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Interview of: Helen Cohn, Granddaughter of Capt. Ed Leatherbury

Interviewed by: Ginger Corson

Transcribed by: Donna Williams, February 8, 2004

[Interview appears to have begun before the tape recorder.]

Q.and we're at the home of Helen Cohn, at 1150 Steamboat Road, and we'd like to hear about her recollections of Shadyside and her family affiliations here in Shadyside. And I'm going to skip over here. [points to another chair] Thanks for joining us today and I want to start off by asking you your full name and when and where you were born.

A. My full name is Helen McCauley Peters Cohn, and I was born in Baltimore, Maryland. What else did you say?

Q. When you were born?

A. Oh, 'ten-ten-twenty'! October 10th, 1920.

Q. OK, great. And tell me your parents' full names and when and where they were born.

A. Well, Helen Marguerite Leatherbury was born here in Shadyside. My father was Julius Frederick Peters, and he was born in Baltimore.

[Type text]

Q. And where did y'all live when you were growing up?

A. Baltimore, Maryland.

Q. And you'd just visit here in the summertime?

A. In the summer. The day after school closed we'd come down and stayed till the day before it opened. [Laughing.]

Q. And where did you stay?

A. Right here.

Q. In this home?

A. Ugh, huh, in this house. We've renovated it, but this was the place.

Q. OK how about your grandparents? Were they in Shadyside?

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A. Yes, both of them, I think, were born in Shadyside.

Q. And what were their names?

A. Charles Edward Leatherbury and Lillie Estelle Hartge.

Q. And they lived?

A. Right here.

Q. OK. And you said you figured what time period was this home built? The original home?

A. I imagine it was around 1918, just after the First World War.

Q. 1918?

A. I would say it was about then, yes.

Q. When you were growing up, were there any aunts or uncles that lived nearby?

A. Uh, here, you mean?

Q. In Shadyside?

[Type text]

A. No, they both lived in Baltimore when I knew them.

Q. Really?

A. Um, hmm.

Q. Now were these your mother's?

A. My mother had two brothers, a'd they were in Baltimore when I remembered them.

Q. And what were their names?

A. Uh, Clyde Pernell and I think it was Ernest Macauley.

Q. Ah, I've heard that name before.

A. And L'atherbury, of course. Well, we used to call him 'Uncle Mac', so I didn't even know his 'first nam' for ages. '[Laughing.]

Q. How about do you have any brothers or sisters?

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A. I had one sister.

Q. What was her name?

A. Lillianna June Peters.

Q. Oh, what a pretty name.

A. She was the first grandchild, so she was named after both grandmothers on both sides.

Q. There you go.

A. And they added the 'June'.

Q. And she's deceased?

A. Yes.

Q. Did she ever marry?

A. Oh, yes. She married Paul Black, and she has two daughters. One was Donna and one was Emma.

[Type text]

Q. And they live in Baltimore also?

A. Um humm.

Q. How about her children, do they still live around Baltimore?

A. Yes. Well they aren't right in Baltimore but just around the Towson section and Reisterstown section.

Q. How did your parents meet?

A. My grandmother started a boarding house down here and said she had so many, so many visitors during the summer, and so she said she might as well start a boarding house and have help. I don't know whether that was her real reason, but that's what I heard. And my father's parents and two brothers used to come down here in the summer; I doubt his father came, but his mother and his two brothers came. My father liked to farm. You want to hear all this?

Q. Sure!

A. He liked to farm, so he never came. He just went to the farm and his two brothers came down here. So one time one brother said to him, "You ought to try to come down to West River
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some time, because there's one of the sons of the people who run the place, he said, you would really like him. He's so good with boats and all that sort of thing." And so one time, my father came down, and that's where he and my mother met.

Q. Aha! OK. Do you remember any other family members being in the area during your childhood?

A. No, you mean in the immediate family?

Q. Like other Hartges or Leatherburys that ...

A. Well, sure. The Murray Leatherburys were here and...

Q. Was that his first name, Murray?

A. Um humm. That was one of my grandfather's brothers.

Q. 'OK.

A. And he married Jenny, who was Miss Ethel's sister, so that's the only way Glo'ious and I would be connected. So, uh...

Q. Oh, OK. Now was one of his sons Robert Murray, because I always hear of a Robert Murray

[Type text]

Leatherbury?

A. Well that was Murray Leatherbury...he had a daughter ...well, he had ten children. One of them was named Virginia, and Robert Murray was her son. So he would've been a grandson of Murray.

Q. Ok. Now do you know how your family, how they originally came to be in Shadyside, the Hartges, the Leatherburys, well, the Leatherburys, in particular. I mean the Hartges is pretty well documented and the Hartge's descendants, but the Leatherburys, do you know how they came to be....?

A. No, I really don't. Somebody in th' family was trying to... one of the ten children of the Murray Leatherbury family. I think she had tried to start something about this. I don't know how far she got into that, but I don't think anybody ever finished it. And her daughter is living in Hawaii now, and I don't know how much she knows about it. I don't think anybody ever really carried through with the Leatherbury family, but I'm not sure of that.

Q. Humm? Well if you ever hear of anybody that, I mean of the research that they've done, we'd love to have a copy of it down at the museum for the library.

A. Well, I'll talk to Patty, who is the one who's in Hawaii, and she was her mother, so I'll ask her about that some time for you.

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Q. That would be awesome. Can you describe this house for me when... your earliest recollection?

A. It was...it had three stories to it. And, the very top, let me see, there were five bedrooms on the third floor, and my grandmother said when my grandfather and his brother built the house, she said they didn't know how to stop it. [Laughing.] She said they had, I think they had on this third floor there were, I believe there were about eight dormer windows up there, and it was all wood shingled. So when we renovated we just took that off and had the attic, you know, up there, so we just had the two floors. But it was very much the same, except we added all the windows. It used to be two windows over there, [pointing] just regular windows and this one that looked out on the river. I think the house was built, see, it's longer than it is wide, and this gets the southern...that's south [pointing], this is northwest over here. I think my grandfather did that to get the sun, you know, more on the long part of the house. But, um, otherwise, other than that, it was... but they had electricity and, um, indoor plumbing and, even before electricity was down through here, there were these great big batteries down in the basement. So they had running water in here, in the house, and electricity.

Q. There's a basement also?

A. There's a half-basement. It's a, well, I guess you would say it was a little bit more than half, and then a crawl space out all through the porch.

[Type text]

Q. So is that like, do you have any thing in there, like a heater or a furnace?

A. Well, they did, but we did away with that and we have electric heat and a pump.

Q. Do you have any trouble with flooding with your basement?

A. Well, one time the pool emptied into the [laughing] basement.

Q. Oh no!

A. But pretty much it's pretty dry there. We have, you know, one of those, what do you call them? Well, any way, to keep it dry down there.

Q. Oh, sump pump?

A. Well, we have a sump pump but then the uh...

Q. Oh, a dehumidifier?

A. Dehumidifier, thank you, yeah.

Q. I was curious because we live on the water also and have a half-basement and, you know, constantly, constantly fighting rain.

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A. Oh, really?

Q. I was curious because I'm really surprised that they would build basements in the swamp. [Laughing.]

A. Yes not too many have done that; but that's there and [clock chimes in background] and some of the walls down there have oyster shells in it.

Q. Oh, no kidding?

A. And a few people who've been down there always commenting about that, the oyster shells.

Q. Now I see you have an old stove in here, is that, and some pretty brickwork behind it.

A. Yeah that was, I'm not real sure about that, the brick part. Umm, the chimney was always there and we always had a little wood stove there, and I had a very cute little Franklin stove in there, and it was blue. My husband thought it wasn't very efficient, and he was an engineer, and he wanted everything efficient. He got this soapstone stove, [pointing] against my will.

[Type text]

[Laughing.] But it really works. It really, it heated everything, you know. And when we lost electricity, it was really helpful. So I still think it's an ugly stove. [Laughing.]

Q. Well now it's considered an antique, so...[laughing]...

A. Oh no, we bought that. It wasn't back in my grandmother's ...

Q. Really, because it looks antique?

A. No, it's soapstone, but it's a good, you know, maybe thirty years old or something like that; but it's not an antique.

Q. Oh. Now tell me about the fire in this house.

A. You mean the one that destroyed...oh, in this house?

Q. Um humm.

A. How'd you hear about that?

Q. [Laughing.]

A. Somebody tell you about that?

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Q. Yeah, somebody did!

A. Well, we never did know what started it, but it was in the attic and the stairway up to the attic. And we ever did find out what caused it, but I lost all my old photographs.

Q. Oh, no! Oh, that's terrible.

A. Yeah.

Q. And what year was this?

A. You know, I don't really know.

Q. '30's, '40's, '50's?

A. Oh no, it was '60 something.

Q. '60's?

[Type text]

A. I would say, yeah. [Shakes head in agreement.] But um...

Q. Now was there a fire in another house?

A. Well, the original house that was here that I just said, that it had burned down when my grandparents were in Norfolk during the war, the first World War.

Q. OK. That was actually the one I was talking about, that was actually the fire that I was talking about. [Laughing.]

A. Well that's why I was asking, 'did you hear about this other fire in this house?' [Laughing.] 'Cause you said this house. OK, now we're straight.

Q. Well, ok, now I should have said 'this spot'.

A. Um humm. Yeah and what'd you ask me, how did it start?

Q. Well what year was it, and how much damage did it do, that sort of thing?

A. Well, it took... the whole house burned to the ground as far as the way I heard about it. It would be probably 1916 or 17, because that's when my grandparents, evidently, were down in Norfolk. So I would say it was about that time.

Q. And they were down in Norfolk because...

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A. My grandfather had volunteered to, in the Navy; and he ran this patrol boat. I guess down around Norfolk.

Q. And this was during the War? During World War I?

A. Um humm. [Shakes head in the affirmative.]

Q. Do you know any other stories about his adventures in the War?

A. No, that's all I know, but I have a picture of him and I didn't get it out before you came and I can show it to you before you leave.

Q. OK. So his experience in the war was pretty quiet?

A. I would, yeah, as far as.....

Q. That's a good thing [Laughing.]

[Type text]

A. I think I would've heard about it if it hadn't.

Q. Sure, oh sure. I'm sure if there were any good, great stories you probably would've heard about it

A. Yes.

Q. Let me see here...do you remember any family reunions when you were growing up?

A. Well they used to have pictures of them, yes. I don't remember too many of them, but I remember pictures of them and it was... quite a few people were involved and...Grand-mother's family had moved out west, and I think it was a brother of hers or something. And whenever they would come and visit here, then they'd sort of have the reunions. But I was quite young when all that was going on, and I don't recall too much about it except seeing the pictures.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to meet the Shadyside doctor when you were growing up?

A. Umm, I think this one time, and, during the Depression, my grandfather rented this place out to...it was a dancing school from Washington. And they had a girl's camp, so they rented this place. And my grandfather rented.... people used to run Zang's Pier over in Galesville and they moved down to the water. So my grandfather rented their house which was up the road, on Galesville Road away and, what were we saying? Now why did I get into that? [Laughing.]

Q. Oh, the doctor.

A. Oh, the doctor, yeah. I had something, I don't know. I had a little spell of something and I

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remember him coming to see me, and it was Dr. Dent. And I'd hear the story that when my grandmother was quite young she had meningitis, and my mother said that they had to keep everything very quiet, they couldn't let a dog bark or anything around there. But they credited Dr. Dent with pulling my grandmother through that illness.

Q. And this was your grandmother, Lillie Estelle?

A. Um humm. [Nods in the affirmative.]

Q. That's neat. We always love hearing Dr. Dent stories. [Laughing.] Now you mention a boarding house. Was that this spot that the boarding house was?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what they referred to it as?

A. Mapleton, they called it.

[Type text]

Q. Mapeton?

A. Um humm, and I wrote something about that when they were talking about the boarding houses and I sent what I could remember about the boarding house to the museum. So I don't know whether they still have it or whether they ever put it in here, in their files or not.

Q. Did anybody famous ever stay here. I know you mentioned the dance company renting the place, but...

A. No, I don't recall that. But I know they had certain people would come back, you know, every year. And so many of the young people knew each other. And my grandfather wouldn't allow any sort of drinking. And so... but then they built another building down on the property which was just to, just down the yard there. And they had...the first door was the dining room, storage room and there was a little porch and they had the kitchen. The kitchen was separate from the main building. And then there were two bedrooms. And in the winter my grandfather used that dining room down there and built boats, when he wasn't running oysters, because he did run a buy boat.

And I don't remember too much about the boarding house, but I remember that they did clear the tables in the dining room, and they had the old Victrola which I have out in the hall, and they used to dance down there and that sort of thing. My grandfather, they tell me, he took the front of the building off to get his boats out after he built them. [Laughing.] So, I don't know just how he did that, but that's what they say.

Q. So, that house was two doors down on the water this way?

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A. No, it was still on this property where that fence is now.

Q. Oh, ok, it's just not there any more?

A. No, no that was there when we moved down here, but we just tore it down because ... I don't...I think... Henry McDonald tore it down and used the... some of the flooring and the wood or whatever was usable to build the little home he built over there before they came down. When he was working in Washington, they just came down for weekends.

Q. And his wife was?

A. Paris/Harris/Iris(??) Leatherbury. One of the Murray Leatherburys; she was the yougest, I think.

Q. And did she have any children that are still in this area or grandchildren?

A. No she never had any children.

[Type text]

Q. Never had any children.

A. But Pat, uh, Glorious Shenton can tell you all about them because she lived with them. I think Miss Jenny took care of her when Miss Ethel was working. Glorious could tell you all about that.

Q. All right. Now, let's talk about your Mom, not to ignore your father, but since he's not from Shadyside....

A. Right.

Q. ... we're primarily interested in the Shadyside connection here. Did your Mom work at all, or just at the boarding house?

A. No.

Q. She didn't work at the boarding house either?

A. Well, she helped out. And when we came down summers, as my grandparents became older and all, she helped my grandmother. And I'm sure she did something about the boarding house, but she was quite young when they had the boarding house. It's like I say, that's where she met my father.

Q. And so your Mom is basically, uh, your grandmother, Lillie Estelle, is basically the one that ran the boarding house?

A. Yeah, it was her business. And one of my uncles told me that she attended, and I don't know whether she graduated, and probably it was only a two-year school then, normal school. 11.

Q. And does your mother have any brothers and sisters that lived around here?

A. She had the two brothers, but no, they moved to...

Q. Oh, I'm sorry. I already asked you that. Did your grandmother have any brothers and sisters that were around here?

A. Well, yes, cause she.. Lavine(?) was the one that lived up where....and I guess that was the home place where she grew up, on this side of the river.

Q. Where Fred Ames lives right now?

A. Right. [shakes head in the affirmative.]

[Type text]

Q. Any others you can recall?

A. Well [counting on fingers], Lavine(?) and then... Oh, yes, Charles. He had... they called him 'Kotch', and he had a boarding house on around, what can I tell you, lives there now, but it's around, up this way, the river, and...what were those peoples names? Well any way, he was Kotch Hartge, and they...I think his wife's name was Fanny. I believe she was a Phipp or Phipps, or something, not sure about that. Probably other people... Oh, Howard Shenton would know...he'll know about them.

Q. All right. And let's talk about your grandfather, Capt. Ed Leatherbury. He's somewhat of an icon in Shadyside.

A. He was a character. [Laughing.]

Q. So, tell me about him, tell me your memories of him.

A. Well, there were lots of memories of him. He was quite....and I just loved him, and he only had the three grandchildren: my sister, myself, and then my Uncle Mac had one daughter, Ruth. And he named his buy-boat 'Ju-He-Ru': 'June, Helen and Ruth'.

Q. There you go.

A. And neither one of my....my sister nor my cousin would ever want to sit by him at the table because he would tease you so. And I would, I didn't...you know, I would sort of answer him back and that's why he would tease you. He wanted to hear what you had to say, and I guess I took a little bit after him because I like to do that myself. And so, but he would...you would have your arm on the table, which you shouldn't have, I guess, in the first place, so he would take your head, just do something like this [demonstrates tugging on her arm]... just, just teasing you, 12.

and he and my grandmother...he teased her unmercifully, and then she would get angry with him. And she would fuss with him [clock chimes in background],but then he would grin all the time, and he'd get everybody all upset and then he'd leave. [Laughing.] But he was, as far as I was concerned, he was a lot of fun.

And he taught my sister to sail, and she just loved the water, and I did, too. And my sister taught me, I think, because she was three years older. He used to take....there was a girl's camp where the West River Camp is now. I think it was the Washington Y.W.C.A. and he used to take the girls out for boat rides on his buy boat, and he would get my sister to go along with him. And then she would steer the boat, and he would be entertaining the girls, you know. [Laughing.] She helped...my sister helped him when he was building boats She always helped him cut out the sails. I can see them on the lawn now, out here. And then my mother would sew up the sails for him on this little tiny sewing machine she had. This was in later years after he...his buy boat burned down at the steamboat pier. The 'Emma Giles' used to come over just up the river there

[Type text]

a few houses. There weren't any houses then. But he had been out on a run, and had just put the gasoline in the boat. And somehow or other, it caught fire. They had the fire department down here then, but nobody could get out there because of the end of the pier, so it just burned down to the water. So that's when he started building all these little sailboats and, 14 to 20' long, something like that. And I think sailing just started to become popular then because most of the time, when I remember, there were mostly motor boats on the river, and a few people had a sailboat and I know, excuse me, I can't think of his name right now. You'll have to forgive me. He lives across the river here, and you would know his name if I mentioned it. Well any way...Wagner... bought Wagner's Point. They were a family of Wagners and....

Q. Oh, what was his name? I want to say 'Dave'. No, that's Dave Wallace.

A. Dave Wallace, but he was one of the grandchildren of uh....and he lives over there now, doesn't he?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, goodness, 'Bill' Heintz.

Q. Oh. OK

A. I think he had a sailboat. He had one of my grandfather's sailboats and ...

Q. Is he around now?

A. He lives across' the river, yeah.

Q. In Galesville?

A. Uh huh, well over here at Bayfields at Cumberstone.

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Q. Cumberstone?

A. Yeah. He would... I think he and my grandfather, I think they started the sailing club down here, the West River Sailing Club. Until Dick Hartge started building all of the faster, newer type boats. But any way, what I started to tell you about my grandfather started building these little boats and renting them out, and his business, it was so popular. People would come down from Washington mostly, and they'd be sitting here in the yard waiting for a boat to come in. And I found one of his, he kept, when the...I'm sorry I'm not more articulate...

Q. You're doing great

A. He would uh...

Q. I'm making you dig here. [Laughing.]

[Type text]

A. Yeah. I should've written this down and read it off to you. He would rent these boats out and he wouldn't go along with daylight savings when that started. But he would keep track of the boats when they'd go out and when they'd come in. They really had a mix up because he wouldn't do daylight savings time. [Laughing.] I don't know how he ever kept things straight, but he did. And I think he had a fleet of about ten or twelve of these little boats that he... and people would be sitting in the yard waiting for a boat to come in so they could go out again, and he really made a pretty good living out of that. And umm, never, never lost a boat, but he would say to these people (and half of 'em didn't know how to sail any way), but he'd say, "I don't care about you, but you'd better bring that boat back." Never, there was never any accident or anything. But he lost...one of them didn't return home. And of course the car was out in the yard here, and finally, they'd run into a storm and the boat had gone, they had to go ashore over on the Eastern Shore.

Q. Oh, my!

A. I guess, somehow, they got back here. Somebody must've brought them. So my grandfather said, "Well, you have to bring that boat back." They had their car, the car that they had come down here in to go out in the boat. He wouldn't let them on the property until they brought the boat back. [Laughing.] So my mother and family had to talk my grandfather into letting them take their car so they could go around and get him the boat and bring it back. [Laughing.]

Q. Collateral! [Laughing.] I don't blame him much.

A. But uh, They were heavy boats, really, and they couldn't sail as fast as the newer boats did, but they were very sea worthy. And I turned one over one time but that's the only time I remember that we ever turned over and capsized, you know, in a storm or anything.

Q. Did the boat have a type of a name for that type of boat that he built?

A. 'Bateaus' we called them. Some people call them 'cat boats' because they were rigged with just one sail. They're usually, well, the ones he rented out he didn't have jibs on them but he had

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built boats with the jibs.

Q. Well, that's the kind of boat I like -- one sail. [Laughing.]

A. Well, yeah, for the purpose that he was using them; that was the thing to do.

Q. Now did your grandfather...what did he do else wise? He had the buy boat?

A. He ran a boat, I think a passenger boat, at one time, up to Annapolis. And I think that was named the 'West River'. And I don't recall much about that but I don't know how long he did that, the run from here to Annapolis for passengers. That's kind of before I remember too much.

[Type text]

Q. Because we always hear about the 'Emma Giles', but I had no idea that there were other steamboats and passenger boats around Shady Side. We've always just asked about the 'Emma Giles'.

A. Well, I had kind of forgotten that, too, until somebody mentioned it. I guess maybe Howard Shenton maybe said something about my grandfather having the boat. I don't know how long he ran one and not certain because like I say he had the...he was running the buy boat in the winter. And well, way back, I'm sure he'd run the sailboat and carry you know, whatever they were..., watermelons and things like that up to Baltimore. And he'd sail boats, and he never cared for motors, but he did have a motor in his buy boat, but he wouldn't fool with it. Anything went wrong, he'd just have it taken care of. But he did build me a little run-about, and because when we were down here summers of course we were out on the sailboats a lot, and I wanted a little boat. So he did build me one, I was telling him what I wanted. And we'd come down here weekends during the winter, too. And while he was building it he'd say, "Come on down to the shop and tell me if I can put this nail where I want to put it." [Laughing.] But we had a lot of fun with that and he... I said I knew he loved me when he built me a motor boat because he didn't care much for motor boats.

Q. Sure, sure. Now I want to ask about some of the stores that were in Shadyside, if you have any recollections of... like Brethnick's(???) Store or Herb Crandell's store?

A. Well, I remember Herb Crandell's store but we never went out there to deal there or something. I think once or twice maybe, I can remember stopping by there but...

Q. Was there a store that y'all frequented?

A. No, no. We never did that. No, my grandfather dealt over here with Cobb's/?Hobb's? Store in Galesville because he could go over by boat and get there easier than any store in Shadyside. My sister and I used to have to run errands for him over there sometimes, and he would write it on a piece of wood.. building boats there And so we'd go over the store with this little chip of wood and the list of what he wanted, and I guess anything my grandmother wanted, too. He used to smoke cigars and he called them 'fire and lightning', so he just had "cigars" on the list.

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And my sister wanted these 'fire and lightning' cigars. Well, they weren't called, I mean the brand name wasn't 'fire and lightning'. But the Cobbs, the people there, it was Miss Naomi, and Frances, I believe was the man who ran the store. And my sister was so embarrassed because she had asked for 'fire & lightning' cigars. [Laughing.] But they knew what he wanted.

Q. Do you ever remember any flooding in this area?

A. No. The worst...we used to call them North-easters, I guess. And the worst I remember there was ground here used to... it was just a low place and there was a... it was a...corn? what do they call it?...It was a building...and my grandfather...and my grandmother bought a car, and

[Type text]

they used to keep the car in there. And I can remember this one summer we had this terrible north-easter, and the water came up under there...as far as this building where the car was and came up to the running board of the car.

Q. Wow!

A. And I remember since we've been here we've had....one of the hurricanes came up, and we had boats tied up in the yard, tied up in the tree, to the trees, and they...way up in the yard so that...but it never came up to the house...never came past the...there's a bank down here, and it would come almost to the top but never flooded through the house..

Q. How about the river freezing over?

A. Oh, yes, I can remember that, seeing cars out there, automobiles..can you remember seeing that?

Q. Not that I can recall, no.

A. Really? Since we've been moved down here, the river has frozen over but I haven't seen any automobiles out there, but when we were youngsters, it would freeze so hard, you know, that .. ? automobiles..

Q. I heard that there was a bus out there, too?

A. Really? No, I didn't know about that. Oh, I wanted to tell you about my grandfather. Once in a while, when he would go to the store when we were down here, and it would be hot weather, and he would have an umbrella in one of the little boats... with his black umbrella to keep the sun off; it was kind of a funny picture. [Laughing.]

Q. Little did he know he was actually attracting the sun with his black umbrella. Well any more stories you want to tell me about your grandparents?

A. Well, I can't think of anything right now to tell you about.

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Q. Do you know how they met?

A. There's...I have a picture of him in his..that I wanted you to see that was in the "Baltimore SUN"; they used to have the 'brown' section on Sundays. It's on that file over there [points to other side of room], I put the pictures of that...[Clock in background chimes.]

Q. Let me scoot over there. [Ms. Corson moves to get photos for Mrs. Cohn.]...your husband and your life together here in Shadyside. How did you meet your husband?

[Type text]

A. [Mrs. Cohn is now holding her husband's photograph.] Well, I worked for the Martin Company during the War. I had graduated from the Maryland Institute, and they were taking women, training anybody with any kind of art background and trained us to do drafting. And I was among the first women who went to Martin's engineering department, and there were all these nice young men down there. We were the first group of girls, and we just had a very good time; I shouldn't say, during the war. Fortunately, I didn't lose anybody close to me or even knew anybody who was lost during the war. And we were all young and we really had a good time, and I learned to do drafting. And I didn't meet my husband until after the war when he came to work for the Martin Company, and I was still there. I worked there for about 20 years. And we just met there. And we went together for five years before we were married.

Q. And what year were you married?

A. 1956.

Q. And what's your husband's name?

A. Harold, Harold Perry Cohn.

Q. OK. And he was from the Baltimore area?

A. No, he was from Long Island, New York.

Q. Oh, OK!

A. From the ? Far Rockaways, I guess, well, I know that's where he grew up. He was doing engineering work at the Martin Company; and we decided after we were married for a while that we wanted to move down here. We'd kept the house and the property in the family after my grandparents died, and used it just for vacations and on weekends. And neither one of my mother's brothers were interested in it, and so we bought their part after the grandparents died. And so my mother..and, of course, she had her share in it and I was working then, and so we bought them out and took the house. So Harold, my husband, he loved the water, too. And when I met him, he had a speedboat. And on our first date, we went with another couple out to Hart's Island with a... bar-be-que, you know, beach party kind of thing. So I guess that's what drew us together so much with our both loving boats and the water and that kind of thing. So

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we decided we would like to move down here after we were married, and, fortunately, Harold could find work at the...at what used to be the old Experimental Station in Annapolis. And so he went to work there, and so that's when we moved down here. And I worked a little bit out at, for a number of years, out at Chesapeake Instrument Company doing drafting out there.

Q. Is this Martin Company still around?

A. It's Lockheed Martin now.

[Type text]

Q. OK.

A. Used to be the Glenn L. Martin Company.

Q. Awesome!

A. They, you know, when the war started, they were building the airplanes and all then. So, Harold and I decided we wanted to move down here, and that's what we 'id. So when he could work in Annapolis [Clock chimes in background.], he started out with computers and worked with the magnetics. I don't know eve'ything he did with that department; he started with the computers. And he loved his work, so it was great.

[Slight pause, then Mrs. Cohn is seen holding up the Sunpapers Magazine section.]

A. You didn't want me 'n the picture, did you say, or did you want me behind it?

Q. That's fine, ju't the way you are.

A. Just like this?

Q. OK. Now this is the Sun Magazine from May, 1948, and that's your gra'dfather, Capt. Ed, is that right?

A. Right.

Q. Can you give us a little more detail of what's being sh'wn there?

A. Well, he's building'a log canoe here, and there's an artic'e about what he has done when he was interviewed about it and, gee, I should've read th'...

Q. RI the article? [Laughing.]

A. Yeah. I haven't read it 'or some time now I do remember he was talking about the canoes, building...and how he...I think he was in his '80's when 'e 'uilt these. I know the last one he was. and they They would chain the logs together and they would hew it out with an adz. That's what...h'w you pronounce it. That was hard work. Like a dugout canoe, I guess.

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Q. It says he's 85 in this picture.

A. Is he? Um humm. I knew he was up there. What else can I say? What else did it say?

Q. It talks about that this is his 24th or 25th canoe, he doesn't remember which. Can you open that magazine at all to show any other pictures?

[Type text]

A. [Mrs. Cohn opens the newspaper magazine and says to the camera man:] Are you running that?

Q. Yeah, that's a really good picture of him there. [Mrs. Corson says to camera man:] Can you get that, George?

A. Is that OK?

Q. That's really good.

A. When he would talk...when these people were interviewing him, it seems to me I read in the article that he was saying...he was talking like 'I just remembered this', like an old waterman or something would talk; but really he didn't speak that way. He just did that. He thought that people wanted him more colorful, you know. [Laughing.] Because he and my grandmother...well I said my grandmother did go to...Their grammar was very good. I really wondered what sort of education they had down here if, um, because umm, like I said, they didn't speak like he said he was doing in this article.

[Slight pause as Mrs. Cohn picks up other photographs.]

A. ..Helen Leatherbury and Fred Peters, and my parents. Oh, you want me to say...Oh, my father was a physical director at the Y.M.C.A. That was his work and just loved that. It was just one Y.M.C.A. at that time in Baltimore, and that was downtown. But all the young people, or the young boys that ever grew up in Baltimore, they all knew my father. And he had a very good wrestling team, and they had many champions, AAU (??) Champions They were quite well-known around the country, really. And I think he had one, well he had several of these young wrestlers that they obtained scholarships on their wrestling ability, to go to, you know, school..

Q. Awesome.

A. And I remember we used to go, my sister and mother, we would all...whenever they had the wrestling meets downtown ...what? Is that it? [slight jump.]

[Mrs. Cohn is holding another photograph now.]

Q. Is this your grandfather during the war?

A. Oh, I'm supposed to talk! Yes. This is Capt. Ed Leatherbury as he was known, and... This
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was down in..this is his..where he went to Norfolk to run the patrol boat in World War I.

Q. OK. And then behind you, on the wall, is a beautiful picture and we'd like to kind of...[Camera moves to show another photograph on the wall.]

A. That picture is[Tape appears to end here.]

[Type text]

Q. OK...[Voice in background says "Is that it?"].
