

Wild Caught
Crystal Edens Oral History
Date of Interview: Unknown
Location: Unknown
Length of Interview: 5:10
Interviewer: MB – Matthew Barr
Transcriber: NCC

Matthew Barr: Well, thanks for doing this. I mean, I've been doing this documentary for five years now. It's about Sneads Ferry. It's about the fisherman or family. So, you grew up in a fishing family. What was it like growing up in Sneads Ferry and a fishing family?

Crystal Edens: Well, it's –

MB: Let's start there.

CE: I mean, it's the only thing I've known. I like it. It's hard. It's different. I think I've been working since before I could talk [laughter], if that helps anything. I think some of my earliest memories are of being on the boat and pretty much helping them do whatever they were doing, shrimp, fishing, clamming. That was first thing I ever did for money. I mean, granted, I didn't make very much, but –

MB: Well, now did you want to become – go into fishing thing yourself?

CE: Well, I still want to do something with it.

MB: Can you repeat that?

CE: I still want to do something with it, maybe not necessarily the same thing. Because I mean, it's a hard life. I've seen what it does to people. I mean, it's hard on your body. It's hard on your mind, basically. Like I said, I do want to work somewhere in the marine field, but I don't think I can do it. I'm not made like that, I guess.

MB: Tell me about what you're doing now.

CE: I'm in school right now. I'm working on my associates in art so I can transfer and work in anthropology.

MB: So, where would you like to finish your degree?

CE: I don't know. Whichever place looks at me, I guess.

MB: Are you going to stay in UNC Wilmington, or would you want to stay right here?

CE: Yes. I was thinking about UNC Wilmington or East Carolina. I know I want to stay in North Carolina so –

MB: Okay. What do you think about what's going on here in town with all these crazy condos going up and all that?

CE: Well, it was a big shock because I haven't – this is the first time I've been home since March of 2005. It's August now, so it's a while. All the stuff just went up what it seemed like in five minutes, but it's been a couple of months. So, it was a real big shock when I come home and there's all these houses going up, condos, things being knocked down. I was just in shock.

MB: How does it make you feel?

CE: It's kind of sad. Because I mean, I liked the town the way it is. It's what I've known my whole life. You know everybody. When I was younger, I knew everybody, probably related to everybody. Now, you look around, and you don't know half the faces you see.

MB: Do you want to come back here someday in the Sneads Ferry?

CE: Yes, of course. I mean, this is where my family is. It's where I've grown up. But if it keeps changing like this, probably not.

MB: So, you don't really like the way it's –

CE: No.

MB: – what it's changing to?

CE: No. Well, I'm not a big fan of change, not like this. But I guess I better become one.

MB: Do you think there's a future for the fishermen in this town? What do you think of that?

CE: I think it's a dying race. I mean, as much as it's changed in the last couple of months, it's just going to keep changing. They're going to have to find another place to do what they've got to do.

MB: You mean the fish houses closing?

CE: [affirmative] Everything closing.

MB: What do you think can be done to save it? What can people do?

CE: I don't think there is anything. I mean, once people set their minds on taking over a place, they take it over. I mean, it's what happens in other towns. It's going to happen here.

MB: Would you like to be an anthropologist? Would you want to keep studying? Is that what you want to do?

CE: Yes. That's what I plan on doing now. I'll probably change my mind in about ten minutes. [laughter] But this is what I've been going for for about a year, so –

MB: Good for you. It's a fascinating area.

CE: Yes.

MB: I'm really interested in anthropological documentaries. Of course, most documentaries, in

a way, are anthropological –

CE: Yes.

MB: – all of it in a different way, sort of. All right. Was there anything else you want to add?

CE: Not that I can think of, no.

MB: Yes. Okay. Good. Thanks.

[end of transcript]