

Herb Marvin: Some of us tried some fishing.

Karen DeMaria: Right. You tried to.

HM: [laughter]

KDM: Some things are just not going to work. [inaudible]. The other part of it is [inaudible] documenting overall change. Two, is trying to document the historical conditions of Florida Bay before all the real deterioration occurred. Three, is to collect old stories. Finally, we have got [inaudible].

HM: [inaudible]

KDM: Well, because I have been exposed by some people who are thinking of doing some sort of video tape or would like to write some of these stories. Obviously, they would go for a video tape. So, I am sort of helping to identify people for them.

HM: I would tell you to talk to (Leon Irwin?) in Homestead. [inaudible] was the first sailors on the Cape [inaudible]. He was still [inaudible] of the land between Miami Beach, Homestead, and (Somago?). The rattlesnakes were too bad in Miami Beach, so he settled in (Somago?). He was actually the only one that the government had to buy his land in [inaudible] because [inaudible] any kind of rights against any government agency. They think you get [inaudible].

KDM: What is your mailing address?

HM: 34 [inaudible] Drive. [inaudible].

KDM: You are a part-time [inaudible] right now?

HM: Yes. I grew up in the south in 1974. So, we tried over there. Like I said, we didn't come here [inaudible] though a lot of them will tell you that.

KDM: Before 1974, were you down here a while?

HM: I was raised in Homestead. We fished in the [inaudible].

KDM: What is mostly your experience on the water? Back here at [inaudible]?

HM: Well, I would say mostly northeastern part of the bay and out all the way on the [inaudible] like charter fish. Fish trawlers were in Tortugas [inaudible] [laughter]

KDM: Did you not tell me you got your family's involvement with commercial fishing?

HM: Yes. My little brother has [inaudible] down there. But we had to fish out to Homestead. We go up the fish house in 1947 in Homestead. In that summer, I worked at [inaudible] Fishing Camp, which you've probably never heard of. There were a few fish creek and the poor Gilbert

was [inaudible] now was (Mr. and Mrs. Cooker?) and their son Jim who lived there. They had many boats [inaudible]. They had two buildings, maybe three, they [inaudible]. One was like a restaurant and the other is where they lived and they took me in. The other was like a shed for the crew [inaudible]. They lived right alongside the bridge and the [inaudible] full of fish was going right up on (Collins?). I used to clean the bottoms of the boat and cleaned out the boats so I was [inaudible]. We were doing this for almost 45 years. [inaudible]. We used to go down and fish on [inaudible] Bridge and Channel Five and Long Key. The fishing [inaudible] and you could see [inaudible]. On the crew, if you go to anchor on land, on the right-hand side of this house there's packing near behind the 7-Eleven. Probably would never have noticed it. There's a little [inaudible] in there. That [inaudible] is natural out there. [inaudible]. There was actually a guy named old man Davis who [inaudible]. He used to have rowboats there. Nineteen rowboats, so you could put a boat in the water. That was in the early [19]40s, [19]41. Of course, they used to go over and hook a line fish and bait it. That's how we got interested in fishes in water.

KDM: [inaudible] do you remember it always being the way it is now?

HM: I remember when they first finished it, it was a just two lanes. I think they opened it right about the time the war started. Between Homestead and Miami was the railway [inaudible]. But that was an exchange because they farmed part of it for a few years. Then they bought a big area where they tried to keep the water off about 3 miles. There was a lot more visible signs of what had been done in the area there, the destruction.

KDM: [inaudible] was there a connection of water?

HM: Yes. About a mile past county line, they would put the boats in the water at Long Sound over there. They were big, [inaudible] boats. Then [inaudible] they started to develop [inaudible] Homestead. But there was a guy that lived at the [inaudible] right there in the shack right at Long Sound, where the (cobalt?) goes through now. There's a (cobalt?) on the road.

KDM: Yes, that is right.

HM: His name was (Olgai Hendoy?), H-E-N-D-O-Y. He was the legendary [inaudible] who's talked about in there.

KDM: With a name like that. [laughter]

HM: He had boats. He had [inaudible] and he would slide book them [inaudible]. He lived there well over 100 years old. An article was written about him when he was about 112. He had killed three men and he goes back to the days when [inaudible] years. Where I'm now, I used to ride a little boat [inaudible] and we put a motor on it when we were out fishing in Long Sound. He always used to complain. He used to say when he had his fish camped there, when the railroad was there, he said he used to be able to go to Manatee Bay and he used to be able to go into Long Sound, go [inaudible]. Because when they built the road, they promised him that they'd leave the [inaudible] there so he could keep his boats on both sides, and they lied to him. He was a serious kind of guy. He had all of his [inaudible]. So, I know, just from talking to him, I know Buddy Roberts from Homestead, he wasn't lying to them [inaudible]. His family was one

of the first sailors on the bay too, Luther Leon Roberts, was his name, Buddy Roberts. He was one of the last known people in [inaudible]. A lot of people from Homestead were sailors on (Cape Saint?) and they [inaudible]. Well, they had family at home. So, a lot of the migrators instead were [inaudible]. But he offered me coffee one time. His feet were still on the [inaudible] on the water before the dragging of the water. His feet were [laughter] [inaudible]. He had [inaudible]. You had to put your hand there and it actually was quite [inaudible]. He was picking the maggots out with a knife and he'd (eat it?). I asked him and he said, "Well, I want to go –" he had a motor on this boat and he said, "I'm going to be gone for about a week or two." "Where are you going?" He said, "I'm going to kill some crocodiles and alligators." That's what he did. I said, "Well, how do you get back?" Because that damn wind was blowing a lot the other way. He said, "When the wind changes, I'll come back and take a shot." [inaudible]. That's all he said. He'd go back to the [inaudible], like that, with alligators and crocodiles and [inaudible]. I don't know whether he would just take the meat flesh or what he did with the meat. So, that was before the port came in and there was nothing wrong with going [inaudible]. As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing wrong with killing them now. [laughter] That was [inaudible]. Eventually, he moved to Homestead and [inaudible]. What is his name again? (Ed Brooker?). He had a little, tiny trailer he moved down there. He rented boats mostly on the Manatee Bay side. Ed Brooker was – I don't know where he was from in the city down and probably in the [19]40s. There was a fishing camp there. In [19]47, they brought the fishing camp there. [inaudible] lives in Homestead [inaudible] family. [inaudible]

KDM: Was that the kind of only area that used to [inaudible] exchange of water?

HM: Well, there were several places that there were good exchanges of water. All along there where the railway station was, you then crossed little Blackwater. If you look to the left, part of that lake was once the Blackwater on your left side like a dead lake. Those creeks there that went through [inaudible]. If you look closely, you can see where the openings were. But a lot of it, see, is not made by – [laughter] I'd like to do this another time. But what the people don't understand, when I took [inaudible] fishermen, now, I took them out one night. He came down here to the house and we went fishing. It was really [inaudible]. The [inaudible] was in the north there. We talked and he had an easy name. What was his name? You probably don't remember that. [inaudible]. He was [inaudible] during the time when they made the move to kick us out. He was a nice guy. I told him, I said, "They won't let us keep the [inaudible] open." We used to chop them out with machete or something like that.

KDM: You used to cut the mangroves?

HM: Yes, sure. Cut them up. Because, well, we wanted [inaudible] the way it was. I said, "You don't understand." The Indians chopped all these creeks out for centuries. That's the only they had to travel. This was man-made. This wasn't made by nature. [inaudible], once [inaudible]. A lot of these Florida Bays never had a great place to fish. There were just some other fish [inaudible] is what I said to him. This was not great place to fish. (Canaya?) was a place to fish depending on [inaudible] are. You want to look on the map? Let's do so.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: The Florida Bay was divided roughly into two main zones, more than two. None of this is [inaudible]. This whole area here was mostly [inaudible]. The tide was the vertical movement of the ocean. Current is the horizontal. Now, when you get to Crocodile Dragover here, some of the time you go – this is back here. This is Crocodile Dragover. There's still not much tide until you hit Snake Bight. There is still not much tide. You can see a little bit over here. But from here on it's called (High board?). Big, big, difference. Now, you see these creeks here? This canal in Homestead. In 1917, the [inaudible] canal manned all these canals, the rest of them.

KDM: In nineteen?

HM: 1917. There's a book that was written, *A Dredgeman of Cape Sable*, and it talked about a lot of experiment, a lot of those characters. It's historical, it's not fishing. (Krimmers Roberts?) who lives in Homestead that sells [inaudible]. His family homestead is here on the Cape, as well as Buddy Roberts' family. What they used to do, they used to raise [inaudible] to make [inaudible]. Then the sailing ships. They'd sail to Key West every six months or so [inaudible]. Then in 1917, they came and dug all these canals. [inaudible]

KDM: Where would the canals go? What was their purpose?

HM: Probably the [inaudible] draining and the other [inaudible]. I really don't know the answer. But the [inaudible]. But I lived here on [inaudible]. See this ditch here? This ditch is called [inaudible] Ditch. I lived here. In 1948, for several weeks we tramped on the canal there for [inaudible]. We tried to [inaudible]. It's a quarter and fifty thousand [inaudible] within probably half the tide. Well, we loaded them up over the [inaudible] with motors on. They'd [inaudible]. It was probably the last quarter, [inaudible] about seven or eight years ago. I hear he's still alive and has a gas station somewhere near the [inaudible] city area [inaudible]. The [inaudible] migrated down from Everglades too during the war. They set up their quarters there. But these canals up in all these lakes here, when the fish came in the [inaudible], it was unbelievable [inaudible]. It became the haven. This is the holler that rolled the fish right here. This is the holler, not here. [inaudible]. There were always these other people [inaudible]. There were those with the slightest idea at the time, because they didn't live there. But to get to [inaudible] was just a shore of itself. The last 12 miles to the Westlake, through Flamingo, through the Snake Bight Canal, through Flamingo Canal which the park cut through. It wasn't through. It was grown over. There was a bridge here called the (Horseback Bridge?). This is on Morrow Road via [inaudible]. It was beautiful. You'd slip and slide and [inaudible]. It was raining. If you ever got out of there, mostly it's out of [inaudible].

KDM: Tell me about that.

HM: Anyone tells you anything about (Somato?) the thing that will stick in anyone's mind over here is the mud.

KDM: The road.

HM: [laughter] The mud. You'd slip and slide no matter where you were, if there was anything you could have. You couldn't walk out of (Wanda Way?). The mud, you couldn't get it off of

you. It was unbelievable.

KDM: Now, you told me there was really no good fishing up here.

HM: Oh, it was good. But not anything like this. [inaudible] This was probably the best fishing on the face of the earth.

KDM: You hear a lot of this, when newer guys came, the fishing is great here. Is that something that was new? Was there a movement of fish in here?

HM: Fishing has not really declined a hell of a lot back here. Except the back day, you don't see those little medals in the marine life like you used to. I don't know whether it's a [inaudible] or something running them up or what it is. Let me tell you a little bit about the water, so you understand what has changed. If you drove up today and you looked at the water all around, say, lower [inaudible], if you looked at the water, you saw a light, yellowish-brown tint. That means something is wrong with the water. That is not the right color of the water. Now, I didn't realize how bad it was. But six months to a year ago when they [inaudible] to Sacramento from the whole thing by helicopter, you have probably seen it. They kept the [inaudible] beautiful water in [inaudible]. I started scratching my head [inaudible]. I figured out the uncolored water, the waters around the [inaudible], the area [inaudible] that water used to be beautiful. [inaudible]. It was like [inaudible]. The boats were sinking.

KDM: Sort of like the [inaudible].

HM: Yes, sure. Along the coast of this, there's a lot of fish. A lot of the [inaudible]. The [inaudible] was rocked out since I was a kid. [inaudible] because it was all around the creeks. You would come up the river and [inaudible]. But other than that, I don't know exactly [inaudible] because this mankind or if it was actually – I don't know. But I know the ones we would see. I know the (First Lake in Little Woods?) still got good [inaudible]. My last, we fished out a big [inaudible]. But once you get down that harbor, you start to see some water with a decent color in them. [inaudible]. But here, the water is one color. The water color in Florida Bay used to – commercial fishermen used to [inaudible] and fished for black mullet from April after Easter. They were fishing black mullet from April until Thanksgiving. [inaudible]. They used to close the season on black mullet in December. [inaudible].

KDM: I have heard a lot about that.

HM: Is that [inaudible]?

KDM: Yes.

HM: They used to close the season on black mullet statewide. [inaudible] from January to December, part of December, and part of January towards the black mullet. So, the fishermen would fish. As the black mullet rolled out in the end of January, [inaudible]. So, until about mid-April, they were not fishing. They'd start fishing around mid-April [inaudible]. Then they would all migrate up to do [inaudible] (John Martin and Cole Munroe, Peter Jackson?) all the

Robert family some of them lived in Homestead. They would all migrate up here and they fished for silver mullet. It was mostly for bait in December until April 15th. Now, silver mullet is not around in April. They'd migrate and they'd leave this area. We used to go up the East Coast on the side of Key West. So, when they would start to grow, they went back down and they were fishing black mullet. That's the way they did their fishing. [inaudible] You can still some of them back there [inaudible] that they haven't before. Down in this area here, the water was all pale, white clean. It must have several reasons. Most people think it's a lot of mud and it's clear, a place to cover the water. But with flounders it used to be mostly muddy all the time. It was [inaudible] like little babies [inaudible]. But they looked like [inaudible]. The light didn't penetrate in the water so the grass didn't grow. [inaudible] what the scientists will tell you exists. Because in that mud there was shrimp, crab, all kinds of stuff there. That's what the other fish feed on. The turtle grass and the shellfish [inaudible] these little fish that the [inaudible] can't get to. Now, that the water is not one single mud was out there in the water, all kinds of strange grasses, there was a lot of grasses were growing in it. It is the turtle grass, is what we called it. It looks like wire. We called it wire grass.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: Yes. It's dark. How do you describe a lot of [inaudible]?

Female Speaker: [inaudible]

HM: Yes. It looks like a [inaudible].

FS: [inaudible]

HM: Is it about the size? Same seagrass grows on the water.

KDM: Down, you mean.

FS: [inaudible]

HM: [inaudible]. Now, I'm getting another idea the [inaudible] was being [inaudible]. Now, I would have crossed over to come here. For example, Russell Key. See Russell Key here?

KDM: Yes.

HM: Russell Key used to have a shallow exit where the water used to channel us through. Because at night, you couldn't get in with a rowboat. Millions of fish would go in there. That shallow water would come out in the [inaudible]. Now, [inaudible], fish there going around. It's their natural habitat. If I went [inaudible] would open and do our thing.

KDM: Before (annual victory?), going back to earlier back when the commercial fishing went back where there were tons of it.

HM: Well, the Indians did before that. How would they fish out here [inaudible] because we

found lobsters. I was one of the people training for the lobstering business. So, I had to go to the office to cut the paperwork. You want to come to Miami [inaudible]. So, I'd cut my [inaudible] from earlier.

KDM: [laughter]

HM: But I [inaudible] too. But what happened, I think it's kind of [inaudible] to the color of the water. [laughter] I can tell you, when you get the water that color, you don't catch the fish. The water used to be a different color. But what happened, I think it's more than one thing together. I think pollution, the worst thing in the fishing business is pump a little water down here and this plastic substance came up and [inaudible] on the operation. That came to something just around the war. Think of how narrow it is.

KDM: That is something that you do not hear about it. You had a [inaudible] poison. You have got the park people telling people not to eat the fish. Now, the large amount of the fish from the park.

HM: [laughter] Because of mercury.

KDM: Because of the mercury poisoning. [inaudible]

HM: Well, no. I was thinking of my dad, which was one winter about 1988, maybe [19]87 or [19]89. I know the type of [inaudible] where Cincinnati is. We used to take out boats to Long Sound lobstering. Then you got [inaudible] of that boat. But in that year, we had [inaudible]. It started raining in the wintertime and it was raining right on Florida Bay [inaudible], heavy, heavy rains.

KDM: When was this?

HM: I checked the weather statistics, so I would say it was either [19]79 or [19]80 when we got that [inaudible]. I don't keep logs unfortunately. I kept some logs back in 1955. This was early when [inaudible].

KDM: I would like to look at those.

HM: It just tells you where we were and where we went and [inaudible]. I have them. But it rained. As a matter of fact, there was a lot of lightning in February but it was across the sky. It wasn't something that [inaudible]. It was something just across the sky. The fish came in. You could come in here in the wintertime and [inaudible]. It was virtually all you wanted. But the years where they didn't. They left. They virtually left. Now, that winter with all that rain, we were catching all the fish we could handle, 1,400, 1,500 pounds every load. It wasn't cod fishing. It wasn't [inaudible] fishing. Most draggers, you had your weight and you came home. The [inaudible] wasn't there. I think I forget I read this. I didn't know [inaudible]. We can't get to them because you're not allowed to just [inaudible] on the trawlers. But [inaudible] was my brother fishing. People out there were fishing in [inaudible] Creek. It was a lot of creek in. [inaudible] in that creek. This was in the [inaudible], which was about a three-hours flight.

[inaudible] like I wanted. But the [inaudible]. We traditionally fished for silver mullet back then. Mostly in here we fished in Largo but we didn't migrate down there, or do anything like that. We lived in Homestead.

KDM: [inaudible] In here, there never was really any significant seagrass then?

HM: No. What would you see mostly around the path was the turtle grass. You could see a lot of turtle grass in blackwater. Any [inaudible]. See, the last time a lot of us were walking by different than [inaudible]. In those days, you got the mackerel over in Joe's Bay in the [inaudible]. You can't put a net over in Joe's Bay with the fluke. You are not allowed to go back there now that they're reopening for fluke fishing. But if you put a net in [inaudible] put your net in the bottom of [inaudible], this whole [inaudible], it's almost like something [inaudible] it and there is no – except by the instances on this end. Once you get back into the bay, there are razor-sharp pinnacles of rocks. Those days it's different. Now, in my day, which they closed for years and years and years, this bay right in here, this bay is about 850 feet deep and it's full of those flat rocks. It's flat. It's great deep about 7 or 8 feet. You at one time could have gone through from that bay to Joe's Bay. Down there is the place we called the Alligator's Camp. Somebody built tents there hanging out of the [inaudible] out here in the [inaudible].

KDM: The Alligator's Camp?

HM: [inaudible]. I fished with a lot of people.

KDM: Someone told me about those times, yes.

HM: How many times [inaudible].

KDM: Not a lot of times.

HM: There's tons built out here in Lake Ingraham. There's some in Lake Ingraham. They're thick.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: These [inaudible] was in the shallow creek. The creek is right through here. This is [inaudible] now. This is Mid Cape. This canal was dug at the same time all these other [inaudible] were dug. A.J. Miller, I think he's still living down here. I don't know. A.J. used to live on a house built down here in West Miami. I met him in about [19]47. Him and his wife lived in a house built there. They were [inaudible] on a plane here. He became interested in shrimping very many years ago. Him and a few other guys were one of the pioneers of the shrimping business. He moved down to where [inaudible] is. Do you know where [inaudible] is?

KDM: Roby.

HM: Roby, yes, it is. He lives on [inaudible]. He used to shrimp over here. [inaudible] Creek.

He would put his seine across the Little Key Canal. He was going to put his seine across them and get on [inaudible]. He used to put [inaudible] big [inaudible] pile over there and he [inaudible] canal and everything was kind of tied [inaudible]. When the tide would go through there [inaudible]. But A.J. was seining one time in the field with it. But A.J. knows a lot about shrimping. He certainly knows a lot about [inaudible] about 18 years old. [inaudible]. He was at my mother-in-law. My mother would come down with him sometime and would show [inaudible]. Some guys stayed up in [inaudible]. Or a few days they even left. But winter when the cod came in, the [inaudible] would come down there. All of the [inaudible]. Buddy Roberts he was still fishing at his Cape there. He was probably the best fishermen I knew who really [inaudible]. Was so bad, the fish could [inaudible] and die. [inaudible] even though there was but they didn't have enough [inaudible]. It was only after [inaudible] weakfish.

KDM: You are talking about the interior there, right?

HM: I'm talking about the interior of this whole place. Blackwater Bay used to be white just like this tabletop. You could put a fishing line in places in [inaudible] and before it got 6 inches under the surface was the [inaudible] you couldn't see in the water and you had the fish on it. [inaudible] ideally, redfish or whatever. These were most productive fishing grounds, here, [inaudible]. But this part here, [inaudible]. See, everything is – every people who fished up here dragged this away. The fishing somehow all of a sudden deteriorated. All of a sudden, [inaudible]. Well, [inaudible] this depended on that initial road. Then what they did, they did an economic study, a marine service, and the park came in [inaudible]. They studied this area south of [inaudible] was a cabin. I have the testimony on this. It was Gary somebody [inaudible] who filed the deposition. [inaudible]. So, the chairman, they wanted to [inaudible]. This park came in and they closed this to commercial fishing. [inaudible] They were going to establish that fishing was better [inaudible] they were going to maintain the society while the [inaudible] deteriorated twenty-three years and they [inaudible] them out. [inaudible]. The statistics show the reverse was true. Fishing was better here than it was [inaudible]. If something happened here, they would have [inaudible]. It turns out many years before any other [inaudible].

KDM: When was that? What year, do you think?

HM: I think that [inaudible]. If I could give you an overall date when the fishing started to deteriorate, it was between 1950 and 1955. That's the whole area, including the color of the water around the lake. I remember the rig from my memory back then. About a year ago, I saw a tremendous documentary which was filmed in Australia [inaudible] fish. It was about a seven- or eight-hour documentary show. I can't say why it was so beautiful. [inaudible]. All of a sudden, it hit me, that's the way our reef used to look when I was a fisherman. It came back to me. That made me visually understand the difference of how much it's deteriorated. The second biggest factor, when we met what I think is besides the fish [inaudible] might be able to whatever, may [inaudible] whatever, I don't know this thing too much. [inaudible] snapper coming over and doing that.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: Yes.

KDM: [laughter]

HM: [inaudible] at 25 pounds. It was about two thousand [inaudible] and I didn't know where I would dock. They like it when people are [inaudible] to the [inaudible]. I would never make any promise. I think two things that [inaudible] says that I think all the fishermen [inaudible]. When we started thinking about it, we used to fish the canals for freshwater [inaudible] out on the trail. [inaudible] take a little boat and put it on top of the [inaudible] canal also. I had a little [inaudible] in a trailer. We used to fish – matter of fact, the freshwater lake here that the fish [inaudible] came in. The mash we used to catch [inaudible] after. [inaudible] there's all kinds of little lakes in here. The water used to be [inaudible] with emerald green dry [inaudible]. I took my son when he was about 5 years old to [inaudible]. We were out on the trail. That was [inaudible] but let's go out there and [inaudible]. I'm running the boat and the water is brown. We were early in the morning, the first boat there. But it wasn't bad. Then all of a sudden, the [inaudible] passes me up wide open. [inaudible]. I walked up this way and I could see what these motors were doing. They were chopping the grass up into little, tiny pieces like in the [inaudible]. They destroyed the damn grasses and next it was the water. They'd tell the craw fishermen, you can't put your trap there, it leaks into the water. That [inaudible] there was a lot more oil in the water [inaudible]. I was taking plenty much to find the whole [inaudible]. People wondered about the gas underwater. Well, that's what they said. It started to spread out and everything. Each one of them ran 50 galloons of gas leak to the water every day. Now, you might not like this, but I'll tell it. There's a lot of the commercial fishermen who were out on the boat, well we used [inaudible]. The skiffs would go with the big rakes. You know what a rake is? The bow goes up, flat side of it as times goes on because they were raking about as they turned. They would have a [inaudible] in one or two cylinders [inaudible] or whatever. [inaudible]. They didn't turn up for that. We didn't have a lot of noise under the water or much in the air. No pollution. Ran about 2 gallons of fuel a day. That's what was used, 90 percent of what was used. Even [inaudible] under the water with the outboards too. That's the [inaudible] you're playing with. Everywhere you look is the [inaudible] on the weekends, you could fifty boats at a time going here and there. You could say what you want. I don't know but I think it scares a lot of the fish away and it kills a lot or it suffocates a lot of the little tiny fish.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: [inaudible] coming out of packet shops [inaudible] garage and stuff in 1947.

KDM: They are [inaudible]?

HM: Yes, I know. [inaudible] when she was your age. [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] but I barely talked to her. She was pretty sick. But I talked to Jimmy last week and he gave me a copy of an article run by Garr Wood.

HM: Garr Wood, right.

KDM: He had said exactly what you are saying that the noise of the engines [inaudible].

HM: Well, I don't like the guy especially [inaudible]. I know a long well is [inaudible]. Recently with family, we had a little, tiny restaurant in the [inaudible]. My mother and [inaudible] worked in [inaudible] in 1938 together. In other words, [inaudible] was making about fourteen and Irene was making about thirteen. So, they came back to the Keys. I don't know if Irene married him before. What was Irene Castle's name? [inaudible]. Well, he was George [inaudible] who was related to another Roberts family that migrated to the Keys [inaudible]. But he [inaudible] everybody even though he pulled out. But Irene and June, Irene married George Kendra and June married Willow [inaudible].

KDM: Yes. I heard [inaudible].

HM: Bill Mosley. Billy didn't care for me but [inaudible]. Well, I wouldn't call this [inaudible] with what I'm doing [laughter] again. [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible] [laughter]

HM: But they know a lot about the area. (Jack Will McGregor?) opened a fishery. [inaudible] opened a fishery, the old [inaudible]. Johnny [inaudible] some years ago [inaudible]. Then him and [inaudible] when he was diving and selling [inaudible]. But we used to [inaudible] a lot of fish and try to sell them out. Now, [inaudible] fish on the other side of that, [inaudible]. I'd get up at 4:00 a.m. and run the boat out in Long Sound, catch two or 300 pounds of mullet, load them up, and leave some traps and go down to the other boat in [inaudible] Harbor and go out on a rig and [inaudible] fish. My older brother is five years older than me [inaudible] a lot together. We loved it. We would fish around the clock. [inaudible]. [laughter] They were good times.

KDM: Did there use to be a lot of flounders up in here?

HM: No, never. Flounders, if you go down it's called the (Rocket?) Shore, there's a cabin area. There would be a lot of flounders along the shore. A lot of them are pretty much dead now. [inaudible]. We had to [inaudible] fish. [inaudible] But this part from here, from the eastern rig coastal waterway, the fishes are there. It's all on the boats going up and down there. [inaudible]. Then you'd load [inaudible]. They never had done a whole lot of mullets down south. They just passed through. [inaudible] have a lot more mullet than it is now. But not enough to [inaudible] come down or go up either way. But that's all we got [inaudible]. Now, you can't see through and talk about not fishing in less than 12 feet of water. That's what you got [inaudible] there. But this was all [inaudible] looks almost like a freshwater grass that grows in Joe's Bay. [inaudible] had tremendous amount of turtle grass right on the bank here. [inaudible]. As you go in, there's a big bank over here on this side.

KDM: On the right side.

HM: That's right. A lot of mud, mostly mud. Some grass on each end but mostly mud is on the [inaudible] is mostly large [inaudible] from grass down here. This would cause mosquito bites because mosquitoes can get so bad in there in the summertime at night you wished you were dead. [laughter]

KDM: What you are describing to me is the condition [inaudible].

HM: Yes. The condition is pretty much same [inaudible] and is probably the same for them. I don't think there's much change here. But out in here where there used to be a lot of mud in [inaudible], nothing out of that was [inaudible]. You see a lot of [inaudible] going up all the way to the top. I think it's nothing really because [inaudible]. I was the (hangman for all kinds of frustration?) that was there that probably fed these other fish. You don't see it anymore. The fish are more or less confined from herein now or even, I would say, from [inaudible]. It used to be all the way out. In the summertime, you could see [inaudible] and catch one-fifty and have several mullets along here in the middle of [inaudible]. You can go to the other street and [inaudible] and you see one silver mullet on [inaudible]. Tell me about it, I'll tell you how to catch it. Lake [inaudible] is the most beautiful lake you ever saw. In fact, when they started [inaudible] and maybe even before that, the water turned that brown color and it's been that way ever since. Now, it used to be clear but it had a brown [inaudible] clear. It used to be filled with fish because we would catch (trap?), catch grouper, we would catch redfish, catch fluke, catch tarpons, catch bonefish, trout. Very big trout you could catch there.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: Yes, [inaudible] probably about 350, 25 miles too and knew a lot of [inaudible] for that. [inaudible]

KDM: The (Mahua?)?

HM: Yes, [inaudible]. The Mahua were [inaudible]. (Moha?) is what we called the boats. [inaudible]. But that, it looks fine like [inaudible]. Now, it's hard to miss. It's a little lifeboat. I can't for the life of me understand what happened.

KDM: Why do you think the fish took to Pierson from the Imperial area?

HM: I think it's [inaudible]. I think when the [inaudible] Canal [inaudible], they started changing things. [inaudible] But Blackwater [inaudible]. That was in Blackwater. I think that's part of it. I think part of it is the water that's running off into Florida Bay. That's the [inaudible] in it. We were catching mullet and that never happened before. The last five years we fished, that's from [19]80 to [19]85, they had cataracts on their eyes. They were partially blind [inaudible] a lot of them. Certain schools who had cataracts on their eyes. Well, I told the park rangers, I did an assessment, nothing ever happened. The rangers used to say those kinds of [inaudible] were most interested in the [inaudible] and other things in the IMS. We started getting mullets with large cancers [inaudible] plus some other things.

FS: [inaudible]

HM: To one of the rangers. He said, "Take this to your biologist." I think there's some kind of contamination there. Unless the underwater [inaudible], it's more serious [inaudible] that I don't know.

KDM: It is pretty much through the [inaudible] fishing back there now. It is more recreational now.

HM: Yes, there's no commercial fishing. There had been [inaudible].

KDM: When were the commercial guys kicked out?

HM: December 31st, 1985 is a day I'll remember.

KDM: Maybe now. [laughter]

HM: I've [inaudible], December 31st, 1985. [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: [inaudible] Well, [inaudible] and I say in the last 25 years we used to get a little bit.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: I don't know what it is. There's another [inaudible] who looks like this or a doctor we used to call [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: Now, this came [inaudible]. We used to follow them all the way up in Biscayne Bay when the [inaudible]. The river would get so bad, it was like a [inaudible]. It will tell you that because you would bring your nets and we'd have to [inaudible] and get it in the boat. But this is something separate. It's not the same stuff. [inaudible] drop from the bottom and [inaudible] I would say gather [inaudible]. I'll tell you another thing about the trouble recently with either of these [inaudible]. There's an article, everybody does this, about how the [inaudible] were dying. [inaudible] showed a picture of it, a real photograph of some lady trying to from university. If you look at this now, we're right here and looking at this key. If you looked at this canal, she photographs this [inaudible]. Our house was in it. In the other photograph it shows [inaudible] and patches of grass.

KDM: It probably was [inaudible].

HM: That has been there [inaudible]. I used [inaudible]. There was one fishing camp on [inaudible] when I was a kid who was called George's Fishing Camp. It was owned by George Krimm who worked with my dad for thirty years. He was an Indian, really nice guy, he always smelled good. He put something on his body. All he ever wore were shorts. He was very, very heavy [inaudible]. George was very clean. We used to rent a skiff and wait here until she travelled and walk this way or up in [inaudible]. This part of [inaudible] was always terrific. Matter of fact, we used to trawl here and catch grouper because it was across the rock bottom [inaudible]. Turtle grass was found right over here. Great deal of turtle grass, still the same as it

was thirty years ago.

KDM: I know it was so.

HM: We used to catch grouper traveling from this key to shore. This is way back. This is [inaudible]. We used to catch grouper there in the summer. You wouldn't see any grouper anymore.

KDM: Grouper liked that rocky bottom.

HM: Yes. But it wasn't quite deep. It was a great shallow, you had grouper there. You wouldn't see a grouper there anymore, don't ask me why. But these fish in this area, the hook-and-line [inaudible] were impossible. After they kicked the fishermen out of Flamingo, one of the families was the Shores family, Ruff Shore. [inaudible] was a guard down here at the (Sherritt?) Motel. Is it Sherritt that he was the guard at?

FS: Yes, might be.

HM: Barnwood Bay, Ruff Shore. [inaudible] I don't know if you could help him much. The [inaudible] must have been [inaudible] and that was in the late [19]50s. He's never really been the same. But he was the nicest guy you ever [inaudible], 6 foot 4. He taught me how to [inaudible]. He'd wrap three, four gears occasionally with that. Then they got the great, big, (Amble?), the 28-foot boat with [inaudible] that were charging [inaudible]. They were run from Long Sound and they would come over here to fish and go to [inaudible]. There are two creeks there. We call them East Creek and West Creek. Actually, East Creek is East Creek and West Creek is a river.

KDM: Which they called [inaudible].

HM: [inaudible] The snapper, you could go over there and catch 2- or 300 pounds of snapper at the bay. We couldn't do it every day. If you fished that hole two or three days in a row, three years later we're catching three snappers instead of 300 pounds. But the fish were concentrated in small areas and they were not hard to fish out. So, there were concentrations of fish in that part of Florida Bay not [inaudible] today. I can guarantee you, down here during the same period in history, the fishermen would stand [inaudible] and laugh at you.

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: Yes, sure. But we couldn't put a narrower board here. Quahogs you fished like tide. You have to put heavy measure than that. One big hammerhead would leave about 300 yards and net up in two minutes. Maybe not.

KDM: They want to hang on to fish.

HM: I've seen herring with fins like this come up and I'd be [inaudible] and worried [inaudible] would have on my boat. [inaudible] So, you didn't have [inaudible]. After Biscayne Canal,

when we used to try to fish in the skiff and had to catch fish on, I would bring it back into [inaudible]. We couldn't see sharks coming out of the boat. [inaudible]. Well, I can tell you that the change has been in the water. There is a change. I never saw this stuff – what's the stuff they call bacterial growth?

KDM: Water hyacinth?

HM: Whatever it is that they – what area is that concentrated because we don't see it over here.

KDM: It is (Morin Startles?) this murky, fisher trap guy.

HM: They asked me twice.

KDM: They kept fish in here. But yes, the [inaudible] is right here. I got involved with this area here. It is moving southwards. It started right here. It is right off Sandy Key.

HM: Right at the tail part.

KDM: Now, the other thing I have heard so much about, about the sciences. The sciences between room of pretty much wide depth and with this area. [inaudible] Bank in [inaudible] and I guess through Channel Five Bridge. [inaudible] It is a big [inaudible] here and then probably there is something else up here.

HM: There is an oil rig out here. [inaudible] About sixty years ago, [inaudible]. You didn't know that.

KDM: No.

HM: There's a rig out here. Every once in a while, we find the [inaudible] and catch a lot of big fish there like [inaudible] fish and grouper and snapper [inaudible].

KDM: [inaudible]

HM: [inaudible]. I just wonder if we all might be [inaudible]. I don't know what made me receive this as evidence of it. But I'll tell you what I think, I think the [inaudible]. I don't know what the shore pass was like.

KDM: [inaudible] Any chance the Whale Harbor and Long Keys Bridge has all that started by AVI for having [inaudible] to it?

HM: I would say [inaudible]. Nothing really worked right in twenty years. I know about their [inaudible]. I would say that a lot of it is discharged [inaudible] itself. Part of the canal here goes straight this way because these banks literally [inaudible] when the water comes out. So, this is a [inaudible] when you come out of Flamingo, you come right down here and this is [inaudible] Chanel. Over here, a while back you can get through. You were [inaudible] would go through here. You listened up and [inaudible]. That takes a lot. That was [inaudible] from

here on over.

KDM: So, we can come in from Largo. You have [inaudible] and they are doing some exchange coming into water bay.

HM: Well, which one are you talking about?

KDM: Oh, is this part not exchange again here?

HM: No exchanges. What they did is they demonstrated they could band it up.

KDM: Band it.

HM: If you had to go through a boat, you'd have to go from one side to the other. Yet, the [inaudible] became [inaudible]. It was rolled over and buried down. There was a little bit of water coming through. It was not like they do. They used to dig a great, big, wide canal from here and [inaudible]. Recently, they tried to open these canals up again which have been jammed since 1949 or [19]50. The park is likely not going to be your friend, not going to be my friend or anyone's friend. They had the real fishing wildlife, they do. [inaudible], the people are no good. [inaudible]. What they do, the U.S. picture the wildlife showed us when we [inaudible] we were on our last year. We wanted to be successful. They paid me \$300 a day, I think it was, to take them out and check [inaudible] which was the last [inaudible] sampling, the work [inaudible] decided to retain the kind of plans of the conclusion in here. The park knows I'm up [inaudible] until six months because they didn't want them onboard my boat to do any type of research they had [inaudible]. In [inaudible] crocodile, well was an actual talk about posing [inaudible] that area because theoretically to talk about their neighbors. One documentation they had was an endangered crocodile in 1980. I got their records. Well, some [inaudible] up here in [inaudible] caught a crocodile in a landing net or a gillnet. Long knife that was about this long. They got wind of it and said, "If you don't let that crocodile go, we're going to put you in jail, not even in a cell." They were talking about [inaudible]. That was the other county they had. The crocodiles do that and I'm sure you [inaudible]. Right here from this point here, along the sea, we got [inaudible] from Pollack to West. They left there, settled out in here. They called it Rip Layoff and in fact now, seems happily ever to reach there to [inaudible] would be closed at all. [laughter] That's the problem with that. [inaudible]. I don't have a regular thing to say about it.

KDM: What about when old man would tell me about the large amounts of flora that would keep growing across the bay. Now, he had a little cabin in Huntington in some place. He lives in (Amberata?). I am figuring he had a compass he called [inaudible]. But he had a wooden cabin.

HM: There was a cabin the rangers used to stay at in [inaudible]. So, I didn't hear. It may still be there.

KDM: He used to say that he went up there and he would say how much water there was. Up in here is where the mixture of the crop and the freshwater was and the fish and had a bowl.

HM: Well, the fish bowl and the freshwater, I don't know where it was mixed. But when it gets a lot of rain it turns red and you got to throw it out.

KDM: Turns red?

HM: Red, sure. When the [inaudible] a lot of water turns red from mud. But when the fish are around, it's got a little tint of milk in it, so it's a soft red. When there's nothing in it, it turns kind of blood red. When there were seiners here, the West Lake in 1947, the water in West Lake was white as snow if you came offshore to catch trout. That's how many fish there was. I was the –

[end of transcript]