

AMY LEATHERBURY

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Interview of: Amy Rogers Leatherbury  
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Interviewed by:  
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October 16, 1985, interviewing Amy Leatherbury at the home of her daughter, Betty Lou Senesi, Shady Side Road, Shady Side.

Q: Mrs. Leatherbury, would you mind telling me if you were born in Shady Side?

AL: Yes, I was born in Shady Side, on April 11, 1904.

Q: And would you mind telling me the name of your parents?

AL: My mother had been a Hartge. Her name was Betty Ellen Hartge, and she married my father who was Perry Rogers, and he was a boat builder in this community.

Q: And when you lived here with your family in Shady Side, could you tell me exactly where in Shady Side it was?

AL: Oh it was on the Parrish Creek. We had, when Momma first married my father, they lived down there where the Shady Side Market is. In fact they tore down that place and put the Shady Side Market there and that's where I was born. And then, when I was about four years old, Papa went out to cut a tree for the boats, the keel for it, you know, and it fell on his leg and broke it. And they came back home, and all I can remember, and I can still see them bringing him in on a door. They had come up to the house and gotten a door off the bedroom and took him, brought him up on that door and brought him into the bedroom and then we got the doctor. And he said he had broken his leg. And he was the best skater ever known here, around here, Annapolis, Galesville, Eastern Shore. All of them come over to race him. Nobody ever touched him on ice. He was something. He was a very bright man for having only a grade school education. And he was strict with me but he very much spoiled me, too. My mother used to say he spoiled me and I remember that, and then I remember that we were going to see the neighbors next door, who was Sam Atwell and his family. They had a son that was about one year older than I am, he was a little bit older. And my father slipped, it was in the winter, slipped on ice and broke the leg over again. So all the skating that he did, the bones never knit and never knit then right. They were passed each other. They still couldn't catch him as a cripple. He wasn't a cripple; he just bent a little on each side. It was just like something like that. And then, of course, he started us skating real early. He had skates on me when I was less than; well I might have been 6 or 7 years old. Because we moved over then now, where Jackie Leatherbury lives. That was my home. That's where, I wasn't born there, but I was raised there and had all my company there. And he taught me to drive a car when I was 11 years old. All around in the field, I couldn't get on the road, but I could drive all around the field and he would do that. He was very much interested in me learning to drive a car. And then when things got better he bought a different car, like a Buick.

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Q: What type of car did you learn to drive?

AL: I learned on a Model T. He and Mr. Leatherbury and my Uncle Frank Rogers were the first people to have an automobile in this community. And I could see that dust, road dust, coming and we run down almost to the Nowell Hotel from where I lived, we'd run with the Lee children. They had four little girls and I'd just love to play with them, and we would all run across that field to see that car cause we had never seen a car. And so course Papa was, the boys were so much younger. My one brother was 11½ years younger and the other brother was 9 years younger so I was kinda alone for a long time.

Q: What were your brother names?

AL: Perry Elliott was the oldest one and George Oliver was the second one.

Q: OK, I'm going to ask you a strange question and you're really going to have to think about this, probably. When you were a very young child growing up in Shady Side, who do you recall, at that time, as being the oldest person who lived in Shady Side?

AL: I really don't know. I always thought that my Aunt Aggie was oldest. She was my father's sister and there were 7 boys and 4 girls in Papa's family and she was one of the girls, very ambitious, witty, and smart and she lived right across the creek from us. We were on this side and she was over on that side and her husband was a carpenter. And she lived to be 101 years old.

Q: And what was her name again?

AL: Her name was Agnes Rogers Atwell and she was a very much thought of lady in the community, and I would think that she would be one of the oldest, because she never had any children, and she was so ambitious, when her husband would be at work and before he would go to work, she had a pier open selling gasoline to the oystermen. She was just a dynamo person.

Q: When you were growing up, what were some of the things you did for entertainment?

AL: I skated and I skated better than any of the girls or women on the creek, and the only one that could beat me was a colored girl and she had tall, long legs, and we used to race once in a while. I've forgotten her name. I don't think I remember her name, but she lived right down on the shore, right not across from us, but diagonal from us. She'd get a little bit ahead of me because her legs were longer, but to catch me, she couldn't catch me because Papa had taught me how to dodge on the ice, like, you know, he did. That's why couldn't anybody catch him. It wasn't his speed that took him ahead of everybody, it was his, he would jump channels where people'd cut ice to get boats out in the winter, he would just jump them and people just wouldn't do that.

Q: You would skate at nighttime as well as during the day?

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AL: I skated as soon as I got home from school, as soon as I got home from school.

Q: Did you ever skate all the way to Galesville?

AL: No, I never did. My father did, but I never did. We always had plenty of ice in Parrish creek and all the children that lived nearby and a few that weren't nearby, came there and skated.

Q: Could you recall some of the names of the people who did skate with you?

AL: Well, Ethel Leatherbury, that was Luther's sister and um, Alice Rogers Grinder. They were younger than I was.

Q: Could you recall some of the things that you did in the summertime to entertain yourself?

AL: Well, in the summertime when I was a teenager, I had a lot of boyfriends because we, we were kinda of the most people around here, you know, Papa had a nice car and I had nice clothes and I have never known poverty. And I just, we just enjoyed life. But he was very protective of who I went with, so I always had to bring them home and introduce them before I could go out with them. But I had several of them that I liked when I was about 11 years old and my brother, George, was born with appendicitis and he cried and nobody knew why he cried all the time. I have seen my father go and pick coals up and put them in, the fire instead of raking them in so if he got a minute to rest, that he could rest. When he was four years old, his appendix bursted and he was nearly, absolutely dying. They had doctors, after doctors and my mother went and stayed right in the hospital with him at night and a day and he did get over it, but the doctors said they had to do it so fast because he was so sick that he would die early from adhesions. And he just lived 20 years. He died when he was 25.

Q: And what was he name again?

AL: George. And my brother, Elliott, had had a terrible accident falling off of a boat that Papa had built. And the pier was here and the tide was high so the boat was up high but he managed, maybe Papa put him on the boat, I don't remember. But he got up on this boat and he fell off and hit his head and it always affected him. He had violent headaches; he couldn't stand for anyone to walk across the room. And he married a girl, Elsie, (I've forgotten her last name) from Washington. She was a lot younger than he because he was, I think 39 when they got married and she was about 18 and they were only married 7 years when he died. Both of my brothers had a very short life and, of course, I am older but I was never sick a day in my life until 79 then I started falling apart.

Q: Would you mind telling me what age you are now?

AL: I'm 81. I'll be 82 this coming April. And that's the reason, I think, things kinda fell apart because as you get older, you see my mother never did get sick. She lived to be 90 and she never was sick. My father died at 63 but my mother lived to be 90 and she had never had any sickness, I have never seen her angry in my life and she took care of her children like an angel. Toward the last she didn't know anybody because she'd had a slight stroke. She would recognize you

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but she couldn't talk to you very much. That was the only time I ever saw her like that or she was ailing in any way. She had a very strong character and a very good mother and she was a good wife.

Q: If you grew up in Shady Side, then you went to school in Shady Side. Could you tell me who your teacher was?

AL: Well, when I first went to school it was Miss Annie Zangs. She was my first teacher. And I remember my father making a long stick, about this long, and it looked like a pool stick. It was large at this end and came down to a point for her to point to the lessons on the board. And um, all that made me more popular, you know to have those kinds of things done. I remember one day in school, because I had had nice things, when they brought the books in, I said I don't want an old book. I want a new book, and they said we're going to draw for the books. Eugene Lee, who was family of the Lees that lived down the road where Papa lived, and he said I don't care what kind of book I get. And I got the worse book there and he got the best one there, and I'll never forget that as long as I live, because I wanted the best and he wanted the worst and it came out just the opposite. But when I was a young girl, around 11 years old, after George was born, I had to walk somewhere out here, right down that road where Howard Rogers lives, right on the left there. My Uncle Harris and his wife, Anna, lived there and they had 3 children, too, a girl and 3 (2) boys, and I got milk for George and I would get it in 2 quart bottles and carry it in my arms up the road and one evening when we came, generally came down the road, Luther Leatherbury was sitting out on the fence waiting for me. He says can I walk home with you? And I said yes. He took the one quart of milk and I took the other quart and when we got down to the gateway, he said well, I'll go on back now. See you later or something like that- wasn't very important. When I went in the house Papa said, "Now listen Sister, if that young man wants to see you, he's gonna come in here in this home and see you. You're not going to meet him out." So right after that he went away. He was a blacksmith, but they called it angle smith, when he went away and he was over about 20 men because, this was during the war. And uh, he was making very good money and he was sending his mother, I remember, \$50 a week, when they had 10 children. She said it carried them through 2 or 3 winters, I don't know how long he was doing it. The war didn't last that long, I guess. But anyway he was up there. Well, I always wrote to him and he always wrote to me, but then I'd have these other beaus when he was away. What I wanted really to say was that, I think he was really the first one that I really ever loved, you know. He'd go away and I'd miss him and write to him and then he would come back and everything would seem to be the same. But um, My teenage years, I had learned to play a ukulele and I could play everything and I could sing every song that was ever, I've got books and books of songs that I know every word of. When Miss Ethel had this little play over here, I was gonna play the ukulele and sing but when I went to play ukulele, my fingers weren't as supple as they had been when I was young and I hadn't; I had played up until Luther died and after Luther died; we used to play and sing together; I never wanted to do it, so in that time my joints had stiffened up some and I told Miss Ethel, I won't do it because I wasn't as nimble as I had been. But that's what I did, with Gilbert Leatherbury and Eddie Bast. Eddie Bast was down here on the shore, and Gilbert Leatherbury, Luther's brother. Gilbert played the mandolin and Eddie Bast played the guitar and I played the ukulele and I sang.

Q: And where did you all used to go to one another's houses?

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AL: Yes. And we were called to entertain the public sometimes.

Q: Well, where did you go?

AL: Well, we went to Galesville one time. ?\_\_\_ they used to have plays, so many acts in the play and then they would have intermission and we were called over there to play for intermission for a play. They played and I sang until it's time to stop and then we went to Huntingtown, which is in Prince George County (sic: Calvert) we were called down there, we were called to ( I don't know what it's called now, it's called, it's one of those places where they've always had a lot of trouble, I know, Woodland Beach. It wasn't Woodland Beach then.

Q: Did you all go and play for free?

AL: Yes, we played for free. Of course, at that time, I don't believe there were radios then, because they thought our music was Greek. Well, you know compared to what you hear it was great for that time. But um, we had so much fun doing that. And I really will never forget it because all the things that I did was something that I was enjoying doing. I really didn't have to do anything except do what I wanted to do. Momma was very efficient, she took care of everything and once in a while she would say, "Sister, you can clean the lampshades today." And I would say, "Momma, I had promised to play with Arthur, Jeannette, and Evelyn Miner(?). She'd say well go on and play. And I'd knew that she would do that.

Q: Do you recall any of your other school teachers? I'm sure Miss Ethel was one of them.

AL: Oh yes, I had Miss Mammie Crandell, and I had Miss Dawson from Annapolis, and I had ... Miss Ethel didn't really teach me until they had high school to come back here. I had finished the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and she had, I had asked her if I could come back to school. I had been out 2 years. I said Papa wanted me to go away to school but I didn't want to go and he never made me go, but when it came back here then I wanted to go to high school. So I went to high school until, I missed about 2 months in the two years I went there, because Luther had come home then, he was traveling around, and he had come home and he was running my Uncle John Nowell's, he was Miss Ethel's brother, who had married Momma's sister, so he was Uncle on both sides, he wanted to, well he was helping Uncle John run the pool room and Papa was a very strict Methodist.

Q: Where was this pool room?

AL: Right here where this first store is, that was Mr. Will Owings.

Q: Cause I haven't heard anybody talk about a pool room before.

AL: Yeah well, Mr. Owings never had a pool room, but then a man came from Baltimore and he opened a pool room in one part of his store and of course Luther having been away, he knew all about that. He played pool and knew all about it. So this man asked him while he was home would he run the pool room for him a give him a chance, because he was some kind of an

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engineer, would give him a chance to do something else. So Luther went there every night and I would try to see him when the pool table closed. My father was a strict Methodist and he didn't like pool and he didn't think it was right for me to go with anybody that was running a pool room. So he called me one day and said, "Sister, I want to talk to you." And he said, "Now I know you're seeing that Leatherbury boy and I have heard he's running John Nowell's pool room." I said, Papa, he's only doing that while he's home. He doesn't ever make a living doing that. He says, "I don't want you seeing him regardless of why or wherefore and I want you to tell him when you see him that that's the reason you can't see him anymore." Well I don't remember that that upset me too much, but I guess it did at that time. And that night after my mother and father went to bed and the two boys, I, um, it was raining and dark as pitch, and I walked from that house up to that pool room after they went to bed, to tell Luther than he couldn't come down anymore. That's how anxious I was to talk to him, and then he said, "Well if I can't come there anymore, we'll get married." And that's how we got married.

Q: What year did you and your husband get married?

AL: '23 in April. April is so important to me because my birthday's there and my anniversary's there. You, too? Well, I always said April is the month of the year for me.

Q: Did you when you were first married come to live in Shady Side?

AL: No, we travelled. We went to Philadelphia and stayed there 2 months. He worked that city.

Q: What did he do?

AL: He sold film and his boss travelled with us and we went to Philadelphia and I guess a couple months. We always got a furnished apartment because there wasn't any other way to do it. Then we went to Buffalo, New York for about two months and then we went out to Cleveland, Ohio for two or three months. Anyway, we didn't get back here until fall. I said to him I am getting very homesick. I said I have never been away from home and I want to go home. And he said well, he said, what do you think we could do, go home and build a home there? I said, I would like that, that's what I'd like to do. So we came home and that was in nearly '24, we married in '23 and he started getting the people, Mr. Bill Atwell and Mr. Frank Lee, built this home for us in 1925, I think it was. And we had, all of, this home has changed a very little bit. It was built just like this and I had drawn the plans on a ¼ of an inch scale and the carpenter's laughed at me when I gave it to them. And when they finished the house they said it wasn't a ¼ of an inch out of the way. I had inherited that from my father see, because he never had a blueprint to build a boat, he did it from his mind and he, from his eyes and if he had six or seven men working that day on a boat and when they left at 4:30 in the evening, he would go down to the shop and do that little job over and never say a word to them. He had a very good mind, I remember one day, when I was in high school, when Miss Ethel was teaching us algebra and I was just average in arithmetic, but algebra took to me right away. But she gave us a problem like, I don't remember whether it was arithmetic or algebra, probably was arithmetic, because it was a long written problem, and Papa said to me, "Sister, I think you're having trouble," and I said, I am. I don't know how to work this problem. He said, "Give it to me and let me see what I can do." He had a balsa wood and a pencil and he would read the problem and

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I would read the problem to him and then he would do something and he got an answer. I put it on my paper. I didn't know what he had done, so when we got to school, I was the only one that had then answer. And Miss Ethel said, "Amy, you're the only one who has the answer. Come up here and show us how you got it." I said, Miss Ethel, I can't do that; Papa worked this problem for me. That just showed you how intelligent he was. I was in high school and he only finished grade school.

Q: How many years were you and your husband married?

AL: Fifty-five years and it was a good life. He liked to gamble. He was a Leatherbury. One, Taylor's son, is a multi-millionaire now from gambling. I don't know. I never really concerned myself too much because after we had been here 15 years his brother, Edward, had opened a store up there where the picture place is, he had a store there. We were, well, Betty Lou went to college. My younger daughter is 8 years younger and of course she was still in grade school. That October night, Luther and Carole Ann and I were in that building and I heard this noise and I said, Luther, somebody is breaking in the store. Wake up. So he ran down the steps, in his pajamas, and opened the door and the place was in full blaze. He had 2 guns sitting behind that door and he couldn't reach and get those guns, so he came running back upstairs and said Amy get Carole Ann up, the whole place is on fire. We had to get out on the roof and he jumped off the roof first and then we sat down and slid off and he caught us. And that's how we got to the ground. We lost everything. We lost about \$65,000 in that fire.

Q: What year was this?

AL: Well, we lived here 15 years which would mean '40 something, maybe '41. We were in there, we weren't in the new store I don't think when Pearl Harbor struck. I don't think we were in the new store yet. But after that fire we were so far in debt because we had borrowed the money to build the place. He hadn't finished paying for this by then. I really wasn't anxious to go into the store business but he was and he said he knew he could make a living there which he did. My mother thought that I ought to go if he wanted to go and his mother thought I ought to go, so between the two of them they got me going with him, whatever he wanted to do.

Q: How many children did you and your husband have?

AL: We only are the 2 daughters. One was born in '25 and one was born in '33.

Q: Do you have grandchildren?

AL: I have grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Q: How many grandchildren do you have?

AL: I have 5 grandchildren and I have 4 great-grandchildren.

Q: Is there anything else you can tell us about you and your husband, and your store? There's a little bit left on this side of the tape.

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AL: Well, he had, most every day, he won. My mother was living with me then. My father had died; he had died at 63, which left her a lot of time, so she didn't have anybody. She had the 2 boys, still with her and when Brother got married, she had; George was sick, he wasn't well but she came to live with me. But then George had died and Brother had died. She came to live with me; she lived with me about 16 years. And we could get out of the store every once in a while and do something else because my cousin Eugen(ia)e Rogers, she married a Wood, she was Eugen(ia)e Wood, she wanted to come to the store, she liked the business, so she came and lived with us. We had 4 bedrooms upstairs and a living room, 3 bedrooms upstairs and a living room. And uh, she helped Momma, so Luther and I could get away so I used to go to the races with him once or twice a week.

Q: What type of races was this?

AL: It was flat races, horse racing.

Q: Horse racing?

AL: Yeah, and, of course, that is what Taylor and King were so interested in. In fact all the Leatherbury men were interested in those races. And Mr. and Mrs. Leatherbury always said they didn't know where in the world it came from because they had never had anybody in the family like that before. All 4 of them, of course, the only one that made a lot of money in it was Taylor. Taylor made a lot of money in it, and then of course he left what he had to King and then King got into the same business, and he's a millionaire now. But he's still working because he loves the work that he's doing. But then we went up there, we'd only been up there about a year and a half when we had this fire and Luther said, "Well, we have to build another store because we'd never get out of debt if we didn't build another store and try to do it because when we bought the store, it was so run down that we couldn't get any insurance on it. They'd only give us \$4,000 insurance on it and it was so dilapidated. His brother was just the opposite from Luther, Luther was so careful with everything. Edward could drive a car two or three years and it would be wrecked. And he always said that Edward was hard on things, and um, he went up there and built a new store and that's the one the folks are in now. We stayed there, I guess, I don't know just how long we were there. Anyway we left in '69 and went to Annapolis and we got a home up there in Admiral Heights and my other daughter is living in Admiral Heights.

End of Side One

Q: Mrs. Leatherbury, could you please tell me what you recall of the 'Emma Giles'?

AL: I recall that my father used to go down there and pick up board or iron pieces when the boat came in and I always went with him. And then we'd stay there and watch that 'Emma Giles' go over to Galesville and then go to Chalkpoint and then we'd leave and come home.

Q: Did you ever ride on the 'Emma Giles'?



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AL: I think I did but I'm not real sure. I really am not because Papa had; as I told you, he had one of the first cars in the community and I don't really believe we did. I don't even recall that my mother did.

Q: Could you tell me some of your recollections of the early boarding houses here in Shady Side?

AL: Oh yes, now my father, wouldn't: didn't want me to go around the boarding houses because he said they held dances and he didn't want me to dance. And so I wouldn't go except when I got older and had a boyfriend. We would ride down there, ride to, they have a dance. They had their summer hotels had certain nights of the week, each one would have a chance to have a dance. Miss Ethel's, I think, were Saturday night and my grandfather's Hartge's was on Friday night and my Uncle Hartge, (I've forgotten his first name) had them on Thursday night and they went right through the week like that. There were a couple more that I didn't mention. And I, the only time I ever got there was if I went there with another boy and he'd drive down there, but I never got on the dance floor because I knew I shouldn't do it. I went to one dance, one time, with my cousin, Grace Rogers, she's William Woodfield's wife, and my father heard that I was there and he got Momma and the two boys out of bed and said, "I'm going to bring Sister home." I was dancing with the fella that was having the party and he sent Edward Leatherbury in to tell me to come to him that he wanted to see me. So it scared me to death when Edward told me. But I knew my father wasn't violent. I knew he wouldn't do anything violent, but I didn't want him to fuss with me. And he went, I went right out got my coat, and went right out and got in the car. Momma and the two boys were on the backseat and I got in front with Papa. Not a word was mentioned coming home. I went upstairs and I was sitting on the side of the bed, brushing my hair, when he came in crying, and sit down on the bed and talked to me. He wouldn't let you bring cards in the house, you couldn't have playing cards anywhere around. He was strict but he was good to me. He gave me everything when we got married. He gave me my rugs for this house, a big one in there, a smaller one where I sat the dining room table cause then we only had this. This kitchen had been built on since we were here. And um, then he gave me all my silver, sterling silver, and he gave me all my china and I had that until we had the fire and then everything burned up. We didn't save one thing out of that fire. We didn't have clothes to put on- the next morning. I was in a gown and Carole Ann was in a gown and Luther was in pajamas. And we went right there at my mothers who was then living right up here, opposite where Taylor and Linda used to live right across from the Post Office almost. We went down there where she and brother were, George had died, and we stayed there until, I don't know, I don't think we stayed there very long but anyway, I think he was renting this house, we were renting this house and um, I think we were able to come back here, that's how it was. We were able to come back here until we could get another store built. That's how it was. In that time, Betty Lou was getting married and she and Tommy wanted to stay here, so we went up to the store again, and she and Tommy bought this home from us for little or nothing and then we stayed up to the store until '69, that's how it was. And uh, we had all those years together. All of them weren't heavenly, because some of them, it took us awhile to get back into business again. Luther didn't want to go back to the Coast Guard, in fact, I don't think he could have because he really left there because he had sciatic nerve in the back, he had suffered with that. I don't think he would have wanted to go back anymore.

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Q: Could you tell me what your memories are of the soda company that used to be here on the corner? Did a Leatherbury own that?

AL: Yes.

Q: Could you tell me what you remember, a little bit about that?

AL: I remember that he had an ice cream parlor and he used to go to the Emma Giles and pick up the ice cream. Then I was friendly with Ethel. I was always with Ethel Leatherbury. And, we would go down there and he would treat us to a little bit but he wouldn't give a whole lot away because he had a lot of children around him, he could have been just standing there, dipping ice cream all the time. But he would treat, if I was with Ethel, he would give us some ice cream and we would go in and sit down and eat it. I don't know how long that lasted, but it wasn't so long after that the Leatherbury brothers went into the soft drink business. And they did real good. They did much better than I expected them to do because every truck that was coming down here to Shady Side we only had a couple of stores but they were serving them.

Q: Could you tell me what stores you recall down here when you were a young girl?

AL: The only ones that I remember was: my Aunt Mary and Uncle John, had taken, Miss Ethel's mother and father: Miss Ethel Andrew's mother and father had gotten too old to run the boarding house anymore and Uncle John and Aunt Mary (Uncle John was Luther's uncle and Aunt Mary was my aunt and so we both were related to them.) And, they stayed in the store, I don't know how many years they were there, but there were there quite a long time because they had two children Jack and Margaret and I know Margaret went to college from that building. And um, I just don't remember how long they were there. But anyway, she did real good business. They used to have dances on the porch. They had a real wide porch the whole length of that building. And then around the corner from that was an ice cream and all those kind of things. My husband and I went over there one summer and we helped them run that business. I took the kitchen and made sandwiches and cooked somethings that were easy to cook, you know they didn't have a fancy place. Carole Ann then was a little girl. Betty Lou and Carole Ann had taken dancing lessons for two or three years. (I don't know how long it took them). And anyway they could both dance and Carole Ann wanted to do things all the time and she would get out on that dance floor and dance and they'd throw money out on the floor to her. She was only about 4 years old, no, she had to be older than that, I guess, but she was real little.

Q: Could you tell me what you recall, about, were there other stores here, too?

AL: There was Mr. Will Owings and he had the store right here where the turn is, I don't know the name of the people. And then Uncle John; they were the only stores here. And Uncle Albert Hartge – where do you live?

Interviewer: I live in what was the Brashers Country Store.

AL: Right, yes, Aunt Cora and Uncle Albert had that store. They built that there and he, Uncle Albert, was my grandfather's brother. They didn't have any children. Aunt Cora was kind of a

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fancy little woman, and if you go there to see her, she always had something to give you. That kind of a person, you know. So, that's the only stores that were here then. The Brashears came later, he wasn't early. By the time Brashears came, I think there were more, a couple more stores, I don't remember that.

Q: Can you tell me what you recall of the movie theater that used to be in Shady Side

AL: Yes, that was Uncle Bill Nowell, Miss Ethel's brother., yes. That was um, I had been married 55, 60 years now, and um, it is still, to me, its way back there. Betty Lou remembers because we took her. She was old enough to go. He would have some good movies there. Papa used to go to Annapolis, drive to Annapolis in the evening and take the family. I didn't care a whole lot about this place but then when Momma and Papa stopped going to Annapolis and started going to Uncle Bill's then I went there too. He had real nice movies and he was, um, he had a good education, and he wrote little papers and things for the community. He had a little paper, I remember, Shady Side News, I think it was. And, you know the Evening Capital used to have a couple pages where the neighborhood ladies would make a letter and sent it to the 'Capital'. 'Evening Capital', and they, would um, say Amy and Luther is spending the weekend in Ocean City, that sort of thing. Get the names from everybody in the community and write to see if they could get news from them. Miss Ethel had done that for years. Then when Uncle Bill started doing it, his was just a little different. He didn't go around to people, ask or call people, I guess, as Miss Ethel did, he'd just do what he thought was right and he would get, he used to speak about Papa in the 'Spirit of Shady Side', he said he hoped that Perry would soon be well again. And I never remember my father being sick but I guess it was maybe when he hurt his leg; it could have been that time. Yes, because they were all about the same age.

Q: I forgot to ask you earlier could you tell me who some of your classmates were in school?

AL: Well, when we first went to school there was Eugene Lee and Tilden Atwell, Ethel Leatherbury, me, Ellen Grinder, um, there was um, a Huffman girl, from Baltimore. She went, I think all her grade schools, I don't know where she was living, or who she was living with, Regina Huffman, and she was in our class. And then we had a couple boys that I don't remember, who they were. But um, there was such, at that time when they kept that school open until the new school, it's old now, but it was new then, that's where I went to high school over here

Q: I understand, the old school burned down?

AL: Yes, the old school did burn down, and then they built this new school for high school and then after, that came to an end, it wasn't very long the Masonic ladies bought it. I don't remember everybody in my class. We used to have a little club that was called the Mysterious Ten, can you believe that? Ten of us girls, we didn't have any boys in the club.

Q: Now, what were the 10 girls, who were the 10 girls?

AL: I was just trying to think. I know that Sydney Atwell and Grace Rogers and Lottie Hallock and Leslie and Madge Avery. And, I said, Ellen Grinder, didn't I?

[Type text]

Q: And it was a club you all had?

AL: Yes, it was a club – I can't remember any more.

Q: What did you all used to do?

AL: Well we played in the woods behind, when you go down here to the Steamboat walk road, there's a row of houses on each side and behind those houses is a wooded area and we'd go and play in that woods and make playhouses and take the sticks and fence it off, you know. And they'd come in to see us and we'd have a place to sit down and all and we never wanted anybody to know what we did. That's right I remember Sydney, used to, used to read books all the time, she was always reading books and she said well we'll name it the Mysterious Ten because nobody knows why we play out here.

Q: How old were all of you about that time?

AL: I guess about that time we were about 12, 11 or 12, but I can't remember all of them.

Q: Now I have heard people say that different people around here had parties in their houses at various times. Did you used to go to some of these parties?

AL: I don't really think so. I know my mother and father never had parties.

Q: Tell me about the young people,

AL: Oh, the young people.

Q: You never went then?

AL: No I don't think I did. It's hard to remember everybody so far back.

Q: Can you tell me some of the other things that you did for entertainment when you were young that you could maybe think of?

AL: I guess skating and having with the boys, the music, was the most that I did because my father would let me go over where Uncle Al(?), that was Grace's father, and his brother, he let me go over there, he let me go over there and spend the night once in a while, but he didn't like me to go away from home very much. He let me go to Annapolis one time after Sydney's father and mother had moved up there. He let me go up to visit them, because Momma and Miss Ivy were very good friends, and so that brought Papa in with their father, Tom Atwell. He let me go up there for a weekend and Sydney and I had dates with midshipmen. And I, we, that was a grand weekend because that was the first time I had ever been out with one of them. I can still remember his name but I'd rather not say it. And um, Papa heard, that I was going around with the midshipmen and they had dances at the Academy. He got in his car and came up there that

[Type text]

very day and brought me home. I never did get to one of their dances. We took walks together and then they'd take us down to show us the Academy and all that.

Q: When you used to play with this group and you went different places to entertain people about how old were you then?

AL: I imagine I was 16, because I was married when I was 19 and this was some years before I got married. And, Papa used to let me go out when, if I had a boyfriend that he liked. I could go out if they came up to get me, in a boat sometimes, sometimes they came in a car but he always knew those boys. He thought they were nice and they really were very nice boys. A lot of them were boys that were just here in the summertime.

Q: Mrs. Leatherbury, were your children born at home?

AL: Yes they were.

Q: Who was the doctor?

AL: Dr. Dent was Betty Lou's doctor, and Dr. Ward from down in Prince George County was Carole Ann's doctor.

Q: There was not a midwife as such?

AL: No, I didn't have a midwife. Luther got Mrs. Grinder to come in here for one week and do for me after Carole Ann had been born, because I took her, because the birth of her was so much harder than Betty Lou's, in different ways, entirely different ways, but he thought that I ought to have somebody, so she came and stayed one week, and she kept the house and she cooked something for us to eat.

Q: Could you tell me a little bit, something about Dr. Dent. Everybody has a story about Dr. Dent.

AL: I tell you I think he was a marvelous person. I remember, I'll always will remember him, I know. And, my father and mother and I guess the two boys and I went down to Uncle Charlie Hartge's, who had a boarding house and was Momma's uncle. And it was unusual for my father to go there because he didn't think they lived right, you know, because they had dances and all that. But it was some kind of business deal about boats and I got in, went in, the car and I said call Momma. Momma, I'm so sick. I said, 'I've never been this sick, I'm so sick, I don't know what to do.' She said we will call Dr. Dent right away. So they took me home and they got the doctor. Now how they got him, because nobody had telephones, very few people did. But, anyway um, maybe Papa went up there in the car. Anyway, they got the doctor and he said I had typhoid fever. And they wondered where on earth I had picked up that germ to get typhoid fever. And we had a well, at the place where Jackie lives, and a rabbit had died in the well, and we were drinking the water, but I was the only one that got sick. And the others were drinking the water too. I was so ill that night and so delirious that he had to be called back to come and get and then he put plasters on my arms and everything. I remember all that.

[Type text]

Q: How old were you then, Mrs. Leatherbury?

AL: Oh, I think then I was probably 12 or 13, something like that, or maybe I was younger than that, I really don't remember. But I knew it was odd for Papa to be going to Uncle Charlie's. I was old enough to realize that. And that's where it hit me while we were down there. But that's the only illness I really ever had.

Q: And then you were sick with it for a very long time?

AL: Yes, I was sick with it several weeks. But the climax was right at the beginning. That's when I was the sickest. When they brought me home that night, Momma sat up with me putting poultices on the pus all night long. And um, I didn't know anybody, I couldn't tell what I wanted or anything. And that was the only sickness I ever had because I was considered a healthy person.

Q: Everybody had talked about Dr. Dent, everybody had a funny story about him or something that he did.

AL: Yeah, he was witty. He used to say a lot of things. I know he told my mother one time that cabbage was only fit raised to feed hogs. It wasn't fit for people to eat.

Q: Could you tell me, do you remember, when electricity came to Shady Side?

AL: I don't know that I do. I know when it came, that Papa got it and then nearly everybody in the community got it. And um, I don't remember what year that was.

Q: Do you recall when they put paved roads into Shady Side?

AL: No, I remember I was a child. I remember when they had a Chautauqua out here in the woods. (Interviewer: I'm sorry) – A Chautauqua—it's like a picnic, a big picnic, where they sell things and um you can play games and they have running exercises and things like that, because my father passed out a \$10 gold piece, I believe, it was for a dime and after the thing was over he asked them if they had \$10 gold piece and they said yes and he said it was his, that he had passed it for a dime. They're little tiny things, you know. And I remember, I won something there on number 5 and I always thought that was my lucky number but I never did gamble very much.

Q: Is this the fair that people told me about that they raised money to put the paved roads in?

AL: It could have been because it was the only one we ever had. I was just a young girl then, very young girl. I don't even remember. But I remember when Papa had a good car, he never bought a real good car until they got good roads down here because there were mud holes were terrific. You couldn't believe how the holes would get in the roads.

Q: People used to ... people have told me on other tapes that it was mud in the winter and dust in the summer.

[Type text]

AL: that's right, it was. That's right. And then cars weren't closed in and you were behind a car, you were just got covered with dust. They used to wear regular duster coats and all. And um, I remember Papa several times, then, when the lights would be put on the car, you had to get out of the car and take the glass off and light the thing with a match. I remember just exactly where we were one evening when Papa did that. We were down to Churchton, coming back to Shady Side and Papa said it's time to put on the lights and he stopped the car and got out and opened those two little windows on his, the lights, side and we had lights to get home. I don't imagine they were very strong but they were lights.

Interviewer: It was better than nothing.

Inaudible two sentences

AL: Yes, well, he and Uncle Frank and Mr. Murray Leatherbury, I think, were the first ones to have cars around here and they all started with the Model T Fords.

Q: Was there someone in your family that had a car dealership down here or a small garage? I heard someone talking about it but I don't know who it was they said had it.

AL: I don't remember. All the cars that my father bought were from Annapolis. And he usually bought a Buick after he stopped driving it, the small car. He bought a Buick until, and it was just before he died, I think he had a Chevrolet.

Q: Is there anything else you can tell me about Shady Side that you think people would be interested in hearing on this tape? Something about your family, something else about your family?

AL: I'm not real sure that I can,

Q: Some things in particular some odd things that happened, what happened in Shady Side?

AL: No I don't think I do.

Q: When you were growing up down here, how many people do you think lived in Shady Side at that time, how many families, do you think lived down here?

AL: I wouldn't have any idea. Course, it was nothing like it is now. Maybe a 100; it would be impossible for me to say, because I don't know, but it was nothing like it is now.

Q: Though Shady Side is still now just a village. I'm sure you have seen it grow though.

AL: Oh, yes, I have seen it grow, because I was down here until '69 and that's not too long ago.

Q: So you have seen a lot of changes in Shady Side?

[Type text]

AL: Oh yes, there had been a lot of changes. And there's been, there was one time we were going to get a new road cutting through up here going to Idlewilde but that never developed into anything.

Interviewer: Mrs. Leatherbury, we are about out of tape and I thank you very much. We really do appreciate your talking to us.

AL: I was foggy on some things but I, the ones I told you, I really knew what I was saying.

Interviewer: We thank you very much and we really do appreciate it.

AL: Well, that's good. Thank you. Your welcome.