Her family built boats over the eastern shore. My father, he built boats too.

CK: What would bring an Eastern Shore boat builder over here?

TW: Well, I know of my grandmother. She moved over here. They moved over here, and I

don't know. Some of her brothers and stuff, and her sisters moved over here. [inaudible] have got much oil. We could have glucose on a ferry years ago to get a recent show. We just went once in a while ago, once a while didn't get very old. That didn't [laughs] have much transportation then either. Walking most time. You go somewhere? No. Years we go.

CK: Fourteen children, then where were you in the lineup?

TW: Middle way. Middle way, 110 years old and I was ten years younger. Older. Brother or sister? Older sister died when she childbirth. But she was the oldest one but ten years apart between the boys and the youngest and Adolph, his nephew. Philip, the youngest and the youngest brother, yes.

CK: What kind of work did your dad do?

TW: He worked around water, corporate work stuff. He worked corporate and build. He built boats. He didn't build too many. He built some and worked out. Working on the water. Fishing the oysters.

CK: Was there other carpentry work to do on the water beside building the boats?

TW: Austin. Austin Fishing. Was there a time you had to wash your hair, now we don't have any now. Nothing I can remember hardly.

CK: Talk about that. Just lay out for us what it was like around here.

TW: Very tough, I'll tell you that. I've caught oysters for ten cents a bushel, you know, plant ground. Just tossing them in. They have good money but two people find out get five out of a piece. That was good money. Years ago, back in the [19]30s. Yes.

CK: Where did these oysters come from?

TW: They plant. They plant on plant grounds. Different people. They had plant grounds around they plant them. They had them, I think they would be there. Almost a foot. You could tell him on a bush from four or five hours and it was good money then. Get \$5.

CK: Flat grounds. I do not know much about oysters.

TW: They get from state, they rent it from state, and they plant and bring the oysters from some other Virginia eastern shore. They bring little, small stuff or biggest fingernail seed oysters and plant them on and let them grow. They grow three years, and we take them up. They thought they'd get oysters, see oyster's kitchen things solid for them for oysters. Just plain oysters. Yes. Yes, I don't know.

CK: Well, people from here who wound up going over to get the seeds and then get them planted.

TW: No, no. They both have big, big powerboats brought them in here. They brought them here. We have to take them off and put them overboard and plant them. Let's put them in small boats and take them out and scatter them around on the oyster beds. Yes.

CK: Then once people got the oysters out of the water. Talk about that whole process where they went.

TW: Well, I know some. Somebody should go to Rock Point different places. They come at trucks and bomb. They'll haul them away. Well, he chucked a lot of oysters herself. Captain Will North. He's from Solomons Island. He's down where he's doing probably down next to the museum down there, his boy owns Riverside now.

CK: What kind of a character was he?

TW: Oh, he's a nice man. Yes, he's a good man. Good man, worked for her. He didn't bother nobody. He had on Calvin Klein's side. Saint Mary's down there, all scattered all around the ground. He had a lot of oil. He gave a lot of work for people on (Venedig?). I mean, that made a whole lot that way because one at a time, real cold. You couldn't get any natural balls because you got to keep warm on them grounds. You got rid of work. Keep moving. [laughs]

CK: So, he had a shucking house?

TW: No. Not me. No, he didn't. No. He had a packing right down beside the place on the shore down there. Well, he owned down on the shore down there. We owned property down on the shore. Father told [inaudible] that they had a ballroom lunchroom down and served lunch and stuff into it.

CK: So, describe that. How many people work there?

TW: Oh, just family. Mother, him, and brothers was in there, you know, just sandwiches and stuff like that. Be a whiskey stuffer. Slot machines. It right down to water. Right down my shoulders. Right down there. Got that. We bought that [19]39. That place down on the waterfront.

CK: Here in your hands a little bit. [laughter] I know it's hard. [laughter]

TW: Yes, I get nervous, I guess.

CK: You're not used to being still. You're a moving person.

TW: No, I'm moving. Yes, I don't do much talking now. You know, you can talk.

CK: You talk real good, though.

TW: Yes.

CK: So, tell me about this shucking house. I've never really even seen the inside of one in operation.

TW: It's one down on Solomons Laurel's old building. He's got oysters. He buy oysters up and carry him down to Lord Solomon's on that one on the left side. As you go across in the island down there by the church. He shuck oysters there. He'll come in buy oysters up here to Dick Lau. Of course, Dick Lau.

CK: What about Benedict, though? Tell me about that.

TW: Well, Benedict. They had met [inaudible] had an oyster house down there. [inaudible] One where I had two to hear hasn't been shuck some oysters.

CK: How many folks worked in them?

TW: Oh, fifty. I guess, I'm done. It'll stall for him. Stand up shuck some oysters. Yes. They shuck a lot of oysters. Well. No one's look at Mr. Silas, he had an oyster ground, first ground where we at right now. Around that. Laid off myself. Got that place around two. He had oysters. He was the last one in the business. Mr. Southworth.

CK: Tell me what an oyster house is really.

TW: Well, it's just a long building and a lot of windows into it, and you get it stalls and put a slab of concrete across there and stand shucking a little hole for that big. The oyster shells go down the ground on the deck. Then they take them out, and then they haul them away, ground with a lime, or replant them in the river.

CK: Replant them.

TW: Oh, yes. Especially those bats catch on. When the oyster shells are clean, they'll catch on it. That would for taking different places. Grind them up. Grind them up to make lime with them.

CK: So, what would it be like working in one? Can you tell me what it would be like, what time they would come to work and what they do?

TW: They come early in the morning. They come early. It's hard work. You shall march all down, all your hand. One like it on the heart, on your wrist. Some of them black people, they could really shuck them. They were good shuckers. Because he didn't check them good. They'd get rid of them. They cut him. Some people cut him so bad when he chuckled, he don't cut them clean because that's what we call them. They said they bleed when you cut them. See, they say, hold it. They put that water on and blow them up some and then they ship them away. Would feel he's killed around himself. He's come over, deal or no deal. He's come and pick him up and solid around there.

CK: So, who were some of the best suckers?

TW: Oh, most all colored people. There were some white people or many.

CK: Remember anybody's names?

TW: Oh, yes, I know all of them. Thomas's and – oh, my God. I can't think of Jim. Oh, Thomas and forks named Fords. It all kind of different name. I don't know.

CK: What kind of characters were around here in the shucking houses.

TW: Well, they come – they didn't live out here. They'd come down and cause a lot of them. Yes, they'd come in cause. They didn't live here bending.

CK: Where did they live?

TW: They live on these farms in places. They'd come down, see one at a time. It was only one at a time. They worked the farms in the summer and shuck them in the winter. See, they come down here.

CK: Did you get to know them a little bit?

TW: Oh, I know all names. I can't think of my old name. It was Thomas's and Toys and toys shucking [inaudible].

CK: Any of them stand out for how they acted?

TW: Oh, they didn't bother nobody. They didn't bother nobody. They just come in and shuck oysters and go back home. We know everybody on this road. We know everybody around a year ago, right here in Bendick. I don't know half the people in Bendick no more, but new people moving in, year in and out. People ask me sometimes I say I don't know where to live at. They might live here in Bendick, but I don't know. You know, I know everybody used to be in Bendick years ago. Everybody in Bendick.

CK: What it used to be like. I cannot...

TW: Oh, nice. We used to run fishing parties. We carry a fishing boat up, party boats. We run in the summertime. He had a crowd of people years ago who chuckled at Solomons Island. We couldn't jam a stick a bit hard on it when we had fishing up here years ago, back in the [19]30s. After the [19]50s, the parties disappeared and people started wandering off, going different places. We had Hardy heads up to the [19]50s. It started fading out and we didn't have any more self here the last few years. It started coming back again.

CK: What happened?

TW: They just disappeared. He wasn't here to have my policy first World War to come in here after the First World War. All we used to catch. He said you used to catch birds. Just be bass.

I'm not a bass drum. Little small drum. They'd catch them, they'd fish for them and catch them. After the First World War, said the Hardys come into the river and stayed in year-round, 1st of April. We'd go, figured they'd be here by the 1st of April. We started running, fishing from into July. Yes, in the summer. We were called crab. Later on, during the summer after July.

CK: Would they pick crabs in the houses?

TW: Not up here. No. They had a canning factory down there. Canned tomatoes, but no, no crabs.

CK: Up here. They had...

TW: Yes. You got to pick you up down there. My mother. She worked in it for a while.

CK: So, there were two houses?

TW: The can pack was gone when I was born. My mother, but I didn't. I never seen it before until he showed them pictures. I knew it was down. He got the poles down there, but it set on. Laid down in the water. Still down in the water.

CK: I guess Richard's really interested in the oysters, though. The oyster houses.

TW: Oyster house.

CK: Who ran them and...

TW: Well, kept them another one. Mr. South he run the oven and [inaudible] had one down there. It was three here and Bendick.

CK: You wanted to know about certain people in particular?

MS: Yes. I could say a few words. You mentioned about Will Northam's. He actually had two oyster houses for a while, didn't he, too?

TW: Yes, he had one up here. When he built the other one, he didn't run – he just run one at a time.

CK: Who is this now?

TW: [inaudible] He lived at Salmond, then he finally he they moved to Baltimore or something. The wife she's staying, but he stayed down during the winter while oyster season.

MS: Tell me a little bit more about Harry Messick. I know he's a senior and a junior.

TW: Yes. The junior he I know Harry Messick. He run Doylestown. Well, he didn't run it but Marty Sipes. He's from Solomons Island too. He run the oysters down there. He had shuckers.

I don't know, I heard him not down. So, he's from Solomon.

MS: Well, how did Harry Messick fit in, then with Lottie Seitz?

TW: Well, he had the building down there. He had a building in Kent. He rented a building from him. Yes.

MS: So, did Harry Messick sort of the manager of the shuck house or how did it work?

TW: Well, he was in there. Yes. Kent also. He was up here too. He had some ground around up the city.

MS: How about Harry Messick's son? He did a little bit, didn't he? For a while.

TW: Very little bit, he did. [laughs] He was working either one of his poorly. No Harry Grey. Nice boy.

CK: Who is that now?

TW: Harry Grey. We call him Harry Grey. Even they wouldn't serve him. My brother wouldn't serve the same time. They landed over in Normandy. He got carried away and got captured the first day. The captain, brother. He didn't get captured. He come back all right.

MS: I gather Harry Grey was not too energetic.

TW: No, no, he liked piddle. He liked piddle. He like piddle in the water when he wanted. He liked pool, muskrats and stuff like that, and ducks and stuff, you know, fool around. There wasn't much work into him.

MS: Do you know if the (Massicks?) – how many shockers they had up here?

TW: I don't know. That was the smallest one. That was the smallest one. So, I guess they had. They might have had fifteen down there. Maybe twenty, maybe. I don't know. But that was the smallest place. Norton was a very good-sized place.

CK: What was the small place called?

TW: [inaudible] It was small, but it wasn't very big. It wasn't messy. Head down it. South is still around now. You see that in here.

MS: Yes, I pointed it that out...

TW: Adolf himself around there. [inaudible] on the side that.

MS: Alan saw...

TW: That's part of the property.

MS: Right? Alan, Saul, and his brother Linwood, I know, ran it. They're quite different people, weren't they?

TW: Oh, yes, yes. Well, they had a place down in Saint Linda's. They started out in Saint Linda's and moved up here.

CK: Who is this now?

TW: [inaudible] Saint Lawrence had the oyster house down there first worship in it.

CK: What were the two brothers like?

TW: Oh, one would be one. Wouldn't hardly say much. The other one he talked about. He didn't fool with much with talk of business. He was in nappies.

CK: Which one?

TW: Linwood. He's the one that stayed in the oyster business.

CK: What was he like?

TW: Well, he was all right. He didn't bother nobody. I guarantee he didn't bother nobody. But he was tickled with his oysters, I'll tell you that. He won't put so many on the tub. Take one off. Eat off his telly. He'll take one off now. Put nothing on me. [laughs] You know he get mad with it. You can ask [inaudible]. Yes. There was something.

CK: Particular?

TW: Oh, particularly, yes. Oh, yes. Yes, indeed. He was tickled. He involved me. I mean, I worked for him [inaudible] everybody worked a little bit for him. But Cantwell, knowing he was really the man, had the horses up here because he years ago. I don't when this [inaudible] going to be. He had to come back after [19]30s. Because I know he wasn't here when Steamboat Wharf in Roseville came on shore on [inaudible]. [19]36, and the wolf washed away fact that he built after that in the [19]40s. I know he'd be late [19]30s.

MS: Well, the solace place was quite a big operation, wasn't it?

TW: Oh, he shocked a lot of oysters. Yes, he had a good business. They claim Woodfield was into it. That's what they call it. I don't know who had it, but I know Woodfield come get the oysters. He had sent a truck deal down and pick them up. He had a lot of shuckers. He owned that. Well, he didn't own that property at Steamboat Wharf owned it and Standoff company on it. Then he'd bring the big barge and three big tanks around but put gas into. They used to land at Wolf that we had there now.

CK: What was it like working in the buildings?

TW: It was all right. They had stoves and heat in there. They didn't heat it up. Well, it's still cold. Wash is all wet. You get wet too. But sometimes I don't think you have much involved. I don't even for him. I don't think because now they get them big rubber items go down and keep you dry. What years ago and had nothing like it. Yes. So, I didn't go in much. I just walked for some time. When we were busy out in the middle, we did shuck oysters. That's at all how to work that shucking oysters.

CK: What was it like? Did you hear any sounds singing?

TW: Oh, this is some singing. Yes, they sing. Some of them colored people. They like sing some of them. Or they go and they move, and they started moving because more you shop, more you get paid for it. You get paid by the gallon. So, if you didn't fool around, you didn't do nothing, or you wouldn't get much. You had to pay. They pay so much a gallon shopping. They had a big old cup about that big.

CK: How big?

TW: Had a whole gallon oyster. [inaudible] gallon. If someone could shuck had oysters. I have a good job.

CK: Men, women?

TW: Oh, yes. A lot of women. Yes.

CK: What does singing sound like?

TW: Oh, I think I can hear them. I'm going to sing sometimes. I didn't go inside the building when he was into it. Some of them, you know, would do it because I was too busy shucking. You get tired, I guess.

CK: Mostly women in there, then.

TW: Even men in there. Men and women. Yes. When I first started, I think it was all men when they first started, then started later on to get some women working in there.

CK: They are mostly standing in their stalls?

TW: Oh, yes. Standing. Yes, it's just about that big. Just enough for you to get into.

CK: How big?

TW: Just about that big as it goes upside, and you just standing there all day long on your feet.

CK: What would that be about a foot or?

TW: That thing all at the top. See you put a shelf across it real high. Whether we get up and work real good on it, like a table would be high. That window where you stand. You had a thing that we built off the floor with that high stand on and keep the water from getting on your feet and stuff. They stand there all day long. Well, they stop, eat something and they go back. It was hard, I guess, on. I shall feel once in a while, just for an hour or so.

CK: To stand there was hard.

TW: Oh, yes. Standing there like that.

CK: Well, as easy as it looked.

TW: No, no, no, it's hard work. We've been shucking all day. I mean, I am no shucked all day.

CK: For you that is harder than being out dredging?

TW: Oh, [inaudible] for shucking them. Yes. We didn't dredge. We were working by hand.

CK: Tong?

TW: Tong. Yes. You know, Adolph used to write something. He had a rig on his boat.

CK: So, were there other families involved in running the shucking houses?

TW: No, no, just in people. Just the ones who owned these ones fall into it.

MS: How about the idea here that the shorter families may have done a little bit in the restaurant and the suppliers as well? Have you ever heard of that?

TW: They shucked over a few oysters. I mean, you know, a few sat around. They didn't know market, but chat players, masks and Silas and normally they sold them to big business. They wouldn't know what to shorten them. They just sold them. You know, American people made them. Lunchroom or some few oysters. They shuck a few, but they didn't shuck nothing like especially for [inaudible]. He shot a few because that place down on the water down below that, they built that for shucking oysters into it. What they [inaudible]. They may be bought. I wouldn't buy a fifty to sixty bushel a day, probably oysters and chuckle, maybe something like that.

CK: Who would shuck?

TW: Oh, it's just a few people. People working in the place down. Most of them shucking for him. I think Toys. I think they did the shutting down that for him. Do some of them old ones just shuck around the south and around Norton's?

MS: How about the [inaudible]. You said they did a little bit too, right?

TW: They just shucked for herself and made yourself feel like Adolf's. Adolf's just some dude shucking just a few. Yes. A little better known by the place [inaudible]. He built that for shuckers in there. But like you say, he'd buy a few bushels, maybe ten bushels a day or something like that, for showing just for local people like the church and stuff, when they have dinners and stuff, they want ten or fifteen gallons or something like that. There's nothing like it at all. But then big [inaudible] had trucks come and pick up. All I that whole way to sell.

MS: These shuck houses? Do they get most of their oysters from the river, or do they bring them in?

TW: They got them from the river. Yes. Then panaceas. Yes. They kept well, no, he sold out of his. We used to load them on trucks to haul away me up in shale. Yes. He had a lot of oysters. He had also carved from a bridge right on down the other side of the river, down four or five miles downriver. A string of them. Like I say, you plant a little oyster and anything to get it like that on the bottom. Yes, he had a lot of ground. A lot of ground. Well, Nolan did.

CK: Like what on the bottom?

TW: Where you get that thick on the bottom. I like these natural balls out here. You might catch one oyster here and fish for fifteen minutes. Get to know them.

CK: You made it look like it was about 6 or 8 inches up.

TW: Oh, yes. They're about 6 to 8 inches, I think. Yes. We work them all winter. Just about. He had different ground. He said you go different ground head area. You work because you let them grow. They either grow both three years, and they won't take them up.

CK: What kind of folks were those, Chevaliers?

TW: Well, I don't think it was hard to get just like everybody else. They had ways about it.

CK: Every family has their own way.

TW: Yes. They stay mostly to self-down there.

MS: Where was a Scheffler restaurant located?

TW: They had a place. They had a place down next to Mexico. They had one first one down and then the other one. Did you watch what you're doing? Hell, that did the last one where Francis had but his mother and father, they had one on the low end down there for years down there. When I was small, they head it down there. Then the boy built one up on his upper end. Watch what you're doing, Helen, and then build it back.

MS: When was the high point of the oyster industry here? Would you say?

TW: Oh, I see in the [19]30s and [19]40s. I think up to [19]50s, I guess, in the [19]50s.

CK: Up to the [19]50s. What now?

TW: In the [19]50s. Somewhere in the [19]50s.

CK: I did not quite hear the question.

TW: In the [19]50s when most oysters started dying off a lot. Could've been in the [19]60s too, I guess. But it was all right working here in the [19]30s and [19]40s.

MS: Plenty of oysters.

TW: Yes, plenty of oysters. I mean oysters on balls, too. Natural balls.

CK: When you say plenty, what kind of quantity are we talking about? I cannot even imagine.

TW: Well, you want a playground, you catch a hundred bushel a day like nothing. These boats are like Warren. Didn't them head down. They come and judge a thousand bushels. The day they drug them. They'd catch a thousand bushel a day. They would. So, now you go here, you can't get your mess. [laughs]

CK: What sort of quantities were they leaving here and how often and what sorts of transportation?

TW: Well, it was always you catch every year. Most all these balls would catch on. But he had a dying off here the last few years. Last ten or fifteen years, I guess they've been dying off.

CK: Were they trucking them out of here?

TW: Not now. When the packing place went out of business. That was about the end of it.

CK: But back then, in its heyday, I mean.

TW: Well, Lord, he'd come here and bomb and detonated bomb. It used to be about Eastern Shore coming bottom off the natural falls off the natural stuff grows here. David Bohm. But that was all.

CK: So, how would they – talk about how they would leave the shucking houses. How the oysters would leave.

TW: On the fairgrounds, they just stopped planting. We couldn't get no more to plant. It's tall grass, you couldn't buy them.

CK: How would they haul them off when in the gallons or in the –

TW: Oh, gallons. Yes. They had what I had ten in time. Now they got plastic just starting down. But I don't think it would be a crime like it. I think Woodfield carbon, five gallons, five-gallon tanks. I think he did. Because he's coming back to you. He wanted to go in the shucking room. He wanted because they want back dirt and stuff in there with people shucking oysters. Keep them clean. Because he had concrete floor, he'd keep it washed down, and they'd come and pick him up. I guess they've got a woodfields. They probably put him in gallon containers, I guess. Where they put them in.

MS: So, they shucked them here, put them in a five-gallon container and then shipped them.

TW: Yes. Them containers. We just bombed [inaudible] for the church down up here. We advise sixty gallons every fall and spring. Haven't done them. I used to handle all wash table for the women to cook in there. I throw out old cans and trash can. Here's a man call [inaudible] here a couple of years ago. I got four of them now. I wouldn't let him have them in Camden, so I'll give you \$8 a piece for them. I told her sixty every twice a year, 120 cans. [laughs] Now, I've had thought about that. See, that could have been. I could have been made out of cans. That's right. \$8 apiece he offered me for can. I still got four of them up there, but no, I'm going to keep, and if somebody else get rid of them.

CK: So, they took him out of here on boats?

TW: No, no. He took me on trucks. Horses. Oh, yes. They have bars. Come here off the natural bars. We have wonderful Captain Norton. He sold them to the Lord downtown and put them in the boat for him. The Lord would take him back, and he's packing house down there.

CK: But otherwise, it was the trucks?

TW: Well, most trucks hold oysters. I mean, shucked oysters. Well, he had held a man from Carvel Rock point over east by oysters here. By the name of – he name a law to her. He would haul them and shuck them over there. Was about the main one. On the rest of them. They were shocked and cried away with me. That when I moved down south. Then he'd buy some too.

CK: So, were these local trucks or where were they from?

TW: Then had their own trucks. Then had their own trucks down, and this fellow was called Brock Point. He had his own truck. You so often chuckle international truck. I was back in the [19]30s.

CK: Thought maybe they were going far up to the cities.

TW: Oh well, they kind of chuckled. So, I guess the cities know we're on the show when they said it.

CK: But I mean they shucked once.

TW: Yes. I don't know why. We really did carry them. To tell you the truth, I wasn't interested

in them at that time. I didn't want to chuckle. I just caught the oysters. They shucked them.

MS: When you were talking on the bars, what size tongs were you using? What kind of equipment were you using?

TW: 16-foot shares and his were both 32 inches wide. Something like that. It was a lot of work.

CK: Can you say that again? We just heard a plane go by or something.

TW: About 16 feet long and about 32 inches wide. The head all the way. He tore him up. It's a lot of work to it. He no play.

MS: Did you work by yourself on the boat? Did you...

TW: No. Most of my father and brothers, we worked at. It used to own anyhow, sometimes I had three. The most time two.

CK: Talk about the whole day then tonging.

TW: We didn't talk all day. We talked about 1:00 or 2:00. Then you had to come and put them out. You get 100 bushels to take a while to put them out. One of the times in days of short, you know. We have put them in the boat or put them in the building, and you got a bunch of boats there you could get in line. We got in first. You would put out first. You wait, wait to put them out. Yes, wait your turn.

MS: So, how are they unloaded?

TW: We just put them to a course and put them out by hand. One of them get up on the wolf one and vote and show. Show them in the tub, bush or tub, you know, and dump me in a wheelbarrow on the BLM side and had him elevate us into put them inside. You just have to dump them in the tub, wheelbarrow and dump wheeled them inside.

CK: Sometimes you sell them to buy a boat, and sometimes it'd be...

TW: We wouldn't know the people and they'd pay them. We just put them out. They just pay us for how many we caught. So, we called them. We got we got 30 up to 35 cents for calling. They call them, but we just take them home right in the boat because it give us some time. 10 cents a bushel just spent on.

MS: So, you didn't have to call them?

TW: You had to call them. Yes. When shucking oysters, we had to call him. Or we say he sold some of the truck. We tall men. Some tall men didn't like the tall him. He would tell him in Denton with tall him because he shut him down. Rooms on. He can't be on a boat and get him.

CK: Sometimes you call, sometimes you did not call.

TW: Yes. They want. If they want them call you have call them for them. You want tonged then because the shells go back in the water them.

CK: What do you mean tonged in?

TW: Just tong in the boat. Just don't have to boil. You put them on board. You got to get down and fill them back in the boat. But when you tell them, then we just throw them right over in the boat, just standing just tall, and keep on going. You don't stop. Call them. You've got to get them put them on the board. You got a board across the boat, and you get up and throw them back in the boat. That takes a while too. You get more money, you get more money. When we were doing, we had got 10/10 of tong and 10 cents of bushel.

CK: You must have started, maybe even before daylight.

TW: Oh, yes, it started late. Sometimes you didn't get to dark either, because the time, if it meant the boats out there waiting for them to put out and getting the line. Because you only put out one bushel at a time. When you put the hold up on that thing, dub it, you got to wait a while. You got a few options. Boat take a while to put them out. It was hard work.

CK: What was the hardest part about it?

TW: Oh, tong was hard on your back. Putting the most hard on you too. You are bending over there, shoving them in the tub. Yes. Hard work. Anywhere you go. [laughs] It was work or no play.

CK: Can you remember the first time you were around him?

TW: Oh, yes, I started early. I started when I was thirteen. I would tell him, father, I fell overboard one time. I mean, ice and water, too. I was down here on Golden Beach down. Right now, when I show down in boats, the shell with the wind. When we put a lot of line of wind blowing it go. I just started getting up there working with tong. While he's on the other side. Boat went off. I just, the tong, I just held on. I kept right on going with him. Oh, boy, I went, I mean ice water. We had to come back. Come back to bring back dry all. Yes. That was something that day. It was cold. I mean, cold ice in the water. I know the only time I might have wanted to go out. I put my tong back out and couldn't go out with him like that. You lean out so you get off bounce. You go on the boat. Still to going away from there. Yes.

CK: What happened after you fell in?

TW: Is going back home. Got some dry clothes on. Yes.

CK: You have to haul you out?

TW: No, I got back in myself, but it was cold. I got it in a hurry. The only time a fellow boy from Austin.

CK: Would not be easy to get back up with boots and all that.

TW: Well, you had little short boots on. Yes, I got back when I was young man. Your about to get up now. Get up.

CK: Thirteen. I guess you spent a year or two out there on the water then.

TW: Oh, for many years. Yes. But you had to work at them times. One wasn't much coming in. You got big enough to do something, you had to do it then.

CK: When are you talking about?

TW: Well, I mean, wasn't much money making a bit count. You had a big family to feed.

CK: When you were living with your...

TW: Oh, father. Yes. I did get married at twenty-four years old. Twenty-four, I got married.

CK: How did you meet your wife?

TW: Well, she waited in the lunchroom down in Saint Mary's County. They live here on the farm over here, next to the power plant. A big farm right across from the power plant. Later on, Big Farm voted in. He got four children, two girls and two boys.

CK: Met her all the way down in Saint Mary's.

TW: Well, we went down there. It was a lunchroom in a ballroom, though. We danced and stuff. They head down there. I never drink it myself. I never drank anything. I used to go to him, but she was waiting for us down there. It was just, of course, a line that wasn't very far. Right there with the farmers market right there.

CK: In Saint Mary's.

TW: Yes. Right. You know, the farmers market right below you. Right there, right in that area.

CK: You say there was a lunchroom here in Benedict, too?

TW: Oh, yes. They had a lunchroom. Yes. Oh, Henderson. Chaplain Henderson had one of my first round. Then Jeff Liz and we served lunch and shoulders and, in the hotel, Messick's hotel. There was a big hotel on the hill. You're seeing that. You haven't seen that, did you? The big hotel. He got the picture. I got to picture of there, thirty-two rooms into it.

CK: So, where did they get their oysters?

TW: Oh, they bought them. They wanted. They didn't have no beds. They just bought them.

CK: What about shucking?

TW: They're just checking shucking houses, that's all. No more shuck. I mean people, few people shucked. My uncle shucked few for people. I mean just few gallons of like Adolf. He sometimes get a 15-gallon order or something. But that was all.

CK: Adolf?

TW: Yes, my brother.

CK: What would he do with his?

TW: He was selling different people because he'd buy a few oysters and shuck them. Because people come down, vomit by a quart or a half a gallon or something. People buy much of place down there. He run the place down on his mother and father's place toward the last. He shuck oysters when she had him in there. He sold a lot of washing around here. People come out like quart, half gallon, something like some people. Some get a gallon. Yes.

CK: Well, who did all that shucking then?

TW: He did lot of it itself, and he'd sometimes have a man help him. Of course, it was, I mean, just different times to shuck. He didn't have to shuck them all one time. Adolf's a good little shucker. He's better than I am. I cut him up so bad. [laughs] Yes.

CK: Do you remember who the man was who helped him then?

TW: Well, he had a Toy feller. Toy feller. He'd be around and help anybody that wanted. Yes.

CK: A lot of black people live around here back then?

TW: No, just three or four families in Benedict that time. They live on a farm in different places around. [inaudible] Bailey's Hotel right there. Black hotel down there around the shore and Toys.

CK: A black hotel?

TW: Yes, they call it a hotel. Yes. Over here. We have one down there. Townsend. They served meals too. They did for black people. But then they closed up.

CK: How big a place was that?

TW: They're still standing. You know, when I was still over. You can see it right over behind there. One down there on the riverfront. They serve. When he first opened, he served white people first and they turned it into a black hotel.

MS: Was there any were there any times in the river where the ice was so bad that you couldn't get out?

TW: Yes, a lot of times what we used to do, captain Bill Norton, he had a scow. We used to go up and break track, just a hole, go through and go into oyster Bay on oyster. We'd run up on the ice and four or five people, a dozen people into it and go up on the front and break it down and run up on it. Only had one General Motors into it. He had to crank it by hand. We make a track, and we'd have five track in and out, because you get out with the oyster beds was a lot of time. It was, you know, clever. But we keep the sky was to come back. Bring us. Come on back in the hole. Yes, I've done that. Ice is that thick?

CK: How thick is that about?

TW: About 8 or 10 inches some of it. Some time they were cold back in times.

CK: But you would still go out.

TW: Oh, yes, we'd go out. We went out. We have been on ice. Tong a few on ice cut a hole in the ice and towing up there.

CK: How did you cut your hole?

TW: Take a crosscut saw, cut down and take all the hand saw and saw it by hand. We just go up, put nets out like that. That was a lot of work. Net 300 or 400 feet long. You take out that crosscut saw and cut it, cut that ice, and then put your net into it down the hole, and then go back next day and pick it, pull it up.

CK: A crosscut with two people?

TW: No, you have one person on that end because you had to take the end off down the water. You could have one person on it. If we'd done that too. Yes.

CK: Do not know how you stand all that cold out there.

TW: Even warm, you get warm, you get warm out there. You get working, you get warm. You work in Watertown, you get warm. You got to take your clothes off. When you get still, you hurt and put them back on because you get cold quick. But you can take a lot of clothes off. You won't. These big, heavy, heavy coats and stuff. You want to take them off. Yes.

CK: They have waterproof clothes back when you worked.

TW: Oh no, no. You know what? All good clothes. Well, they just don't work with pants and coats. No.

CK: Nothing rubber?

TW: No. Then, no, pair of boots.

CK: What is that?

TW: Just the boots. All you have rubber. All rubber boots. You have them. But no raincoat, rain suits. Not then, we didn't.

MS: What time do you usually head out to go oystering?

TW: We leave early in the morning. We leave early? Because you get out there because a lot of times, we didn't get up on you real. Especially one time you don't go get blowing real hard. So, you can get back. If you get out and wind, wind, wind, tidal, you know, you decide whether you like it rolling back and forth. You can't stand on the side of boat sometimes. That's a good way to go board too, when you're doing that. Well, they get like that. We most time come on shore.

CK: So, early in the mornings it is not like that?

TW: Not most time early in the morning. The wind wouldn't get up till late later on during the day or something.

CK: What is early to a waterman?

TW: Well, you get 5:00 a.m. You get up at 5:00 a.m. Get ready eating your breakfast stuff and get ready to go out there and get down there and be dark when you get down the river. Yes.

CK: So, you would stay out till about 1:00 p.m., then maybe?

TW: 1:00 p.m., sometimes 2:00 p.m. Just depending on if it's good weather. If it wasn't bad wind got up, you'd come shore.

CK: Would it be hard to get back sometimes?

TW: Oh, no. You come on back. It'd be. It'd be rough, but we'd come on back.

CK: Sit this out. Won't take too much more of your time here, but what was it you were just saying about the fire department and the oysters?

TW: When we first bought it, they used to have oyster roasting for it. There were hotel where the hotel you showed you that you have them over there in front of that. People would come buy tickets. We would go and catch them, the people around and catch them for them and give them to them. They made no money to pay for the passport and first, first oyster boat they had. Yes.

CK: So, they had a community oyster roast.

TW: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. You used to have one. We most times can totally have they had the buy them because one night you had that bomb different places. But he had [inaudible]. He had

them for years. I wouldn't vote, ten or fifteen years to stop having them. Because of course, too much money to buy the oyster. Oysters was high then, and I guess that's why they stopped.

CK: But Hannah here is from West Virginia. She has probably never been to an oyster roast. Tell her what that would be like.

TW: Oh, yes. Well, we have oysters. Get the oysters and scald them. Put them in a big barrel and put them down and scull them and dump them on tables for them and shuck them. Somebody shuck them for them to eat them.

CK: So, you are putting them in their alive?

TW: Oh, yes. Yes, yes. You catch them, you put tubs and put them in scald them. We call them scald them and done them pop open and they're good, really good. They source all kinds of different kinds of sauce, and they dip them into it and eat them. People would people at Parliament, we were shucking for them. We would stand there and shuck them for them. They eat them. Oh, God, some of them. We had old doc up at Hughesville. He could eat a bushel. I believe he was something. He comes here. When we had, he'd come. He'd be the first one. Yes. I guarantee you could eat some oysters. Yes. We serve them. Then, instead of having any thought of heading up to the church. Got so expensive he couldn't afford them. He wouldn't make the money. He'd work yourself to death and do nothing. Make \$1,000 out of something, but it's boy. When we first started, we could. Up here that the big ones up here, then I mean small. We had just small ones, but they had big ones up here. They make \$5,000 better every year. That was good money then. Yes.

CK: What is that?

TW: That was good money then.

CK: When?

TW: Back in the [19]50s and [19]60s, I guess. We had him up. We had him up to about [19]70. We had him at the firehose. They had to stop having him.

CK: How many folks would come then?

TW: Plenty of people. Okay, Lord. Fill up. You stay there all day from when you start about 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 until dark. He said he noticed us people going and coming. Then they had dinners inside. You could go inside and get a dinner too. They had the chuckles outside, scalding ones. Put him in hot water. Keep the god keeps that water boiled. Take them down into it.

CK: What do you boil the water on?

TW: The gas burners. Gas burners, that's all. Have a barrel tub with some stainless-steel pots. Most of them and put them in a wire cage. About a pack of oysters. Stick them down into a

handle on it. The heavy gloves on. But most of the different people to take care of that they'd bring them, dump them on table for you. One, Chuck. We just stay there and shuck them, and they just bring them and dump them on the table and shuck them for the people. Yes. You'd be surprised. Young girls who come down with them, with them people to eat them. You didn't think they'd do it, but they would. You see a bunch of people. I mean, we had a bunch of people. Well, you take \$5,000 because you didn't get much for it then.

CK: Like the young girls would come out.

TW: Oh, no. Anything did come out [inaudible]. They like them too.

CK: So, where would they hold it?

TW: Just follows you right here. We had to bend the coattail. When we first got here because we had no followers. We just kept the old fire truck in a building ride somewhere around. We would put it in. That was all. But then it started. Had the fire down at the hotel. They let us use the hotel. Of course, they was in the fire department too. We'd go everybody around. They'd get a bushel, or two bushels and they'd make a few dollars. You make a few dollars out of it. That time he was in catch ball 5- or 6-bushel oysters. But now you can't go out and catch a mess.

CK: So, you didn't even have a fire hall? What was the closest fire department?

TW: Plato.

CK: Sorry.

TW: Plato. We have a second. We had one in the county. We bought one and we had it. We got it back in. It was old thirty-five at the international. They got it. Out here, William Hills around Washington, so many Temple Hill. I know, we bought off airwaves from many years ago, but I didn't know anyone got to the older people. They went and got it then. I want to die here.

CK: You were part of the department, though?

TW: Oh, yes, I was into. Yes. I didn't do it a long time. There's isn't sevens, I guess.

CK: How long were you into oystering?

TW: Well, I worked up there. I couldn't make it too much longer, so I had to. I went to work at the electric company. I think somewhere around thirty-one years. You got, so you couldn't. You couldn't make it hard to make a living out here. Everything could go up so high and stuff you had to buy. We first got married, you'd go to the store and buy all the food you want, \$5. Now you came for five fighter you put in your pocket. Now, what did you buy? Yes. You can afford to live, right? It starts getting stuff started going up so high.

MS: One question. Final question I have is what is the most number of oyster boats you

remember working out of Benedict and what kind of boats?

TW: Oh man. These be all [inaudible] front across next to the bridge. Yes, you could almost walk across them years ago. Be so many boats out there. People on the farm, everybody have boats of people work out there. Be a lot of books that they won't. But now nobody. My youngest brother, we went out there for Christmas trying to catch a miss. We caught [inaudible] about three hours out there.

CK: So, what year was it when things started getting hard? When you had to...

TW: They even thought they laughed. I see maybe, maybe ten years. Maybe. They start dying off.

CK: When did you have to leave the water?

TW: I left in [19]52. I worked [inaudible] coming.

CK: What was that like for someone who'd been on the water since?

TW: Very big difference. You had to go on a job where you're your own boss when you do what you want to do. It made a difference. Because at that time it was only 9 to 8 cents an hour. Starting now. Not in any sense of how working started the electric company. For now, it's big money now.

CK: That was better?

TW: Oh, a whole lot better. Yes. Well, yes, because now you couldn't make it out here. Wasn't that many oysters out here. We kept going every year, getting worse and worse. They disappeared. The harder they disappeared about [19]52. We spend a lot on that, we used to have, you know, a little small boats, little air-cooled motors. You rent them out and you can make a few dollars. But then fishing got so bad, people stopped coming. Like I say, you take down. You know how it is. Down, down, down. Head down there. Yes. You couldn't stare my stick. We had a ferry here. We used to take people fishing on the ferry. They had two ferry, one run calls across the river. Then we'd go. They take people down all around the side and piece off of that. You take an April after April from May for April sometime. Very cold, but a few stragglers could come down. But after that they started coming down all night long. You're on the boat and by the boat. He did catch a nap. When you get out in the river, slow down a little bit nap. He's thirteen years old. Doing that rough on you?

CK: That must have been some kind of worrisome in the early [19]50s.

TW: Yes.

CK: What were people saying back then?

TW: Huh?

CK: What did people say about that?

TW: Oh, nobody was happy. Everybody was happy.

CK: In the early [19]50s when everything started to change. What did everybody think about that?

TW: When Harley, that's when it started changing and, well, the oysters had dropped off too. Of course, Mr. Nolan, like he'd gone. He'd gone out of business. He was going out. He went out of business in. So, it was, and I got the letter coming, so I thought I'd be better off go down.

CK: What happened to Mr. Norland then?

TW: He was still here, but the oyster business went out. You couldn't buy him. You couldn't buy no seed stuff. You could buy the seed stuff. It was all right. Now, he bought he bought a ground lease and sure, he got a paying ground on the lease and show his boy still got it. Punch out on creek over there. He bought the whole creek. He said I should bring him over a little, small oyster and plant them. His son still owns his son. Not as some years old. He can't see. I haven't seen him for years. But. They tell me he still owns it all. They say was real quick. He's brainwashed from over here and bring them here and plant them. So, the oyster River, they grow, and they get real fat. People like these oysters coming from river, talking River. Yes. If you ever come, look for them. Like she'd come West Virginia. You say she's from West Virginia? People of West Virginia come out of fishing. We just have a lot of people fish out in West Virginia. Used to camp right in front of the house where you live over there. You have tents set up over there. They go weeks at a time. Some of them, Pennsylvania. People come from all around. I mean, we have a big crowd here early in the [19]30s and [19]40s. We had a lot of faith. Because you didn't get much money. I have carried fishing part out for \$2.50 a day. Now you go to Solomons Island, they want 400 or \$500 a day down there. Big difference in the salary.

CK: So, they paid to camp?

TW: No, we don't care. Of course, you go. Use the boats. Go out because they rent the boat from us, go fishing and stuff like that. They come down and stay some, you know, go on vacation down for a week and fish out here in the river places. Found a way around a lot of people way down Virginia come here. We had a good business here years ago. I would stay in the hotel. We had three white hotels. Yes, that one he showed you that's got thirty-two bedrooms in that one. That was weekends, years ago. It would fill up. Nighttime people in the city would come down here staying on. Yes.

CK: From what city?

TW: Friday night, DC and around Baltimore and places like Pennsylvania and some of them years ago and staying them to.

CK: Friday?

TW: Yes, Friday nights. Come here Friday nights. They stayed for just about during the summer.

CK: Do you ever eat inside there?

TW: No. We've had dinners in there. Had dinners. Yes, we eat there sometime.

CK: Talk about that.

TW: It was all open. They had a big screen porch on. Rooms upstairs down bottom and you had the kitchen stuffed down one end and the low end, all screened in. It could serve a couple hundred people and I guess.

CK: Is it fancy?

TW: Oh, no. Table one had the old wood stoves in it cooking on them. Colored people did the cooking.

CK: What could you get there?

TW: We get in there. Any kind of meat, oysters, fish, steaks. Whatever you want. Yes.

CK: What is your favorite way to have oysters?

TW: I like oysters any kind of way. They come out to the river raw or any kind. I used to eat them. You know, I get cramps and it didn't bother me. The price we bought over there. Uncle, he opened it up and had a ballroom. He rented it from people who owned it, or we bought it. When I eat crap one day down there and we will limit road there. Then about a church hall. They give me the highs. I broke it all over and I didn't go to the dock that time. I drank a bottle of grape soft drinks. I thought I said, well, maybe that's cause it. In the next we had Kraft. I said, I won't drink seven up. I drink seven up and done the same thing. I went to the doctor. He told me to stop eating, but I don't eat. I don't want you eating crabs. But a woman told me down in Saint Mary's County at one time said, you know, said the crabs don't give you the highs. It's the season they put into it. So, she might be right to. I need and I eat a crab cake and I don't eat hard crabs because it's got that season on it. I mean, I broke out twice and I used to eat them years before that, and it didn't bother me at all.

CK: Could you go crabbing, though?

TW: Oh, yeah. Crab. Yes, we use crab. We just catch it by the barrel. Not about a bushel but a barrel. His \$3 barrel for.

CK: How big a barrel?

TW: Three bushels in a barrel. Then we have Campbell, Virginia too. Hold them over Virginia, sell them. Yes. We work hard for your money when you made it. Buy a gas 10 cents a gallon coming out of DC. You can buy at 10 cents a gallon gas. Come on DC.

CK: So, you drove them or you...

TW: You had to drive them over. Yes. Drive them over and had to go through DC then. Because when the more bridge you had to go across the 14th Street bridge and go all the way down, it would take you take about three hours to make the trip. We'll come out washed before we get out of wash. We stopped by the gas for the boats. \$.10 a gallon. It was hard.

CK: How were you getting the crabs in? How were you getting the crabs?

TW: Plot line. Chart line. You plot line.

CK: Tell Hannah. Yes. What is that?

TW: It's a long line. You voted mile long or something? You put bait. The bait up with eels on it. Run it with a boat, there is no crab pots. You got different by hand. All you got them all by hand. One at a time. These crab pots are going to be. Just dump them in. Just dump them in the basket or something. But it was worth everything. You go and they'd come and beat that crab line. Then took them [inaudible] about a couple of hours for that.

CK: So, the line was hooked to two boats?

TW: [inaudible] Oh boy. You go on. You had a roll on the side of the boat. The roll gets your line onto the roll. You had a crab. You just stay standing with the crab and dip, dip them in the boat whole time. You are going down there. If you had to work the whole time, he's out there. We go. We always have for lighting for your line out. Is all work, all work, all work. No play.

CK: How'd you get your bait?

TW: We go Woodfield all the time. Buy it over there. What about a barrel, a barrel, eels and cut them up a deal. Yes.

CK: Over and deal?

TW: Yes, a good deal. Yes. Most time they go buy from him. He haven't borrowed up as he goes to catch him in the bay. He had them all sorted down we go and buy them by the barrel. Round back and cut them up. Cut them up and make your line. If a lot of work on there wasn't no play. A lot of owls in.

CK: Do you miss it?

TW: Yes, I miss it. Catch a few crabs. I went crabbing. I caught a couple bushels last time I was on. But usually, you go. You catch a lot of crabs in. Anthony unequivocal. I say we now

the people they start in April. People come. We didn't follow them to our 4th July. We pulled fishing part one fishing parties. After fourth, we started crabbing and you go out and catch hell. You catch a crab like that.

CK: How big is that?

TW: About 6 or 7 inches long. I mean, you wouldn't catch them a little small, like five inches. They're all big crowd. Of course, at that time, one too many boats of either, maybe a dozen boats up here crabbing. But now you go out here, you see two hundred or three hundred boats out here now at different places, because everybody crab now. Everybody got a vote. They full of crabbing.

CK: There are crabs, but not oysters.

TW: Well, there aren't many crabs either. I went out front. I caught two bushels. I left there, I went up in the morning early and didn't get there until 1:00 for one bushel. There aren't many crabs.

CK: You think any of them, the crabs or oysters are coming back?

TW: I don't know. See, oysters purify the water. So, they claim they purify the water. Oysters. Like the playing ground, all the moisture up here, they really vilified the water where a lot of oysters were now. You can see even out here, you've got. I don't have a good feel for the world with oysters, because I don't plant them over here. Because towards the last, I used to plant a few up here. The state was planning a few oysters. So, you got you faced \$300. Actually, for your license when you buy them. Oyster license to dispose of used for planting oyster, stuff like that, I guess. You got pay \$300 extra for them. You pay \$60 for your license for \$50 and \$10 for some. If you got to sell them, you got to give \$300 extra. That's \$360 you got to pay for your license. When I used to give them 275 or so. Because he wasn't planning always then either. See, it goes in some kind of forms, I guess.

CK: A lot of changes.

TW: A whole lot of changes come along. A whole lot.

CK: Well, thank you.

TW: You're welcome.

MS: Thank you, Mr. Welch.

TW: You're welcome.

MS: You're very kind to put up with our questions.

TW: Yes.

CK: You did what now?

TW: I just run the ferry, and I run three years. Okay. He calls back and forth, of course, but before they put the bridge in. Right here. They had a ferry that would hold six cars. I rented three years back and forth across the river. Yes.

CK: How did that operate?

TW: It had a motor into it. It had a one of those big palmer Motors are called Palmer Motors. Big old sellers, but a big mouthful. He had cranked by hand. He cranked to get blisters on your hand, cranking a big old flywheel on you. They don't start on it. Then when you get to calls, you couldn't get to the boat either. If it stopped on you, you get towed in and to get to it because you couldn't get to it all the way. She stopped on. You just have to wait to get your calls off. Somebody have to tell you, and you can put the calls off and you get to it. Yes, it was fun, fun years ago. I just worked from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. They build a base down here. I'll run them. People come across the river and go down there and work their eight hours and come back at 4:00, and I've worked for five more hours, then go cross the river. I'm getting thirty-five hours a week for it. That was seven days a week. Now you pick it up. It wouldn't be 35 cents an hour.

CK: What base are you talking about then?

TW: The Navy base. People see one of them down there. They come up here and go down to work, down to base when the building is down to base. They'd worked their eight hours and come back, and they'd come back at 4:00 p.m. I'd have to work till 9:00 p.m. Five more hours after night have been when I was getting. Yes.

CK: Not much on the water you have not done.

TW: No, no, no, I work on the bridge too. I worked on the bridge when they build the bridge. This bridge here. Yes.

CK: How was that?

TW: That was hard work too. We are mixing concrete for around and putting it around the bottom. Down in the water. Down there. Around round and piling together. We were down there in that water, cold water, and down into it. Yes, they're all hard work. Come along. It wasn't easy.

MS: He didn't sound like he had time to get into any trouble.

TW: No, he didn't have time. No, I know I screw around a lot. I haven't been drinking. I didn't fool with. I had brothers and fathers. He drank enough for me. I know fool would.

[end of transcript]