

Oral History Collection - Fishing and Fisheries  
Russell Grinnell Oral History  
Date of Interview: August 2, 1975  
Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts  
Length of Interview: 00:39:47  
Interviewer: EKS – Elsa Keil Sichel  
Transcriber: NCC

Elsa Keil Sichel: It is August 2nd, 1976. This is a recording for the Woods Hole Library's Historical Collection of an interview with Captain C. Russell Grinnell, a retired fisherman. Captain Grinnell, now sixty-nine years old, and his wife Myra, live on Bar Neck Road, Woods Hole. I am Elsa Keil Sichel. Captain Grinnell, tell me where and when were you born?

Russell Grinnell: I was born in the house around the corner there. I think it was in that apartment house.

EKS: In Albatross Street?

RG: Yes, on Albatross Street there. Yes. I think that's where I was born. Then we moved from there over to the Broderick house.

EKS: Broderick house.

RG: Then my father bought that from him.

EKS: Oh, your father bought the house right next to your house or so?

RG: Yes, right next to. Yes.

EKS: You're a real Cape Coder then.

RG: Oh, yes.

EKS: Was your father also a Cape Coder or did he –

RG: He was born in Fairhaven.

EKS: In Fairhaven. Then came here when he was a young man?

RG: No. He first went, I think, to Naushon. See, my grandfather was on Naushon for thirty-three years.

EKS: Oh, my. This was your grandfather.

RG: Up the top of Long Cove. Over on this side of top of Long Cove now it's pretty well all grown in and everything. But on this side on top of Long Cove, you could see the old foundation around there.

EKS: That was your grandfather's house?

RG: Yes, where my grandfather was at.

EKS: Then your father was born –

RG: He was born in Fairhaven.

EKS: In Fairhaven. Had he visited his father in Naushon?

RG: Oh, yes.

EKS: His father stayed on Naushon.

RG: His father stayed on Naushon. When he was taken, he was born in Fairhaven. He had my sister, my aunt, she was born over in Naushon.

EKS: Now, you had some brothers and sisters. Tell me about who they were so I can identify them.

RG: Well, one is Mrs. Clarke. She lives in Falmouth, Amvets Avenue. One lives in Florida down in that place, Fort Lauderdale. Then I have another sister that lives down on [inaudible] Avenue. One lives in Connecticut.

EKS: Oh, well now, and then a brother.

RG: A brother. He lives in Falmouth.

EKS: That's your brother, John, in there?

RG: Yes. My brother, John, lives in Falmouth Heights.

EKS: So, that was a real family brought up here at Woods Hole.

RG: Oh, yes.

EKS: Did you all go to school here?

RG: Yes.

EKS: To the Woods Hole and Falmouth Schools?

RG: Woods Hole. I went to Woods Hole School. Then I went to Falmouth school. We had to go to Falmouth School. At first, there were eight grades up there in this school. Then they cut it down to sixth. So, the seventh and eighth they made it into junior high then. So, the seventh and eighth grade went to Falmouth School by bus.

EKS: The school bus was taken care of by the town of Woods Hole or the –

RG: No. By the town of Falmouth.

EKS: Town of Falmouth.

RG: The school bus didn't pick us up. It was a Stromer. We used to have to walk up to the school house and they'd pick you up there.

EKS: You didn't use a railroad to go to school?

RG: No, we didn't. My father did, but we never did.

EKS: Then tell me where you met Mrs. Grinnell.

RG: In Buzzards Bay.

EKS: In Buzzards Bay. Then when you were married, you came here to Woods Hole again?

RG: We came into Woods Hole, yes.

EKS: Now, was your father a sea captain or a fisherman or what was he?

RG: Fisherman.

EKS: A fisherman.

RG: Mr. Grinnell the fisherman, yes.

EKS: A fisherman. Did he specialize in any type of fish?

RG: No. In the spring we'd go dragging for flounders off Falmouth. Then we'd set our lobster pots. When we got to through lobstering, it was time to go back down here again because the flounders go out in the summertime and it was time to go back down here. So, we'd go back down here dragging for flounders. Then we'd go to Nantucket and go quahogging in Nantucket for the rest of the winter.

EKS: Now what sort of a boat did your father have?

RG: He had a 26-foot catboat at that time. Then had the *R.J. Bill*. She was 42 feet.

EKS: That's a little size.

RG: That was a big boat then.

EKS: I was going to say so.

RG: In those days, that was a fair-sized boat.

EKS: You helped your father with his business of fishing?

RG: Oh, yes. I quit school when I was fourteen.

EKS: Worked with your father.

RG: Worked with my father.

EKS: Yes. Well, that was a help to him, I'm sure.

RG: Oh, yes.

EKS: Then you later did independent fishing. Is that so?

RG: Oh, yes. I used to go out there at night bass fishing. Then when I got through with my father, I went with Henry Klimm.

EKS: Henry Klimm, is he a Woods Hole person? I don't know that name.

RG: No, he comes. He's the one that has the *Captain Bill V*, now I guess it is.

EKS: Oh, I haven't observed a boat with that name.

RG: Yes. He's tied up down in the laboratory. Squidding came to life squidding for the laboratory in the summertime. In the wintertime, we went usually to go dragging for the big summer flounders. One time we changed over and put tanks and went lobstering, the deep-sea lobster fishing. I put them for almost twenty-five years.

EKS: Well, when you were married, did you live in this house?

RG: No.

EKS: Or you lived in Woods Hole? Where in Woods Hole?

RG: We lived in my father's house around the corner. He bought that one around the corner. We lived in that.

EKS: That was almost opposite Captain Veeder's house.

RG: Yes. Right opposite Captain Veeder's House.

EKS: Because I know Captain Robert Veeder.

RG: We lived in that, I think, three or four years, something like that. Then we finally bought this house. This house went up for sale, so we bought this one.

EKS: Oh, nice. Great. Being right next to what used to be your parents' home.

RG: Yes.

EKS: Tell me about the house next door, which is your father's house. There was a boat house behind it or what connected to it?

RG: No, it was what we called a workshop –

EKS: A workshop for –

RG: – behind it where we used to fix our lobster pots and things up in the wintertime. Because we knew it was going to come a rainstorm. We'd take two dozen pots and put them in the shop so we could work on them for the rain.

EKS: Very good. Now, when you were successful doing lobster fishing, where did you sell your lobsters to?

RG: Cahoon.

EKS: Sam Cahoon. Now, he had a fleet of boats. Yours were not part of it. You were an independent fisherman, is that right?

RG: Oh, yes, we were independent. No, we weren't part of his.

EKS: Because I remember when he had his business. Did you ever do sword fishing?

RG: Look, I've done everything.

EKS: [laughter] Well, that doesn't surprise me that you've done them all.

RG: Everything but deep-sea scalloping.

EKS: Well, that requires a special type of dredging, does it not?

RG: Yes. It's a special type. I've done the inshore, what we call the base scallops and like that. We've done that. Captain Klimm would never go into the deep-sea scalloping because we'd watch them out there when we were swordfishing or something. It'd be rough. That dredge would go outside from here to that tree or more. It'd come back slamming up against the side of the boat and he said, "Oh, that's not for me."

EKS: Well, I can see where he would be considering the damage to his boat.

RG: Sure.

EKS: Yes. We have been wondering why in Woods Hole a millpond is called a millpond.

RG: I don't know.

EKS: You don't know either?

RG: No. But I can remember years ago when we were kids, take a bamboo pole, piece of string on it, and a hook on it. Then get a half a bucket of worms and go fishing. The milk on it gets dirt and then it was about that long. You're going [laughter] to get the fishing there now.

EKS: Yes. It was definitely a fresh water pond. It wasn't brackish, was it? Or was there a connection to the eel pond?

RG: Oh, there's always a connection to the eel pond and herring used to run up in there.

EKS: Oh, really? A herring run from the eel pond to –

RG: From the eel pond into the millpond, there was.

EKS: – the millpond.

RG: I've caught down there. The stream runs under Dan Clark filling.

EKS: Really?

RG: Yes.

EKS: I didn't know that. That's interesting. Well, now was the stream covered over so that we don't see this a major connection now?

RG: Oh, you don't see it, no. Not unless you happen to walkway up around the edge of the millpond in the back of where (Chris Caponte) lived. It goes right through one of these Caponte property there, is where it goes. He had a pipe over at the ground, a 3-foot pipe that led the water in and out.

EKS: Do you remember the days when I understand there were cows here. Tell me who had cows and did they sell milk?

RG: Oh, sure.

EKS: Well, for example, where were the cows grazing?

RG: Up across from the schoolhouse down there. That little pond up on the other side of that. The man had two or three cows there. Then it used to be up to Whitney Estate. They had cows up to Whitney Estates.

EKS: Were they for their service or were they strictly –

RG: Yes. Well, what Whitney didn't want in the summertime or wintertime, they used to sell.

EKS: The cows were kept there. Was there somebody?

RG: Oh, yes. Cows were kept there year-round.

EKS: Someone farmed and took care of them while the Whitneys were away.

RG: While the Whitneys were away, oh, sure. They have three or four men working there now, I guess. They used to come around in the evening and deliver the milk.

EKS: How very interesting. Did any of the stores carry the local milk?

RG: No.

EKS: Or was it done by way of the farmer himself where they –

RG: The farmer himself did it. Oh, they carried the milk, but it wasn't really the local milk.

EKS: Yes, it was bottled milk.

RG: The only local stuff that you could get would be go to the store up here, Harry Daniels. He had the drugstore.

EKS: Oh, I remember Harry. I remember Daniels.

RG: Yes, because he used to get the cream from Naushon. You'd go up there if you want cream for a strawberry shortcake, you'd go up there and buy a jar of cream. When you'd get home, you'd have to spoon it out. It was so thick. Yes, it was so thick. Oh, it was good. That came from Naushon.

EKS: Naushon. Was that part of the Forbes Estate?

RG: Yes.

EKS: So, the Forbes had cows and the Whitneys. Then who are some of the other local people that had cows? Can you remember?

RG: Briggs.

EKS: Briggs.

RG: Down at Bridgett. They had cows. There used to be two people out on Penzance that had cows. In the summertime, they'd rent them out.

EKS: Oh, for goodness' sake.



RG: Sure. They'd rent them off to somebody to have over here in the summertime.

EKS: Isn't that interesting?

RG: One cow, I think, it used to come from over the vineyard. I forget where the other ones came from.

EKS: Isn't that interesting? Then at the end of the summer, they'd be returned too?

RG: Oh, yes, at the end of the summer.

EKS: Oh, rent a cow. Well, now tell me something about as you remember the stores going along the Main Street at Woods Hole when you were a young boy. Can you remember the order of what the shops were? Was there a blacksmith here when you were young or not?

RG: Oh, sure.

EKS: There was.

RG: Yes.

EKS: Where was the blacksmith store or shop?

RG: Go down where the Oceanographic parking lot is now, I think it was. Down in there was a coal dock. It used to be the coal dock where they brought the coal in and everything. Just up this side of that was a blacksmith shop. Yes, there was a blacksmith shop over there.

EKS: Now, do you remember when the Woods Hole Social Library was in a different place than it is now? Do you remember where that was?

RG: No, I don't. I spent all my time –

EKS: Now tell me something about Mr. Swift. I remember him when he had his shop. But you remember him earlier than I do because you –

RG: Well, probably not too much. There isn't too much really to say about him. But he had two boats built.

EKS: Did he build them himself?

RG: No, his father.

EKS: No, his father.

RG: His father built them because they were cotton at that time. They built them and they were down in the barn underneath.

EKS: Underneath.

RG: They never touched the water. The only time them boats touched the water was when they went across the eel pond during [19]38 hurricane.

EKS: For goodness' sake. Now, why was that?

RG: I was a great friend of his who used to do good business with. After the children were born, I tried to buy one of the boats off him, but he wouldn't –

EKS: Sell. Do you think he built it for some member of his family or something like that?

RG: No, I don't know. They didn't have any children.

EKS: Did he have a brother?

RG: No, I don't think so. I think there would be a difference if there had been.

EKS: I know his father's hardware business preceded his business in the same place, I was told. Is that right?

RG: Yes, as far as I know.

EKS: Was it his father or Eddie Swift himself drew plans to build the Congregational Church. Do you remember?

RG: No, I don't remember that.

EKS: But he had built two boats at the –

RG: Yes.

EKS: Amazing.

RG: It was underneath the barn there. He took me down and showed them to me a couple times. Then when I tried to buy one off him when my kids were small, he wouldn't sell them. He just wouldn't sell them. They've been there forty, fifty years.

EKS: He was an amazing man.

RG: Oh, yes.

EKS: I was told that he knew where everything was in his shop. Even if you couldn't see it or guess where it might be, he'd know where it was.

RG: He'd know where it was. Oh, yes. A lot of things up in that shop that you'll think that he didn't have. But if you asked him if he had it, he had it. He planned it. He knew where it was. Yes.

EKS: Someone said that he always was anxious that money that passed through his hands in the form of paper money would be very nice and clean. The story was that he washed the money and had it pressed and then it would be distributed. Have you ever heard that story?

RG: I don't know about washing the money, but I know he used a flat iron on it and flattened it out. Then he'd roll it all up. You'd have a roll and this one's come off this way and that one's come off that way. This one come off this way. That one come off that way. He might have a roll about that big going home probably. One would come off one way and one come off the other. But when you laid them out, it was just as flat as could be because he used a flat iron on it.

EKS: Well, now tell me about Mr. Daniels who had the ice cream parlor. I used to enjoy the sandwiches and ice cream there. Did you know Mr. Daniels?

RG: Oh, yes, sure.

EKS: Was he a Woods Hole person or did he come here for just a business?

RG: No, I think he married into the Housse family.

EKS: Oh, Housse family. This Rena Housse?

RG: No, the one that's –

EKS: Oh, Ruth Housse.

RG: Well, no. Flossy's mother. There's one you could get some information from.

EKS: That's right. I'm going to write this out.

RG: She's ninety-two. So, you can get some information from her probably.

EKS: Yes. She's Flossy Housse?

RG: No.

EKS: No.

RG: It's Flossy's mother.

EKS: No, the Flossy's. Well, I'm making note of this because she's here in Woods Hole.

RG: Oh, yes. She goes to the 8:00 a.m. service up to church every Sunday.

EKS: Well, I shall certainly make a point to do that.

RG: The daughter, Flossy, goes up to church every Sunday morning, the 8:00 a.m. service.

EKS: Mr. Daniels married –

RG: Into the Housse family.

EKS: – into the Housse family. Because we at the lab years ago, counted so much on his marvelous sandwiches after hours at the mess or after a lecture. Wonderful ice cream.

RG: Yes. We used to go up when we were kids. Well, kids like twelve, fourteen like that. Go up and play golf late in the afternoon. Sneak up there and play golf. We always came down there and had a vanilla with a chocolate sauce and walnuts on the top.

EKS: Yummy [laughter].

RG: It was.

EKS: Tasty. I found his sundae that he called a salted kiss, which was vanilla ice cream with butterscotch sauce and salted peanuts on the top was marvelous too [laughter].

RG: Yes, it was.

EKS: The price of lobster rolls that he made then I think was the standard price of 25 cents. Then many years later, they became 50 cents. Then now they're not available within price range at all [laughter].

RG: That's right [laughter]. The claws cost you a dollar and a half. Yes.

EKS: What do you remember, Captain Grinnell, about during the war years when there were blackouts? Do you remember?

RG: We never really had any light around here back then.

EKS: Really?

RG: They made us put the curtains.

EKS: Closed the curtains down.

RG: Put the curtains down and everything. But there was never really what we called any alarm or anything of any real blackout or anything.

EKS: Well, it was just so that the bright lights wouldn't be reflected on the harbor?

RG: That's right.

EKS: Oh, yes. Do you remember watching the convoys collect down here at the bay at all?

RG: But they were not too much. They collected, but there was more up on the other side of the bay than it was on this side up closer to the canal way. Then the convoys, a lot of them went through the canal. They made up the other side of the canal, the convoys did. But then we just decided they were made up out there.

EKS: Then following that war, there was the problem of Prohibition and rumrunners. I'm told Woods Hole had a very active rumrunner set up. Do you know what people refer to when they say that?

RG: Well, I'll tell you two or three of them that were notorious rumrunners. But one of them was from here. Two from New Bedford, I think it was. But there was only one real one out of here. But he never kept the boat here. The boat was always kept in New Bedford somewhere. Sure. The boat was always kept in New Bedford somewhere.

EKS: Now that was the responsibility of the coastguard to check up on that?

RG: Oh, sure.

EKS: Where did they distribute it at that time then?

RG: Everywhere.

EKS: [laughter]

RG: Everywhere they figured they could sneak in. Sometimes it would be up West Falmouth, sometimes it was over a neck, sometimes it was in west port. It was all over.

EKS: It was all about here.

RG: All done during the night. Yes.

EKS: I'd heard a story that if they were chased, at least one group knew that they had a good supply on their boat and the coastguard was chasing them and they threw the stuff overboard, making a note as to where they threw it overboard to collect it. Is that a story that you have heard too?

RG: Oh, yes, sure. If they were then close to the beach anywhere and the coastguard was coming after them, they'd dump it overboard. They put a bag of sugar on it with a little small buoy. The coastguard would come and look and they couldn't see anything. Then when that sugar dissolved, that little small buoy would come to the surface.

EKS: That was quite an idea [laughter].

RG: So, they knew where to find it, sure.

EKS: I think that's very interesting. Tell me something about storms, which might be heavy rainstorms with thunder and lightning. You said once to me that you remember that a barn was struck by lightning and cows were killed. Tell me about that.

RG: That was down in the Fennel Estate.

EKS: The Fennel Estate.

RG: It was a Fennel Estate.

EKS: Is that Fennel or Fennell?

RG: Fennel. It's the just the side of where the sign says campus.

EKS: Yes. The campus of the Oceanographic.

RG: The Oceanographic, there's a house this side and the barn was sitting back and it was struck by lightning.

EKS: Then did the Woods Hole Fire Department get called?

RG: Oh, sure, yes.

EKS: What sort of equipment did they have at that time?

RG: Well, Hilton, he had a converted truck. He towed the hose way reel. Then when they got ready to come home, they'd coil the hose up and put it on this flatbed truck and bring it home that way, the hose. We were living right in the Broderick house when it got struck by lightning.

EKS: You were aware that it was a close storm?

RG: There was four of us upstairs playing and it hit the telephone wires and followed the telephone wires right down the side. It didn't start any fire or anything. The wires had fallen right down the sides. I don't remember whether we had electricity in those days or not. But I know that we had telephone because my father used to work with a telephone company at one time. It hit the wires and fell them right down the side of the house. There was a scorch mark right down the side of the house. Yes.

EKS: Was the fire department able to save any part of the barn, or no?

RG: No. Very little they saved the barn.

EKS: Where did they get the water supply in a case of that?

RG: Well, you have to hook on to hydrogen water.

EKS: Oh, they didn't have water or so.

RG: They had water, yes.

EKS: Do you remember the days when the railroad was still functioning?

RG: Yes. Sure. I used to have to go up on a Saturday and get on a train. Go to Falmouth, walk down to Doc Green's office about where the telephone company is now. Yes, the telephone company is there now. Down in there where my dentist was. Then one back up, took the next train, come back to Woods Hole.

EKS: It was a major source of transportation between the two towns.

RG: Yes, sure.

EKS: Do you remember Nickerson's bus, Brownie? We called him Brownie Nickerson.

RG: Yes, Brownie Nickerson.

EKS: I've taken that between Woods Hole and Falmouth. It wasn't the problem of finding space to park your cars because there were very few cars.

RG: There was another one, but I'm trying to think of what his name was now. It had the old Stanley steamer bus. Do you happen to remember that one?

EKS: Oh, I have a timetable of that, which we have in the Woods Hole Historical Collection. Yes, it looks like a big touring car.

RG: It had seats all the way across.

EKS: Seats across, yes.

RG: A big, red one.

EKS: Yes. I can't remember. The man's name is on the card.

RG: It went by steam, but I can't remember what it was.

EKS: Was it a Stanley steamer?

RG: Yes, that was it.

EKS: That was the make of the car.

RG: It was a Stanley. That was the make of it.

EKS: Well, we have the record of the man's name. I haven't in my head, but we have one bus timetable with a picture of that large bus. Not a bus, but touring car that's made large for carrying passengers.

RG: Well, it had five or six seats in it.

EKS: That's right, across. Where was his headquarters when people wanted to get that special bus?

RG: Like you say, you had a timetable, he'd go right around the corner.

EKS: Oh, he would. The timetable I just noticed from the time it left Woods Hole. But I didn't know where it left Woods Hole.

RG: No, we'd go right around the corner and pick you up anywhere.

EKS: Do you remember special names given to different parts of town such as Crow Hill or a Skunk Hollow?

RG: No, I don't know.

EKS: I've heard people refer to certain areas as such, and I wondered if you knew of that. Captain Grinnell, I was told the fire that was affiliated with the machine shop of the fisheries was a very serious fire. Tell me something about it.

RG: It was. The pieces of shingles coming off of the mess hall were going clear across the eel pond.

EKS: Did that mess hall then burn?

RG: Oh, yes.

EKS: It did.

RG: The mess hall burned right down.

EKS: Just because it was across the street from –

RG: Yes. You see that building that belonged to the fisheries was all hard pine. That really burned. It had drums of oil and everything down and sell and every other thing that they boomed because we lived over there then. He was in Nantucket at the time. So, we all came into this



front room here, and you could hardly put your hands on the glass.

EKS: The heat was that great from way over there?

RG: Yes, from way over there. The heat was that great.

EKS: Oh, my. Then the other buildings were saved? Were there other buildings around that were saved or was it just a wind that stopped it?

RG: Well, they had the fire department over here. But at that time, it had to be just at that time that the pressure was off.

EKS: Oh, my, what a situation.

RG: Yes, the pressure was loaded. They didn't have the pressure.

EKS: So, the first MBL mess hall burned. Then when did they rebuild it?

RG: We must have rebuilt it the next year, I guess, it was.

EKS: Did this occur during the winter?

RG: Yes, it was during the winter.

EKS: It was during the winter when it wasn't being used.

RG: It was not.

EKS: Tell me Mr. Grinnell about the barber shops in town.

RG: Well, there used to be a little one just where the channel side is now. There used to be a little barber shop in there. He was the painter. He painted during the daytime and opened up at night in there. I forget, it was 25 cents a haircut or something like that. Used to have the little gas thing you light underneath to heat his hot water. You had to rack up on the shelves and everything. All the people that went in there for a shave or anything, the shaving mug was all hung on there.

EKS: Oh, were their names on it?

RG: With their names named all on them, I'm sure.

EKS: So, that you would just –

RG: Names were on all of them, yes.

EKS: All his customers. Now was the other barber –

RG: Then there was another barber shop just beside the bridge where the fish monger is now that washed out during the hurricane. That had two pool tables in it. We had two barber chairs and two pool tables in there. So, the gang in the spring played pool when you'd catch him sober.

EKS: [laughter] Well, now was he Al? Was his name Al?

RG: No.

EKS: No, it was another barber.

RG: Alec. Al, his shop was there too in there. His shop was there when the beauty parlor was there, if you remember that.

EKS: Well, I remember when there were two barbershops here.

RG: His shop was just the side of that. When they sold out in there well, he had to get out. He moved out to Falmouth. But he died about a year ago, I feel like.

EKS: That's right.

RG: About a year ago he died. Was it Albec Sean or something like that were their names?

EKS: There were two drug stores in Woods Hole as I remember in the 27th. One right close to the bridge and one where it is now.

RG: Yes. But the one where it is now was more or less a novelty shop than it was a drug store. You couldn't get any prescription in these stores.

EKS: This I didn't know.

RG: No, you couldn't get any prescription at the store. You had the lunch count everything to them, but you couldn't get any prescriptions from there. The one next to the bridge you could.

EKS: Was that Alexei?

RG: No, Ed Justin.

EKS: Oh, Justin.

RG: But who had it first? Somebody from Falmouth had it first. But it wasn't Alexei, but I don't remember just who it was.

EKS: Do you remember Mrs. Snowy's little dry good store?

RG: Yes.

EKS: So, tell me what things that she –

RG: Phoebe White.

EKS: Phoebe White.

RG: [laughter] Phoebe White Grocery Store, yes.

EKS: What sort of supplies did she sell?

RG: Almost all kinds of dry goods, yes.

EKS: I was told that there was another bookstore on the side near the fire department. Do you remember that bookstore?

RG: No.

EKS: Captain Grinnell, when the Yacht Club was functioning where the Woods Hole Clubhouse now is, what sort of boats raced? Tell me about that.

RG: I couldn't really describe it. They're more like a strip sailboat.

RG: Brad had one built. The first I forget what it cost. But they taught the first year, winning races.

EKS: Oh, wonderful.

RG: Yes. That is up in Mr. Connecticut in the new year.

EKS: Oh, that's called the Woods Hole Spritz. Dr. Redfield told me about it and I saw it at the Mystic Museum. So, that was your father's boat.

RG: Yes, my father's boat.

EKS: Isn't that interesting?

RG: When he got through with it, he sold it to Dr. Wilbert, I think is what he was called. Then Dr. Redfield got a hold of it and stepped in the museum.

EKS: Right. Interesting. So, I didn't know it was your father's boat. Well, now the style today is to race what type of boats?

RG: Now, they race in five to six different kinds. They've got the little pump thing. They raced the Cape Cod Knockabout, and then they get the javelin, they call them. They get a bunch of different boats they race now.

EKS: When did the Woods Hole Yacht Club move from its place where it's now a clubhouse to its position here? Do you recall that?

RG: I don't know. No, I don't recall it, but I can tell you if I can find it.

EKS: Captain Grinnell, you mentioned that Penzance Point really could have been considered an island.

RG: Yes, could have been.

EKS: Tell me where the cutoff was.

RG: The cutoff was between by Mrs. Crane's house down there and where, not the Sanders, what's the other people's name? The house this side of it that went through there.

EKS: It was a stream that it would be running constantly from one fresh –

RG: From one side to the other.

EKS: From the bay to the sound.

RG: Sound. Then when on a high tide, the tide would come up. They'd pull what they call the smack boat things through and go out and haul the fish trap, roll out all the fish traps and get back again. The tide went out too quick. By then they'd have to wait until high tide again to get the boat back in again and the one that carried the lumber down the building's houses. Of course there's no automobiles then. Of course this is all what my father told me. There were no automobiles. They had to go down there and go across on the low tide.

EKS: They didn't have a bridge. There was nothing.

RG: No, there was no bridge or nothing. If they had to go across, they had to take the wagon and load the lumber things across on the low tide.

EKS: On low tide, yes. Then come back again on low tide [laughter].

RG: Then come back again on low tide.

EKS: Now, how was it built up to be a solid road?

RG: Then they took and put stalin right this end of the road down there, right down to Mrs. Crane's house. They put in a big stone wall. All the wall was high.

EKS: 10 feet or more.

RG: Yes. That's what filled that in.

EKS: Then now boats have to go around [laughter].

RG: Sure, now boats have to go around.

EKS: These would just be small boats that would go through. Is that right?

RG: Yes. Oh, no. Just small boats would go through that.

EKS: So, it became a peninsula after it had previously been truly an island at the high tide [laughter]. Thank you, Captain Grinnell, for sharing these interesting memories. Also, thank you for loaning me the booklet about the "History of the Woods Hole Yacht Club," which was first organized in the summer of 1896 at the Bar Neck Wharf, I understand, the *Red Shed*. Also, in studying this booklet, I noticed that there were many references to your father, Mr. Charles R. Grinnell. Thank you, Mr. Grinnell. Thank you again.

[end of transcript]