

Colman Diamond

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Interviewee: Colman Diamond
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Interviewed by: Barry Kessler
Transcribed by: Donna Williams, June 24, 2007

Qt: This is Barry Kessler, and today is Tuesday, October 31, 2006, and I am on the telephone with Colman Diamond of Atlantic Beach, Florida. We are tape recording an interview about the Fishing Club in Shadyside, which he participated in along with his family years ago. OK, Colman, can you tell me, to start off, something about your father who was an original member?"

CD: "My father was a Baltimorean originally who came to Washington in 1914, after which he married my mother, Sarah Brass (SP??), and he stayed there; he was a merchant all of his life. He was a quiet man and...almost introverted, I would say, but reasonably well liked. He joined the Fishing Club, I think around 1924, as close as I can place it; and I have a list, if you want, I made it up last night, of people who were members at that time. I don't know if that's of a benefit to you or not at this stage."

Qt: "Sure."

CD: "Ok, do you want me to read them off to you?"

Qt: "Go ahead, yeah."

CD: "All right. Well a man who was a friend of his was Jake Freedman, who was of Freedman Paper Company, and he had a wife, Molly, and a son, Sidney Harold Freedman.. Then there was Harry Colman, C-O-L-M-A-N. [Spells it out.] who had two sons who were also members, and they were Louis Colman, and Bill,, Wilbur Colman. And Samuel Gompers, of course, was a member, and his brother, Harry...Henry Colman...Henry Gompers...wait a minute...Samuel Gompers and Henry Gompers were both members, and they had another brother whose name I cannot remember, and he didn't live here. He lived in New York. Then there was Sidney Danheiser and Sam Lidoff, Sylvan Powdermaker, whose wife was Cora Powdermaker, and she was a Colman. She was the daughter of Harry Colman, whom I've mentioned. There was Leonard Veinberg(sp.) and his mother and his brother who died quite young, but who taught me to drive on an old Model A when I was 14; Charles Murr, and the Dunns, who lived next door, who had two sons, Wilbur and Robert, and a daughter, Lucille. And that's the list that I can remember at this stage. Would you want me to describe the place or do you want to ask questions?"

Qt: "That would be great. Tell me whatever you remember about it?"

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CD: "Oh I can remember a lot. [Chuckles.] It has no plumbing, no electricity. We used pump water...had a little hand pump and you had to pump it and prime it to use it to get water, which came from a well, an artesian well. It had no electricity at that stage. It was all kerosene. We used kerosene lights, kerosene for cooking in the community kitchen. The building was a one-story building, not two as it is today. It was...it had a dormitory on the first floor where the men and we boys slept. We slept either in that dormitory or out on the screened porch outside. And the ladies slept on the second floor. The old building had a second floor, and there was a dormitory up there. At some later date, and I really don't remember when, they added that second floor out of the other part of the building which give them a public room and a second story, which had private bedrooms in it. My folks took one of them, I remember. I stayed downstairs.

It had no plumbing. We went to an outhouse, in an old three-holer, which was right outside, and let's see, what else? Had kerosene lights, kerosene stoves, and a pump and we played...the men played and women played cards at night by kerosene lights and we kids did, too, as long as we were allowed to stay up. And they played poker and '500', which was Whist, I think, and pinochle. At that time, they had slot machines in the place and I used to love to watch them set them because they could arrange it to pay off any amount they want. And it seems to pay that they were paying off like 85% of the time, so 15% went to the Club.

And the waterfront was there. It was bigger then because in the 1900's, there was a storm, 1900's, 1929, I think it was, there was a bad storm and washed away about 15' of the frontage all the way across. Meanwhile we played volleyball like mad, we had horseshoes and I don't know what else to tell you. Now I'll let you ask some questions."

Qt: "Great. What was it like to get out to Shadyside? Just, if you can sort of tell me what a trip would be like starting from your home and where that was, and how you would prepare and then, how did you get there?"

CD: "We lived in Northwest Washington and we drove out, and the roads were pretty bad. They were...part of them were what they called 'corduroy', which were logs placed across the road then covered with dirt so that you bounced your way across. When we actually got down to the Shadyside area, it was just a dirt road, and everybody parked in back of the place, and it took...it used to take about an hour and a half, two hours to get there from the DC area. And...your turn! [Chuckles.]"

Qt:: "Can you tell me something about what your home was like? What it was like in the city to sort of contrast it with the conditions at...?"

CD: "Oh, we lived in an apartment, and we moved up...we lived where my...when we joined the club, no I think we had moved from 425 M Street, which is now a terrible area, I know, and we had moved then up to Columbia Road, 1401 Columbia Road, to an apartment called 'Carlyle Courts. And I'm not sure that's there any more or not. That's

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in the area that was burned out on Irving Street and all. We were in an apartment, and we had electricity [laughs] although I can remember, as a boy, my father carrying me up the steps. We lived on the third floor and he carried me up till I was about three year's old. And then I remember him saying to me I was getting too heavy to carry And I had to walk up from then on, and there was gaslights in the corridor. They had gas lights out on the streets, too, we had gaslights. A man came buy... had a gas can and lit the lights. Man I didn't realize I was so old. [Laughs.]. But we had electricity in our apartment and a gas stove, and...yes, a gas stove. And we loved the idea of going down to the Fishing Club because we were going outside. My mother and I stayed for a couple of weeks at a time during the summer, and we went down every weekend in between. My father went, of course, then, too. And those days in Shadyside they had the old fashioned lawn swings, and that was a big deal 'cause everybody would sit in the lawn swings and talk and gossiped and tell stories, and we kids would play, and that's what life was like in those days."

Qt: "It sounds idyllic..."

CD: "They had a caretaker whose name was Larson, L-A-R-S-O-N, [Spells out the name.] I think, and he had a dog that he called 'John', but it came out 'Yon', and we kids always called the dog 'Yon', because we thought that was very funny. And Shirley...[Chuckles a bit.] Shirley Colman...whose last name...geeze, Greenbaum, I think, now, and or was when I knew her. And I remember one time she was playing with the dog and they were playing and she bit the dog's nose and it was quite a...everybody got terribly scared but the dog was very nice and didn't bother her and everything was all right and..."

Qt: "It sounds like an idyllic kind of place to spend your childhood summers?"

CD: "It was except we didn't have any electricity or inside bathroom, and we had to pump water when we wanted it; but other than that, it was idyllic, yes."

Qt: "What were your mealtimes like?"

CD: "Our mealtimes?"

Qt: "Ummhumm."

CD: "Most...they had a big community kitchen in the back of the building, and there were either three or four stoves, kerosene stoves, and people just sort of took turns and using the stoves. I mean some would do it together. They had lots of crab feasts and there were the... tables were set up in this big community kitchen. And they were linoleum covered...not linoleum, I can't think of what you'd call it..."

Qt: "Are you thinking of sort of an oilcloth?"

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CD: "Oilcloth, yes. Oilcloth covers and they changed them from time to time. And everybody...you could eat with other people or you could eat alone, whichever you preferred. It was very nice....it was a very congenial group. Everybody got along, and everybody had fun, and you had to because there wasn't anything to do 'cause it got dark down there until they turned the kerosene lights on."

Qt: "Besides the crab feasts, what kind of foods did you tend to eat while you were down there?"

CD: "Same kind we ate at home. Our mother cooked...they all cooked there on the kerosene stoves, and they worked like a gas stove did except they used kerosene for fuel instead of gas. And we had all the same foods and cooked every thing. Some things we brought down from home already cooked, and the rest of them, they were cooked right there. Had lots of crab feasts, as I said, and oyster roasts from time to time. But other than that, it was the same food we ate at home."

Qt: "Were there any special occasions during the course of a summer?"

CD: "Always on the 4th of July, of course, and that's basically all I remember was the 4th of July was always a big deal down there. We shot off fireworks from the water front and everybody else did all along the waterfront."

Qt: "What was that like?"

CD: "Like any small town, I guess. Everybody shot fire works, and I've got a scar on my leg where I was hit by a piece of a cherry bomb, a wooden cherry bomb, down by the waterfront. And we had a Victrola, and they played marshal music, of course, and things like that, and everybody sang all the time. And at nights everybody sang, and 4th of July was a big night for singing, of course...singing patriotic songs. And my father...you know, you asked about him before? He loved to sing, and he was always there, even though he was very shy, that was his outlet, he loved to sing with them."

Qt: "Did he have a favorite song?"

CD: "Pardon?"

Qt: "Did he have a favorite song that you remember him singing?"

CD: "If I had been prepared for this, I could have told you, 'cause I can't remember...yes, he did. He had a couple of his favorite songs he used to sing for me. I can't remember what they were now. But he instilled a love of singing in me, and ...which I don't do any more since my voice changed when I was 13; but before which I

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did, you know, I was in the Glee Club in school, and that was instilled in me by my father 'cause he loved to sing. I don't remember the songs he sang but really, we sang...no, I can't remember. "

Qt: "That's ok, I was just curious. I want to go back to the 4th of July. Was it the same group of people or did other ... was the group that was there on July 4th a different group or a larger group?"

CD: "No, that was a big day. Of course, the group was usually pretty full...a big...a large group but the same people. It was a private club, and people just didn't come unless they were invited to come with someone."

Qt: "Yeah, I just mean in later years, many of the people report that there would be a picnic..."

CD: "I wasn't there in later years."

Qt: "...and I just wondered how far back that practice would've went of inviting a lot of guests for a picnic?"

CD: "I don't know...let's see, I was we left there when my daughter...my daughter was born in '49, and we left about a year after that because Dolly decided...my wife decided it was a little bit too much to try to keep track of two little children. And so we left in '49 and she would've ...we probably quit in '50 or '51, after which I didn't go back. Went back once to look at it to see what was there. That was all."

Qt: "Tell me about the fishing part of the Fishing Club."

CD: "Oh, yeah! [Laughs.] The men went fishing every Sunday morning and they took the boys with them...their sons; and I and Sidney Freedman and Alvin Powdermaker, and the Lidoff boy, and I guess that was all. We went out in a boat owned by a man who lived down there whose name was Ennis Bast. [Spells first name as Enos and last name.] He was the Deputy Sheriff down there and also was an oysterman; and he had an oyster

boat, typical Chesapeake Bay oyster boat, and we would all go out, everybody would go out... men and boys. And we weren't keen...the boys weren't keen about it, and so we would all get up in this little cutty cabin forward and tell stories about greasy foods and all and try to make each other sick. As a result of which, I never became seasick in my later years, ever. Matter of fact, I don't think I've ever been seasick, and I was on an LST for thirteen months.

That fishing...we helped to clean the fish when we got older. We had to help even though we didn't catch them. And we weren't keen about catching them. The men were, and they always caught plenty of fish. And we...they cleaned them. We had a place in the back by the outhouse where they cleaned fish, and we had to clean up after the clean

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up...wash the table off and everything; and when we became older, we were taught how to participate in that also."

Qt: "What kind of fishing did they do?"

CD: "For...we went fishing in the West River and up around Galesville and Shadyside; and they caught Spot and Hardhead and that's all I remember, basically, because I wasn't a fisherman. I didn't like it."

Qt: "I understand. Do you happen to remember anything about what kind of equipment, tackle your father brought along with him?"

CD: "He had a fishing line, a rod...they all had rods, but they were for in-shore fishing not for off shore. Couldn't get out from there. We were way up the creek... up the Bay. So they never went outside, so they just used light tackle, and I can't describe it. I don't remember."

Qt: "But it was their own? It wasn't supplied by Capt. Bast, as far as you know?"

CD: "No. It was their own tackle. Every body had their own things."

Qt: "It was interesting to me, you said they only went out on Sunday not Saturday."

CD: "Everybody worked on Saturday in those days. Really. As a matter of fact, I did when I was about 20 years old, I know I was still working on Saturdays until 12 o'clock or 2 o'clock; and...but before that, everybody worked on Saturdays all day. My mother worked for a while, and my father worked. And I know my mother worked on Saturday and so did my father. And they would leave and go down the Fishing Club after work on Saturday night. Boy, you're really bringing back memories now."

Qt: "Good."

CD: "But your questions are good. They're leading me...helping me."

Qt: "So give me a sense of what time they would leave, what time they would get there, and then the course of what they would do all day Sunday; and when they would leave and get home, just so I can have a picture of that time sequence, if you can."

CD: "Well, they worked until 6 o'clock and they would leave from downtown...and... when my mother was working. When she wasn't working, I guess he went home and got her; I don't remember that. And she started working about two years after we joined, I think, two or three years after that. And he would pick my mother up...they'd meet downtown when she was working. He was at Paliroyal (?) and she was a block away at 11th and G. And they would go down. It would take them an hour and a half or

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what ever. And we got there and they'd have dinner, and that's when they all sat around and talked and played cards afterwards, and then they'd stay Sunday. And Sunday they wouldn't do anything, except the men went fishing, and the ladies stayed around and talked and sewed and stayed until around 4:30 or 5 o'clock then they'd go home. And it took another hour and a half or so to get home."

Qt: "Tell me about your father's connection with the Masons"

CD: "With the Masons?"

Qt: "Yeah."

CD: "He was a...what's it? 33rd Degree, 32nd Degree Mason, and I don't remember which group he was in until they formed the Samuel Gompers Lodge, and most of the men who belonged to the Fishing Club switched over to that lodge then, and he did also. He believed in it, and they had a Masonic funeral for him when he died. I never joined. My generation didn't, pretty much. I don't know why, but I never did; but he believed in it, very strongly. And they were very fond of the Gompers... Sam Gompers and, whose father was the founder of the American Federation of Labor, and his wife, Sam Gompers' wife was Sophie Gompers, and she was down there. They lived on North Capitol Street just below what used to be called the Soldiers Home, which I think is now the Childrens Hospital... not Childrens, what's the big hospital, whatever it is. And they were friendly, played cards together. I don't really know because he didn't talk about it. It was a secret organization and they weren't supposed to talk about it, and he wouldn't. [Chuckles] He wouldn't tell me anything."

Qt: "So you weren't aware of what...when you say he believed in it. What were these beliefs that he believed in?"

CD: "I don't know, except he went to meetings regularly, and he didn't discuss with me what they did in the meetings."

Qt: "Since you brought up the Gompers, do you remember the Gompers brothers, and can you tell me about what they were like?"

CD: "Sure. There were three brothers, and they were all different. Samuel Gompers, who was named after his father, was the Chief Clerk of the Labor Department. And Chief Clerk in the government was a big job...it's not just a clerk, that's a big job. And it put him in a sub-cabinet position. And he was very quiet, and his wife was very nice. She was quiet. I can remember her and that's been a long time. They had a brother, Henry, who was the exact opposite. Now don't tell me he's 'gonna turn out to be your father or uncle. [Chuckles.] He was loud where Sam was quiet, and he was...used profanity, oh, which Sam never did. Then they had a third brother, whose name I cannot recall. I would say...Sam...I think it was Al, but I'm not sure, and he lived in New York,

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so we didn't see him very often. When he'd come down we'd see him...he'd come down the Fishing Club, or we'd visit with them up at Sam Gompers' house. My father and mother were friends of theirs. I don't know what any of them did. I knew what Sam did because he was the one my parents were closest to."

Qt: "Can you describe any of the other of those early individuals who were close friends of your father? They, for example, you mentioned the Dunns. What was that family like?"

CD: "The Dunns lived next door. They had a house they built right next door to the Club. He was a big man and he worked for the Navy yard. He was a plumber, I think, of some sort, and he had two sons and a daughter. The daughter was my age. The boys...one of the boys was about a year or two younger. And the other boy was three or four years younger than that. The daughter, Lucille, became a nurse, I remember. And I don't know why I should tell you about them because, they probably, none of them are around any more. The Freedmans, they were friendly with the Freedmans, Jake and Molly Friedman. And they were friendly with the Colmans. Both the names that I mentioned to you they were friendly with actually.

Sidney Danheiser was...he worked for Freedman Paper Company also, I think, and Sylvan Powdermaker worked for...he was a manager at 'Kay Jewelry Store' in Washington...part of the chain...'Kay Jewelry' chain, and they were friends. And the Veinbergs, we lived in the same apartment they did, at Arkansas Avenue and Upshire Street later; and as I said, their younger son who died. We had a couple of tragedies. The Lidoff boy, who was a little younger than I, when he was about ten years old, had a brain tumor and died; and the Veinberg boy, who was...I think he was a reporter at the time for one of the papers, and a very nice looking young man, great guy. He taught me to drive

as I said on the old Model A with the three pedals on the floor. And my father couldn't teach me; he didn't have the patience, so the Veinberg boy took me out on one of those old country roads and taught me to drive. And he also died very young. I don't remember what happened to him, but he was quite young when he died also. But they lived in the same apartment building we did, and so we saw them frequently. Leonard Veinberg was wrestling champion in the District of Columbia. He had something to do with the Y.M.C.A., and he was a wrestling champion, a little bow-legged guy. A great guy, and he was great with those of us children, the boys particularly, and he taught us a lot. The Murrs had a daughter whose name was Elizabeth. She was a little bit younger than I. She would've been about Shirley Colman's age, I guess, and that's about all of them that I can remember."

Qt: "Ok. Did you realize that Shirley Colman's mother was Leonard Veinberg's sister?"

CD: "Sister, yes, right, that's right! You're right."

Qt: "Just a little..."

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CD: "You're doing better than I am. I know you've got records!"

Qt: "No, no, no...just a little tidbit. Well, this is...no, this is from...you know that Shirley had a younger, much younger sister named Bette-Claire."

CD: "Right, that's right."

Qt: "I have met her, and she gave me a lot of this information."

CD: "That's right. Bette-Claire...she was a little tiny thing when I knew her, and I'm talking, what, 1949? She was still young, I think. Yeah, I'm sure she would have been. She was a pretty little child, as I recall. You knew Bette-Claire, not Shirley?"

Qt: "That's correct. Bette-Claire has told me that Shirley is still alive but such a state of health that she cannot really be interviewed. She doesn't have any memory."

CD: "Yeah, I'm one of those lucky people that you can remember most things and particularly when my mind is refreshed."

Qt: "I'm extremely impressed, not to mention grateful!"

CD: "As a matter...I'm very grateful, believe me! As a matter of fact, I'm in a pilot program at the Mayo Clinic here for Alzheimers patients, and they test me every year; and I'm being tested the end of November for my yearly test. And they try to see how we

have.. those of us who are pilots in the program...how we deteriorate, at what rate, and at what manner as opposed to people with Alzheimers."

Qt: "Well, thank goodness you are...you seem to be in extremely good mental health, and I'm 'gonna test you a little more. I'm wondering...you mentioned the Friedman family and they were involved in the Fishing Club for a long time. They continued a long after the time you were. But I wonder what you can tell me about them. You mentioned them but you didn't have any specific memories that you brought up so far."

CD: "Well, Jake Freedman was Freedman Paper Company, and Danheiser worked for them. And they had a son whose name was Harold or Sidney; I'm not sure which. The father called him one thing, and his mother called him the other. She was sort of odd, as I recall. [Chuckles]. I've got to be careful what I say, don't I?"

Qt: "Don't worry about it it's just really between us."

CD: "Well, it isn't really if it's on tape."

Qt:: "Yeah."

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CD: "She was a little bit odd. That's not nice. She...she didn't care a lot about the people down there. Jake Freedman liked everybody, and everybody liked him; but the reverse was true as far as his wife was concerned. And she babied their boy, who was a year or two older than I, although I played with him. Which reminds me of something. Can I break the tape for a second? Well, I don't have to. The picture that was in...that you told me was one of the Foer boys, F-O-E-R. [Spells out the name Foer.] I still think is me, because I was the tallest kid around. And it looks like me and I don't remember Melvin Foer looking like that ever."

Qt: "I couldn't tell you."

CD: "Yeah. I know you said it was one of the Foer...that it was the Foer family. But any ways."

Qt: "Why don't we save...it will be easier to talk about pictures when we meet face to face, so in a few weeks that's what we're planning to do. We'll do another tape and then we can actually look at pictures from that period together and..."

CD: "Incidentally, now did you meet Carole Leatherbury who was a teacher at the Shadyside School and had her picture in this issue that you sent me?"

Qt: "No, I have not."

CD: "...of the kids from Shadyside School that come there and she's a very close friend of my daughter, who lives in Annapolis, and had dinner with her a couple times when I was there. I didn't know whether you knew her or not, so that's why I asked."

Qt: "No, but actually that leads into my next question and that is about whether you or other family members would go into the town of Shadyside so to speak."

CD: "Yeah I'm saying that what, not 'lustfully' 'cause we weren't lustful in those days. The post office...Nowell, N-O-W-E-L-L [Spells out the name.] had a place at that turn in Shadyside and they had dancing there every Saturday night. And that was the post office and the general store and across from the hotel. I can't remember the name of the little hotel just before you got into Idlewilde; and we went over there. We all went over there, so we met all the townspeople there and danced. And I knew Dorothy Carr...she wasn't Carr...she was Dorothy Ford, and Carol Leatherbury's sister, and I don't remember... can't remember any names. It's been too long, and too many people come through since then."

Qt: "That's fine. What was the dance like on Saturday night?"

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CD: "Well, there were no drugs and no drinking. We were...I don't know, I was probably about 15, I guess, 16 then, and I don't know. I don't know how to describe it. It was calm."

Qt: "Well, tell me about...what kind of music? What kind of dancing?"

CD: "I don't remember, really."

Qt: "No? But it was fun?"

CD: "No. It was fun, yes. That was our big night down there; and when we stayed for a couple weeks, that gave us a break."

Qt: "Yeah. Now was that every Saturday night that you would go during the summer?"

CD: "Yeah, for a couple of years we did, yes, because I was a friend of a man who was, afterwards... who was Senior Vice President at Riggs Bank. And he married Dorothy Foer, that's why I said Carr 'cause his name was Carr; then I handled his divorce from her, too. [Laughs slightly.] And we met...yeah, we met a lot of people around there. I like people; I'm a people person. And my father wasn't, but I was. Oh, now here's a

description of my father I can give you. My father was the kind of a person who, if there were two people in the room, and he was one of them, would engage in conversation and could talk very well. He was well read...would be very...he could talk with the other person very well. If there were three people in the room, he would sit in the corner and let the other two talk. That's a real apt description of him that I use all the time."

Qt: "When you went...I'm just thinking back to this dance, did your parents come to that or did...you just wondered over by...or was this... was the young people?"

CD: "Oh, no. This was just the young people. Matter of fact, I don't even remember how we got there. Somebody was old enough to drive, I guess. I don't remember ever driving over there to the dances."

Qt: "Was there any other way in which you interacted with the town's people?"

CD: "I'm sorry...would you...what?"

Qt: "Besides the dance, was there any other way in which you interacted with the town's people?"

CD: "That we did what?"

Qt: "That you met the town's people or...?"

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CD: "Oh, yes. There was a family called P-A-R-K-S. [Spells the name.] Not Jerry Parks in Annapolis, who is my ex son-in-law, incidentally. You know who I'm talking about... this building...the hotel and the whole downtown?"

Qt: "Oh yeah, sure."

CD: "He's my ex son-in-law. My daughter, Patty, was married to him. There was a family named Parks, and they were...what did they do? Moving. I think they were in the moving business or construction, heavy construction. And they had a boat, and their kids played with us. They had a daughter who was a little bit retarded, as I recall. And the boys, they had two boys, Bud, and one of them was named Bud and one was...I'm trying to think whether Bud was Harold or Harold...both were one in the same person or not. But they had two boys who were my age, and they lived about three or four houses down from the Club. And we all got together and swam together and things."

Qt: "Yeah. It's interesting that your family was Jewish, most of the other or many of the other Fishing Club families were Jewish. Did you have any sense of the difference between those...the Jewish families, the ethnic difference, in the town?"

CD: "Well now the Murrs were not Jewish, the Dunns weren't Jewish. And, actually, I don't think Sam and Sophie Gompers were Jewish, as I recall; although his father was, I know. He didn't profess to be Jewish. Murrs, the Dunns, and we played with the Parks, and...no, we... I was sort of upset when I read the article in there about the fact they started this Club because people didn't mingle with the Gentile people and so forth; because it really wasn't true. And I grew up in a Catholic neighborhood; as a matter of fact, I helped kids learn their Catechism. And although I went to the Washington Hebrew Congregation to Sunday School, but we were not as conscious of that. I think the ones who came in later might have been, and maybe that was as we got toward ...maybe as we got toward the end of our period. I don't know...anti-Semitism became stronger. But I was never aware of any anti-Semitism. Yes, I take it back.

There was a beach across from Shadyside called Beverly Beach, which did not allow Jews in...Jews or Blacks in. And I remember going with the Dunn boys in a boat, and I remember going with them, I don't remember who else went. I wasn't the only one. And we would go over by boat and climb over the fence and go in so we could go swimming over there, 'cause they had a net around it and it didn't let any sea nettles in. But that's the only episode that I can think of."

Qt: "Now did you climb over the fence because you wouldn't be allowed in through the regular gate?"

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CD: "Yes. And see, they had a big net up to keep out the sea nettles, and we'd climb right over the net so we could get in and swim free, and because...now the Dunns were not Jewish and they knew we were. There wasn't any question about that, and we were just kids, you know, 14, 15, 16-year olds in those days. They were doing this. But that's the only episodes I can think of. The man who lived...who owned the place next door to the Fishing Club at one stage was the President...whose...can't think which President was. He was the Press Secretary for one of the Presidents. And he didn't like us. Of course, he didn't like us. We played ball and our ball would go in his yard. He didn't appreciate that, and we made noise and all. But I never saw any evidence of anti-Semitism from him; of course, he wouldn't, politically."

Qt: "What...what...I missed what was he president of?"

CD: "Pardon?"

Qt: "This neighbor was president of what?"

CD: "No, he wasn't a president. He was Press Secretary to the President of the United States."

Qt: "Oh my goodness."

CD: "I can't think what his name was or who was President...which President he worked for."

Qt: "Can you tell me..."

CD: "I can't remember."

Qt: "That's ok."

CD: "It might come to me when I talk to you again."

Qt: "Interesting detail. Besides fishing, did your family or you and your friends when you were young, get ...feel any... what was the connection that you had with the waterfront?"

CD: "What was the what?"

Qt: "Did you have a connection to the waterfront? Any waterfront or shore activities that you did?"

CD: "Swam. My son, who's now 61 years old, was... people used to bring their children down to see him because he would dive off the pier when he was three years old; and he

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learned to swim before he could walk. And we had to take him out on the water, 'cause that's the way we had been brought up. My wife and I were swimmers. And, yeah, we had all kinds of crazy things. We went out on the boat...the boys went out on a boat one day and we'd go out just out into the channel where we couldn't be seen, and take off our bathing suits and swim. And I remember we'd take turns throwing everybody's bathing suit over [Laughing.] We had to dive in...everybody had to dive in and pick out their bathing suit which was down in about 20' of water. And somebody's bathing suit we couldn't come find, and we had to come back, ran up and got a blanket and held it around the boat while somebody else ran up and got him a bathing suit and put it on. Every body came down to see what happened...to see what was going on. And we were told not to do that anymore after that, naturally.

But we engaged in all...we were always playing outside. Those days kids never stayed inside. We hated it when it rained; we wanted to be out. We were either swimming or sunning or playing baseball. We had that big yard out front, played baseball; and we played volleyball, had a volleyball net, had horseshoes outside. Let's see what else. We were outdoors playing around the waterfront all the time. Couldn't swim much starting in August because the sea nettles came, and they were pretty bad. But we learned to counteract them by rubbing salt or ammonia on 'em...but it stings. That's all I can remember about that."

Qt: "Great. What did you do if it rained all day Sunday?"

CD: "Our parents taught us to play cards. I learned to play poker...we all did. All the kids played poker then with chips, and it seems to me my mother and somebody else taught...was teaching us to play 500, which subsequently broke...changed in to a Bridge game later. '500, I think, was Whist, W-H-I-S-T and then that evolved into Bridge, auction Bridge in those days. And they taught us to play cards so that we could play cards to keep us quiet. Now you're going to have to ask the questions, because I've run out of ideas."

Qt: "You're great. This is just very marvelous, marvelous."

CD: "Yeah, I know."

Qt: "That's what the...if I felt that it was appropriate for you to just do a monologue, you know. That's what an interview is. The questions are supposed to help you remember things."

CD: "Right."

Qt: "Let's think about when you got married, or when you were courting, did you...?"

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CD: "Take my wife to Shadyside? Yessss! [Laughs.] My mother loved the idea of when I got to be about 15 or 16, I didn't want to go down there. I wanted to be with my friends. Now my mother was one of those who just thought it was a great idea to invite my friends. First it was on Sunday, when we were younger; then, as we got older and could drive, she would call and ask their mothers if they could come and spend the night. Then when I started going with my wife, she brought her down there, I guess every weekend. She was an athlete, played in everything, ?? indication, everything. And she was quite a swimmer. She was an athlete. She lived to be 87; she had a stroke. She had only been to the doctor three times in 62 years that we were married with the exception of going in for having a child...to have two children. But she'd only been to the doctor

three times, I think, [Loud humming noise in background.] ...and she went to the dentist. She went to the doctor the last two years when she was 86, 85, 86, she went to the doctor twice but both times because she hurt her leg playing tennis. And then I made her go when she was...right before her 87th birthday because I said she just had to have a physical. Every body had to have a physical at that age so you knew how you were doing. So she went and she had a clean bill of health, and she had a stroke a few weeks later.”

Qt: “I have to interrupt you for just one second because I just have to change my battery.” [Humming gets increasingly louder to the point that I could no longer hear the conversation, just a few words now and then.] “I think ...had an excellent interview...be in touch...get together on Wednesday.”

[Tape appears to end at this point.]
