



Patricia Maguire Renno

Interviewee: Patricia Renno
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Interviewer: Ginger Corson
Transcribed by: Donna Williams, February 18, 2006
Oral History Coordinator: Mavis Daly

[The first one or two words were not audible, but tape is marked ‘March 3, 2001’.]

Qt: “3rd, year 2001 and we’re at the home of Pat Renno, down in ‘Felicity Cove’, and we’re anxiously awaiting one of the greatest blizzards that we’ve had in years. It’s hard to believe, though, because it’s about 60° outside today, but we’re supposed to have snow for three days. So, welcome. Thank you so much for joining us today.”

PR: “It’s a pleasure to have you here.” [Slight pause as Ms. Corson moves out of camera range.]

Qt: “Tell us your full name and when and where you were born.”

PR: “My full name is Patricia Ann Renno. I was born in Washington, DC. My maiden name is Maguire – I was Patricia Ann Maguire, and as a child I lived in Washington until I was twelve and I moved to Philadelphia. However, when I was 3 years old, back in 1934, my parents bought a home down here in Shady Side in the community of ‘Felicity Cove’ on the exact spot that we’re in now. And so every summer since 1934, I’ve been down here and lived in this area until I was married in 1949; then I moved down, met my husband down here and moved down at that time.”

Qt: “How did your parents find this place”?



PR: “We don’t know ... we’re not sure, because they bought it in ’34, which was a time during the Depression, and he was a lawyer in Washington. And I think just ‘word of mouth’ ... some of the people that he worked with knew Mr. Buchanan was one of the ones that helped to build a great many of these homes down here; he was a famous builder, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrews owned the land and were developing the property. They were the original developers of ‘Felicity Cove’, and all of the land maps go back to the fact that they developed everything down here.”

Qt: “Do you have any brothers and sisters that stayed in the area down here”?

PR: “Well, I ... one sister I have is two years older, and she lives in McClean, Virginia, and she came down as a child up through the time she was 18 every summer.”

Qt: “And how did you meet your husband, Ralph”?

PR: “I met him at church, as a matter of fact, up in Owensville, during the summer. He was an only child. His father was a butcher at the market, which he bought later that year, and I had met his father at church, and I knew him through going into the grocery store. Floyd Crumpton, at that time, owned the store. It was relatively new; it was only two or three years old, and so I knew Mr. Renno, Sr. And then one day up at church....we went to a little, small wooden church up there in Owensville; and it was so small that in the summer time, the crowds were so large that sometimes we had to have services out in the back which is now part of the cemetery. And so it was one of those Sundays we were out there, I think it was late June, early July, we had mass outside there in what’s now the present cemetery, and Mr. Renno, Sr came up and said ‘hello’, and his son had just come up from Florida. He was recently discharged from the Navy because he had been in the Navy during World War II. So, he introduced me to his son and that’s how we met. So, literally, we did meet in the graveyard at church [laughing]... doesn’t sound romantic, but it was lasting.” [Laughing]

Qt: “Good, good!”

PR: “And then after that, I came home that Sunday and my father always went down to Miss Annie Rogers, who lived just down East West Shady Side Road. And Daddy always got a lemon meringue pie and home



made biscuits from her for Sunday dinner. So I said ‘Daddy, all right, I’ll ride down with you while Mother is cooking dinner’. So, we stopped by the ballpark, which is still the original, it’s a regular ballpark, because the fellows were playing a game. And Ralph was down there watching the two teams with Calvin Trott. And so that’s how I saw him again, and he came over and asked if he could come down and visit sometime.”

Qt: “Very nonchalant!”

PR: “So then we went, and my Dad and I picked up our lemon meringue pie and our rolls and came home, and that’s how the romance started from there.”

Qt: “Just out of curiosity, where did Miss Annie Rogers live?”

PR: “All right, she lives ...do you know the intersection of Snug Harbor Road and Shady Side road, you know, those two brick ... I don’t know...”

Qt: “Oh, right, the wall.”

PR: “You know where the Leatherbury house was there on one of...”

Qt: “On the right.”

PR: “All right, the next house down, there’s an old white house there. She lived in there.”

Qt: “Did you know anything about her family at all, her husband or anything like that?”

PR: “No, I didn’t.”

Qt: “OK, all right.”

PR: “But she did make delicious lemon meringue pies!”



Qt: “Sounds like it if it got to be a weekly thing. So was there much of a socialization in Shady Side”?

PR: “Well, as I said, a lot of ... as they do now ... people would gather down at the ... things haven’t changed. That would be ’48, and they were all down there watching ballgames. So that’s how long that has been going on. And then later in ’48, a couple months later, my husband bought Mr. Crumpton out in the store, and it became Renno’s Market. Now at that time, I was still finishing school, so I went back to school in Philadelphia; and the following June, when I got out of school, I came back and I was married a week later in ’49.”

Qt: “Did you work outside the home after you all were married”?

PR: “No, I worked in the store.”

Qt: “So it was truly a family owned business”?

PR: “Yes.”

Qt: “Now did you and Ralph have any children”?

PR: “Yes, we had six children and 14 grandchildren.”

Qt: “Oh, Lordy!”

PR: “They keep us busy.”

Qt: “You want to name the children for me”?

PR: “You think I can”? [Laughing]



Qt: "I hope so!"

PR: "All right. Our eldest one is Patti; Patti was born in 1951; there was Ralph the '3rd', he was born in '52; Eileen was born in '53. Then we had a breather, then Catherine was born in '56. Then Mary was born in '61, and Carolyn was born in '66."

Qt: "They jumped all around me, though."

PR: "That's the whole tribe."

Qt: "Well, great. Now do your children live in Shady Side at all"?"

PR: "Yes. I have one that lives right next door. She has three children. Then my son lives down on the corner, down there, and he has two children. So they have stayed right here."

Qt: "That's fantastic. Well 'Felicity Cove' is a great, quiet place to live, isn't it"?"

PR: "Yeah, well they've always lived down here, they've never lived any place else. I mean other than when they finished their high school, they came back here and have lived here full time. They do not like cities, they only want to be around in a quiet rural setting."

Qt: "It's easy to be spoiled, isn't it"?"

PR: "And actually, I have four up at ... between Southern Middle and Southern High School, four of my grandchildren are in there right now."

Qt: "I was going to ask if there was much live stock in Shady Side when you were coming up."

PR: "Not too much, not really."



Qt: “You don’t remember anybody ... like hearing a rooster in the morning or anything like that”?

PR: “Well in this particular area you were not allowed to have them.”

Qt: “They have rules here”?

PR “Yeah. They have ...’cause I always wanted a horse. And that was the only way my father got out of having horses. He showed it to me in the covenants of the ... you couldn’t have chickens, you couldn’t have roosters, and you couldn’t have horses. ‘Cause I was bound and determined that we had enough property for me to have a horse. But it was in the land deed that...’course they had some things in the land deeds that have fallen by the wayside, too. So they were not exactly ‘kosher’ by today’s standards anyway. But so far, nobody’s brought in roosters.”

Qt: “’Cause I still hear roosters down where I live. Tell us a little bit about your church.”

PR: “Our church is Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church up in Owensville, and we’re now undergoing...it’s the third church that I’ve belonged to up there. It goes back to a land grant from 1600, and, as a matter of fact, a wooden church that was up there was built in the 1866, and then that was added on to several times. But then in 1949, they realized that it was totally inadequate. Although most of your people were summer residents, but you had some year-round, quite a few year-round people up there, so that’s when they started ... a Mr. Darnell donated a new church. So he built it to ... on the same characteristics of St. Bede’s (SP?) down in Williamsburg. He had fallen in love with that church. So he built the same church after the Williamsburg. If anybody has been down there ... and not getting paid for the entire thing, which is wonderful. But just within the last five years, even that became too small because the area has grown so. It would seat 180 people, and we had five services a day on some weekends, but that was still too small. So now, they’re in the process of building that there again to an enlargement the same as St. Bede’s down in Williamsburg, who added two wings to theirs. So that should be through in another month, so this is the third building project that I’ve been through in the church. And so we were actually land-locked there, but the Wayson family have very generously donated land to us up there, too, so we have been very fortunate.”



Qt: “How about telling us about your store.”

PR: “The store was a general grocery store, and my husbandwell, his father was a butcher, so that’s where Ralph got his expertise in butchering; and he made all his own sausage and did all his own meat cutting. Nothing compared to what you have today – I mean a butcher was a butcher then. And everything you buy now is pre-packaged, and so on and so forth. The only thing I didn’t like to do was cut chickens – still do ... didn’t like the smell of those chickens, so I never quite learned how to do it right. Now I made sure I never learned how to do it right! [Laughing] So I didn’t mind cutting the liver or anything else, but I sure hated the smell of chickens. So that quickly became something that some body else had to do.

But we had a very good business and every thing, and of course at that point, you had slot machines, could not sell liquor; that came in later. And you were open ... well, the only days you closed, really, were Easter and Christmas. And it’s a hard business, because you were open ...we sold gasoline, it was quite extensive what you had to do. And then, actually, one of the main reasons we got out was because we were so involved with children, and we were having more and more of them, and I couldn’t spend as much time. I was trying to do the book work, trying to do the ... take care of the children and everything else. And then Ralph never got a chance, really, to ever see them. And he was going to market at 3 and 4 in the morning to get fresh produce and every thing, so it just became overwhelming to try to take care of the family and try to run the store. And that’s when we sold to some people named Christolf.”

Qt: “What year was that”?

PR: “That was ’54 or ’55, some place in there. Then we moved in, for the winter time, to Cheverly, Maryland, but we still got down here for the summers. Then Ralph commuted back and forth every day during the summer.”

Qt: “Now in the store did you have those big bins of flour and sugar that you sometimes see”?

PR: “No.”



Qt: "It was packaged things"?

PR: "Yes."

Qt: "Where did you get your produce"?

PR: "Florida Street Market - the wholesalers up in ... There were some people ... Steve Lanassas, that came down from Baltimore, but he didn't carry that wide a variety, so Ralph would go up to the Florida Street Markets up in Washington and pick up most of the produce at that time."

Qt: "I wanted to ask about vacations when you were coming up. Where was 'the' spot to go on vacation"?

PR: "Shady Side."

Qt: "I thought you were going to say that." [Laughing]

PR: "We never leave and the one thing was, during the war, World War II, everything was rationed and you had rationing books for sugar and shoes and gasoline. And at that time, we were living in Philadelphia, so we had to save up all our gasoline stamps to make the trip from Philadelphia down and enough to get back to Philadelphia. So I mean you didn't run back and forth and do a lot of commuting or anything like that. Your travels had to be planned out, just what was going to ... fortunately, my Grandmother ... well, we didn't use a lot of sugar and so we traded off our sugar stamps to them, and they gave us their gasoline stamps. And they didn't use a lot of shoes, so we used the barter system with anybody that didn't use them, you know, particular stamps. But we always did manage to get down to Shady Side and back until the ... during the War years."

Qt: "So it sounds like there was a real feeling of camaraderie and helping your neighbor and that sort of thing during those days"?

PR: "And of course during that time, Ralph was in the service, I didn't know him any way. Now he had been coming down here since he was a child, even though I didn't know him at the time. And his mother had been



coming down as a child, which would have taken her back into the late 1800's. And she stayed with the Weems family, which was the land right across the street from Renno's Market. And that goes way, way back."

Qt: "And what was Ralph's mother's name and maiden name"?

PR: "Edna Bradley. So that's how they found Shady Side because of their early ... and the main thing was people would like to get out of the city and everything. And I don't think a lot of people realize ... one of your reasons ... it doesn't exist now, but one of your reasons for wanting to get out of the city, especially if you had children, was the fear of polio. Of course now we have, you know, all the shots and everything else. But people were very much aware of polio and they didn't know why, but they knew that it mainly stayed in the city area, and must have been because of the congestion, or maybe people going to the movies or crowded areas, that they picked it up. And my mother and father, that was one of their reasons for wanting to get out of the city with my sister and I was they felt not only was it a healthier environment, but it did get us away from that. And I've heard other families say the same thing every time. You don't even think of that any more, but that's why when they came through with the vaccines, and I remember my children were small, and Dr. Grant was down here. He was one of the first ones to get the vaccines, and he inoculated my children. And so this was barely within the last 50 years that we've had that feeling of well-being, any way, that my children were not going to come down with polio. And I only knew of one case in Shady Side of polio. "

Qt: "Do you know who that was"?

PR: "Yes, it was the Halleck boy... Gordon and Ellen Halleck's son."

Qt: "How about Ralph. Where was he born"?

PR: "In Washington, DC."

Qt: "Do you know anything about where his parents were born or where they were raised"?



PR: “His father was born in Southern Maryland, I don’t know when or where. His mother was born in ... they still own the house...his cousin still lives at 2nd and C Street, Southeast, it’s a corner house down on Capitol Hill and she has it divided into four apartments. She’s still there.”

Qt: “And this was the gal who’d come down to be with the Weems”?”

PR: “No, Ralph ... that was his mother. The cousin...”

Qt: “Right, right. Now the mother that visit (?) ... Do you know what she did with the Weems’ “?”

PR: “Just a kid, I guess.”

Qt: “Just to visit”?

PR: “Just boarded there until ... during the summer.”

Qt: “OK. We’re hearing about all sorts of boarding houses that I don’t know about down here. Apparently, a lot of people used to escape to come to Shady Side.”

PR: “Oh yeah, apparently they did. That they sent them out ... Of course, when she was ... even Capitol Hill was rather rural when they were children. They had vast areas there. If you see pictures of Soldiers Home or anything like that, they have cattle grazing. It’s nothing compared to what we visualize now. But I know that house has been in the family for about 125 years.”

Qt: “Wow, that’s incredible. Now speaking of boarding houses, do you remember the old Andrews’ Hotel”?”

PR: “Oh, yes.”

Qt: “Did you ever have occasion to go there”?”



PR: "Oh, yes."

Qt: "Tell me about it."

PR: "Well, we used to go there. They had Sunday dinners, and they had a restaurant there, and we would go. And they had delicious food. And you had to be ... we'd get all dressed up in our starched outfits and everything else. My sister always stayed prim and proper, I didn't! I was the family disgrace. [Laughing] But it was a big outing, because it was very nice, very nice people, as you said, very prim and proper; and Mr. Andrews would come around and talk to every body. He had something to tell you on every subject; he was an authority on every subject. Of course, my Dad loved it, he was a lawyer from Washington DC, and he would love to talk to him. And Miss Ethel was as charming as you have probably known her. She just never changed. She never aged or anything. But it was always very, very interesting.

And then right across the street from there was a building on that corner which is now vacant, and that was like a beer hall. And they also had rooms for rent on top of that. And they also had a Post Office in there; Miss Nellie Nowell was running it then, and on the outside room of the road part ... it was all screened in. And they ... Saturdays and Sundays people were in and a juke box was going it was a lively place to be. I don't mean rowdy, but it was just loud enough to be fun. Then of course right across the road, you had Andrews Hotel. And some of the pictures that John Douglas has painted look very, very close to exactly what was going on there ... the people playing croquet and everything out there."

Qt: "Now the dinners ... were they served family style, or was there like a waitress or did you serve yourself?"

PR: "There were waitresses, I think they had ... sometime they had both ... different. But I seem to remember waitresses."

Qt: "Do you remember who cooked?"

PR: "No."



Qt: “Did you ever know any body that stayed there”?

PR: “I can’t think of anybody off hand, but I do know that they said the steamboat ... the boats would come down and let people off and they would stay there.”

Qt: “How about the movie theatre? Did you ever go there”?

PR: “Yes. Mr. Cooper – Mr. Cooper’s Movie Theatre, and that was fun, too, because you didn’t see many movies at that time, especially if you came down here. Now when I went back to Washington it was the different movies and you had your Saturday matinees. But he mainly had Saturday night movies. And I know Ralph tells about the time that he would have horror shows, and he and Calvin would go and watch the movies there, and then they had to walk back to Aunt Jenny’s house. And, of course, no street lights, there was nothing there, and of course they were scared to death – they were 10, 11 and 12-year old kids, scared to death, sure that somebody was in the woods ready to jump out and get them. And there was one fellow who was always inebriated; I mean he wasn’t dangerous, but they were sure to run into him. I won’t mention his name because every body down here knew who he was. He would, some place along the line they always met him. Well, of course, they got in their own minds that he was going to get them. And he said they could make it home in three minutes. And I remember some of those movies were scary. They were slapstick and that type of thing, and that was big time down here to go to the movies.”

Qt: “Typically, how many people would be there to see the movie”?

PR: “35 or 40.”

Qt: “All ages”?

PR: “Umm hum [nods yes].”

Qt: “And was it a certain time, like, you know, 1 o’clock on Sunday or something like that every week”?



PR: "I don't ever remember a Sunday. I think Sundays were kept pretty much. You don't do things like that on Sundays. I think it was mainly Saturday"

Qt: "But it was typically once a week. Do you remember how much it was to get in"?
[Can't tell what last part of question was??]

PR: "No. It's that same building that served for everything. Now it's apartments, I think."

Qt: "Across from Shady Side Market"?

PR: "Yeah."

Qt: "Right."

PR: "And at one time it was an automobile repair shop. It's been a little bit of ...but what I remember, the first thing, was a movie theatre."

Qt: "And I think some body's fixing it up again to do something else with it."

PR: "It looks like they're painting it now, so who knows what's going to come next."

Qt: "Now I know you had Renno's Grocery Store, but do you remember any other grocery stores in the area"?

PR: "Yeah. My first memory is Ambach's had Shady Side Market, and then old Mr. Seegar used to ... I don't know if it was Nellie Jean's father or grandfather... used to cure his own country hams."

Qt: "Do you know his first name"?

PR: "I only remember him as Mr. Seegar."



Qt: "OK. I think her father's name was 'Len'."

PR: "We would take them home and hang them in the garage and they were horrible looking. They had all this mold on them and everything and everybody said 'oh, that looks so great!' and I thought they think we're gonna eat that thing? You know, this is supposed to be a sign of a well-cured ham and everything and it would hang down there for seven, eight, nine months and I'd just look at that. And we had one at least once a year at Easter time and we'd take it home in September and have it at Easter time."

Qt: "So you had to take it home and hang it"?

PR: "Yeah. We hung it in our garage in town. No, I remember .. and then Murray Selski had ... I remember them. They were the next ones to own Shady Side Market after ... I guess the Pauliss (sp?) would be the first ones you'd probably ..."

Qt: "Yes."

PR: "Now they were there before the Pauliss's came, so I've known most of the people that have owned that, too. Then I remember the Leatherburys when there was an oyster house, too. That goes way, way back, too."

Qt: "Do you remember Herb Crandall's store, or the store that was down West River Road or the one down West Shady Side"?

PR: "No, I don't remember them. Now I remember Leatherbury's that ... it's where that picture framing ... that was a store ...that was Leatherberry's. And Swinberg's, which there's nothing there now. Do you remember Swinberg's"?

Qt: "I remember that."

PR: "That was Becker's way, way back."



Qt: “You know that’s pretty incredible that there’s been that many grocery stores in Shady Side. But I guess once the car came around and it became convenient, and we didn’t need so many, and now we’ve had, what, two survive for how many years ”?”

PR: “I never could figure out how Swinberg’s stayed in business on that corner. You couldn’t park, you couldn’t do anything.”

Qt: “I was always afraid we were going to hit somebody when we came around that corner that was walking out of the store. [Laughing] It would have made a great drive-through! ‘Just get me this and this’. Now tell me about your holidays. And how did you celebrate them”?”

PR: “ Well, we’re great holiday people. If you say anything is a holiday, we’ll have a party. We ... Easter , Christmas, Thanksgiving .. always a lot of people.”

Qt: “Just family or lots of people”?”

PR: “Lots of people ... still do. Whether it’s neighbors or, of course, when it was just family, you have a lot of people when it’s just family. Between his side and my side, and as the kids got older, they started bringing all their friends home, too. So thirty to forty people didn’t mean anything, so that’s when we started a lot of our buffets. And we had a few incidents ... my daughter brought a cab driver that she met some place [laughing], and some body picked some body up on the beltway, and he only spoke French, but he looked hungry, so...We had one man plus a Spanish teacher, so she interpreted and I think he thought ... this was Thanksgiving, and I think he thought this was our regular meal. [Laughing] So we’ve had some real funny ones. Then they brought an orchestra called ‘The Chicken Pluckers’ home one night, and they wanted to play for their meal; so they ate all their meal, then they played for us. We’ve had a lot of interesting people coming through the house.”

Qt: “Sounds like it.”

PR: “Lots of good memories.”



Qt: Now at Easter you had the ham, that was something that was definitely planned for. Was there anything else at Easter that you just had to have or else it wasn't Easter dinner"?

PR: "Well, the pickled eggs, and the mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes."

Qt: "Was there any special place you had to get the pickled eggs or did you make them your self"

PR: "We made our own."

Qt: "How about Thanksgiving"?

PR: "Turkey, sauerkraut and sweet potatoes and creamed onions. You could go from there and add anything else you wanted to, but you had to have those. Oh, and of course, pumpkin pie. My mother-in-law made the best pumpkin pie you ever ... and every body has her recipe, so it's still being handed down."

Qt: "I don't have her recipe."

PR: "You don't? It's a good recipe."

Qt: "Ok, good."

PR: "I don't have a recipe either but I gave it to my daughter, so they have to make the pumpkin pie and bring it."

Qt: "Aha!"

PR: "If I make the turkey, they have to bring the pumpkin pie."

Qt: "How about Christmas: what did you have to have at Christmas"?



PR: "Usually turkey and ham, and whatever else."

Qt: "How about desserts"?

PR: "Just a variety of pies, but always pumpkin pie had to be in there, now we just do that plus anything else anybody wants to come up with. We have gotten .. we have branched out now. It's what looks good to somebody or ... for me, it has to have chocolate in it."

Qt: "I'm with you there. Know just what you mean. And one of the questions I typically ask is 'do you have favorite recipes that you would say, you know, 'this has become a tradition in our family'"?

PR: "I guess I have them. They've come and gone. Now that I'm living by myself, I don't do a lot of cooking. So it's mainly the holidays that I do my cooking, so I go back to the standard recipes, as you said."

Qt: "How about when the kids were coming up; did they have special things that they said they ..."?

PR: "Spaghetti sauce was the one thing. And they had to have a hot breakfast every morning. They didn't like cold cuts, so if you ... and I had to make sandwiches, so always you had to have meatloaf that you could make sandwiches out of, deviled eggs, that type of thing that you could make, egg salad, everything ... I tell them they're spoiled because their kids are getting cold cereal! [Laughing] I said your mother got up and cooked your breakfast."

Qt: "There you go!"

PR: "Some things they didn't follow."

Qt: "That's how it happens in this day of convenience and immediacy: 'I need it right now'. What happened if you were sick when you were coming up"?

PR: "When I was small"?



Qt: “Well, around here. Did a doctor come to you? Did your parents try to treat you? Were there any home remedies, you know, go dig something up in the backyard and make tea and make you drink it”?

PR: “I don’t remember being ... really have always been very healthy and never remember being sick. I mean I was basically ... Now my husband developed a ... he couldn’t take penicillin after penicillin had come out. And he couldn’t take that, and he kept getting pneumonia and I had to make the old-fashioned mustard plaster that you’d take ... and take a piece of gauze and make a plaster and put it across the chest, and you had to time it so it wouldn’t burn, and that would break up the congestion in the lungs.”

Qt: “And how did you make the mustard plaster”?

PR: I took dried mustard and a little bit of water and everything and just made up your own mustard plaster.”

Qt: “Did you have to heat it or their body heated it”?

PR: “No, the body would heat it.”

Qt: “And you had to time it”?

PR: Yes, you had to because it would literally burn you.”

Qt: “Was it 3 minutes or 30 minutes or ..”?

PR: “I don’t even remember, but he timed it. He yelled at me when it was time to come off.” [Laughing.]

Qt: “So it was a pretty long time though”?

PR: “Oh yeah. But you had to go back to the old remedies if you were allergic to things like that.”



Qt: “Sure. That’s happening more and more these days. Do you ever remember the Bay freezing over?”

PR: “Well that I remember relatively ... ’78, ’79, our kids were out here ice skating on the Bay, and as a matter of fact, they were using ... down on West River, they were using those ice boats. They were sailing all over the place down there. I know a lot of them were out of Hartge’s, but that I consider something relatively new. But, no, the kids all had ice skates and ... especially down at Jack’s Creek down here. They’d all ice skate down there.”

Qt: “Is that south of here?”

PR: “No, off the pier down here.”

Qt: “Right off ... (?)

PR: “Matter of fact, about a month and a half ago, my grandchildren were down there and it was ... most of the water had blown out. The water was about that deep [indicates depth with hands], but it had frozen, and they could walk over to a piece of land that’s down there, and they thought that was wonderful. That’s what they were doing. And their dog, who’s about a year-old puppy, and she had never seen ice before, and she was out there. So it’s still ... it doesn’t take too much to freeze this part. Just depends on how much wind we have”

Qt: “How about when you were coming up. Do you remember ... did you ever go crabbing or clamming or fishing, or anything like that? Tell me about that?”

PR: “Oh yes. Crabbing was very plentiful. We had no problem with crabbing. Even when my children were small, being Catholic at that time, we all ate fish on Friday, so we’d keep them occupied. About noon time, I would say, on Friday, ‘OK, take your fishing rods down’, and they’d go down just to the very beginning, where the rocks were and every thing and they’d drop their lines in and they’d catch Spot or Perch, about like that [indicates length with her hands]. And they’d get 12 or 15 in no time at all come home, clean ‘em, we’d have them for dinner that night. We could do that week after week after week - lucky to even find one now. But I mean that was just standard.”



Qt: “How did you like to cook them”?

PR: “Just floured them from” [slight glitch in film as camera is re-adjusted.].

Qt: “Ok. One of the questions I like to ask is about conveniences that we take for granted these days, and a lot of people didn’t necessarily have. And can you remember any conveniences coming into your life where you thought ‘This is living’”?

PR: “Well, we did have indoor plumbing from the first word of ‘go’, but I do remember that we had oyster shell roads at the time, so, although we still have gravel roads, we do have macadam out there now. But we did have this old black man that came around on his buckboard to collect garbage to feed his pigs; and he came around once a week. He had his horse-drawn carriage, and he sat on a ... like a bench he built on there, and we got very friendly, and so I was his partner. Once a week he let me sit up there with him, and sometimes I could hold the reigns of the horse. And we’d ride around, and we’d empty every body’s garbage, and I thought that was great because I was the only one who was honored enough to sit and empty every body’s garbage. So when I got home, my mother and father never told me I couldn’t do it, but they did put me in the bathtub as soon as I got home, ‘cause apparently they thought I had acquired a different scent on my trip around the cove.”

Qt: “Now did you know where this man lived at all”?

PR: “No, but he apparently got all his garbage to feed his hogs, and, of course, that was cheap food as far as he was concerned.”

Qt: “Sure. Now I’d like to ask you about some of the people that were in Shady Side and see what your memories of them would be and that’s how we’ll finish up today. OK, Mr. Andrews”?

PR: “I remember Mr. Andrews as very tall, thin, straight, always in a suit, always very talkative and had knowledge on every subject. No matter what it was, he would impart his knowledge to you.”



Qt: "OK, how about Miss Ethel, his wife."

PR: "Very much a lovely lady and added so much to the community and had a memory that I don't believe anybody else could ever have. She remembered anything that ever went on in her 100+ years."

Qt: "Was she ever involved in your kids lives at school."

PR: "No because they didn't go to school here."

Qt: "How about Josh Halleck"?

PR: "Josh Halleck was very much a local character who always went up and down the road, always nicely dressed, very clean, presented himself nicely. He would laugh and giggle. Always went to church on Sunday. He was always up at church. And I know my Dad would give him a ride. And he was always happy to see Daddy. And Daddy would talk to him and everything; he mainly never talked back, but he giggled and every thing; he liked to have you talk to him. But he was a very nice person, very much a part of the community and you couldn't imagine Shady Side without Josh in it."

Qt: "How about Aunt Jenny and Uncle Harry Halleck; how did they figure into the Renno life"?

PR: "Well, I met them through my husband because Ralph came down to their house and boarded at their house from the time he was, oh I guess about ten years old, and he spent every summer down here and stayed at their house. And they were a lovely couple, and Lucille Halleck was, I believe, she was not a natural child of theirs. I don't know whether or not they adopted her or whether she was somebody else's family member. But they brought Lucille up, too. And she was about four years older than my husband, and I think Ralph made her life, especially when she started dating, very difficult."

Qt: "All right. And last, but not least, Ada Hogg."



PR: “Miss Ada had what is now ‘Richard’s Corner Grill’, and that was ‘the’ party place on Saturday night or any special occasion. Her Halloween parties, her New Year’s Eve Party were quite the thing. Every body would get dressed up, and Lucretia Browning, and your mother and father, and the Katski’s, and the Hallecks (Gordon and Ellen), and Ralph and I, and the Maguires, Bill Vecky (?), and who else... so many people. And it was just one ...of course, every body knew one another, so you didn’t have cliques. Every body just go up, have a good time, music, dancing and just enjoyed themselves and went through all the dance crazes and songs, and so forth. But it was just a fun time, with a lot of good friends, and had a lot of good memories together.”

Qt: “Great, great! Well, thank you so much for doing this interview with us today.”

PR: “Well, the pleasure’s all mine.”

Qt: “We really appreciate it.”

PR: “I’ve enjoyed it.”

Qt: “ Thanks so much.”

PR: “You’re quite welcome.” [Tape and interview end.]