



Marshall Nick

Interviewee: Marshall Nick
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Interviewer: Ginger Nieman Corson
Transcriber: Donna Williams, March 5, 2006

[There may be a few words missing but I could not hear them.]

Qt: “My name is Ginger Nieman Corson, and today is the 3rd of March, 2004. We have a glorious day outside, short-sleeve weather, and I have the opportunity today to talk to Mr. Marshall Nick. Mr. Nick, can you tell me your full name and when and where you were born”?

MN: “My name is Marshall Melvin (?) Nick, Senior. I was born at Shady Side, and my parents ... I’m from the fine family of Marion and Irena Nick and the grandson of William G. Nick. My grandparents, originally, I don’t know from what county they came from but they lived and grew up in Shady Side, to the best of my knowledge, all their life, they lived up in Shady Side. He had one brother...there were three(?) brothers of the Nick family, grandparents, as I was told, and he had one brother by the name of John, John Nick, and he lived right in the area where the St. Matthews United Methodist Church is. He was sort of the owner of that property there where part of the church is right now. Right across from that property was the Shady Side Elementary School, where I attended school there, which is now called the Lula G. Scott Center. It was like a two-room school there at that time, where which was called at that time, which now is called a black school. But at that time, it was called the colored school. And in Shady Side we had a school, which is now the Elks Club, I think it is, up on the corner there... Moose Lodge, where the white children attended school. And if I’m not mistaken, I’m talking to one of the granddaughters, I think it is, of one of the neighbors that was married to...the Siegel (?) family, right up the road right towards the Bussey family used to live next door to ...”.

Qt: “That’s right.”

MN: “OK, I’m remembering that my grandparents ...grandmother used to work for the Busseys, and he was at that time, she had two sons ...one son was named Tom Bussey and one was named Len Bussey. And Len Bussey was the, at that time, the only like person ... only police that I could remember that they had around in the Shady Side area. ‘Course this was my time of remembering; but I was told that before that before Mr. Bussey became the first County police that Mr. Williams, at that time, any time they needed someone to go pick someone up, if they did something that wasn’t lawful, that he was the sheriff at that time, he would go up. And then down here in what is called Idlewilde, there was a judge, which I didn’t know him but that was where they had court day was down in Idlewilde, and the Judge’s name was Judge Burn. I was told that at that time, way back.”

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Qt: “Really? And what was his last name, the judge’s name, last name”?

MN: “Burn?(Judge Burn that was where they had the court trial dates .. Youngsters got into any trouble, like I guess we young folks like that at that time got any problems or any traffic accidents or anything.”

Qt: “Well, we’re glad you don’t have any first-hand experience! So this is all kind of here-say for you, you don’t really have experience”?

MN: “No, I don’t have any experience in that. But I do recall that like for transportation, we didn’t have much, like, transportation, mostly it was done like what’s on ... traveling by foot or I guess the older folks at that time, they had traveled by horse and carriage and what not. But I do remember this myself because this was back in the ‘30’s or first part of the ‘40’s that all of the roads from up in the Churchton area, I can remember, or you went up as far as Galesville, they were the only hard surface road coming into Shady Side was the main road coming in. The rest of these off roads like Cedarhurst and what is called now West River, which is hardtop now and going into Columbia Beach and Scott Town Road, all of those were like nothing but little gravel roads or dirt roads. I do remember that myself. I know they just got hard surface roads during the ... in the ‘40’s when they began to hard surface some of the roads.”

Qt: “Now when you were coming up, was Scott Town actually the main road? Didn’t you go through that area”?

MN: “Scott Town was the road that ... the old road that now... which is called Nick’s Road, begins up on the upper end of Shady Side Road, was where the main road used to go at one time. My father’s property, Marion Nick, who was my father, the property at one time used to go over to what is called Nick’s Road. They cut the new road through from up above where Nick Road. began down to Columbia Beach, which cut part of the property of Marion Nick’s off, which is like only like one house sitting on that divided part of property that was at one time ... belonged to my father. And right across from the corner now, I think the lady that has the ... and I don’t remember this myself, but it was an old store there. The old house is still

standing, but I was told that this was at one time a store and it was called the Crandall's Store, at one time right across the ..."

Qt: "On Dent Road"?

MN: "No. This is on like Nick's Road and combined into Scott's Town Lane and as I said it's an old big house still sitting there owned by the Harlens/Hollins(?). Now it's turned back into a living home now, at one time it was like an old country store. That I don't remember myself as being a store."

Qt: "Just from what I've heard, I believe the Crandall Store was at the foot of Dent Road on Shady Side Road."

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MN: "No, you're talking about ... that's the new one. That's the one I remember very good myself. Dent ..."

Qt: "Really? So there was one before that"?

MN: Oh, yeah. The Crandall Store was right ..."

Qt: "Herb Crandall was his name."

MN: "Yeah, but you're talking about the newer store..."

Qt: "Ok. So you're telling me something I've never heard before then ..."

MN: "This one was back ...this was an old store. In fact, the building is still sitting there now, which was a store that was a Crandall Store ... which, as I said, I don't remember it, but this is how I was told by my parents ... that this was a Crandall's Store..."

Qt: "And the Hollins live there now"?

MN: "It's a Hollins that lives there now ... Shirley Hollins ... her name is Shirley Hollins."

Qt: "Shirley Hollins. Who else lives..."

MN: "Right across from it, Guy Brown and his son live right across ... used to be the Brooks property. They live right across from it."

Qt: "Is it a two-story building"?

MN: " It's a two-story building, sits right on that corner there."

Qt: "Where is it ... well, with regard to where 'dead man's curve' is"?

MN: "It's the lower ... 'dead man's curve' ... it'd be coming on into Shady Side, it's...it will be Columbia Beach Road. You know where Columbia Beach Road...?"

Qt: "Yes."

MN: "OK. Columbia Beach Road ... if you were to go to Columbia Beach, you would have to turn left and come back three/through it (?) But the Nick's Road. If you take that and then that runs right into it and it comes kind of right into a (?) circle... it's just right on that corner."

Qt: "Do you know the Crandall's first name that owned it"?

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MN: "If I remember correctly, I think it was the name of John. John Crandall. I think he was the father of the Crandall, Bennett Crandall, that had the farm, and, also like John Crandall. And I can name ... I did know some of them but it's other brothers that have been ... that are deceased. In fact I think just about all the Crandall men, they are deceased."

QT: "And I believe John just died in the last couple years, and he was 100"?

MN: "That was him. That was his father's place."

Qt: "OK, didn't know that. Now tell me ...before we get too far past ourselves, when's your birthday"?

MN: "My birthday is September 13, 1925. That's when I was born."

Qt: "All right. Now give me again your parents' names."

MN: "My parents' name ... my father's name is Marion Nick, my mother's name is Irene Gross Nick."

Qt: "And the Nicks and the Gross' have been in Shady Side for ...?"

MN: "A good while!"

Qt: "A really good while!"

MN: "Between Shady Side and Churchton, yes."

Qt: "And do you know at all where they came from"?

MN: "No, I don't know where they ... I really don't know where. My mother, my grandmother ... I don't know where she came from but my grandmother's name was Hettie Taylor, and she was a midwife in this area, and I guess all of us came from ... That was the

only doctor that we had to bring all of us into this world at that time. Back in the ...I think it was in the '40's, maybe the '30's ... she was like the midwife around in this area....Go back to ..."[Starts to say something]

Qt: "No, go ahead."

MN: "You were speaking about Herb Crandall's Store. His store sat right at the entrance of Dent Road Right ... if you went down that Dent ... that's the reason why it's called Dent Road, 'cause there was a doctor that lived down in that area which was Dr. Dent. And he was your doctor, dentist, whatever you had. That was the only thing that ... the only doctor that was in the local ... in the area. You went to him when you ... "

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Qt: "Did you ever have any experience with him"?

MN: "I can remember going to Dr. Dent one time as a youngster, for a young person, at one time I went there. But I never had no major problem that I had to go to a doctor up to until I became the age it was probably around the age of 14, 15; and the doctor that followed Dr. Dent, I can't remember his name. At one time I was diagnosed with like an enlarged heart, and I had to stop going to school just for that. And cause he said I'd outgrow it, and which I did, thank the Lord, I outgrew it. And from that, I'd grown into a teenager, and went ... and most of the youngsters then worked on the water with their parents. From that, I became the age of 18 and Uncle Sam said 'I need you', so then I went in the service and served in the military for three years...three years and a half..."

Qt: "In the Army"?

MN: "Yes."

Qt: "What did you do"?

MN: "Well, I was in the quarter master service. That was mostly like where you was rated to serve behind the lines. I never had what was really 'in action', but you know, you were supply for the soldiers that was on the front line. You kind 'a made sure that they had their supply, as to whatever they needed. We was trained for that purpose, that if we did have to go into action, but thank the Lord, the War was over before we ever had ...before my company ever had to go overseas to serve."

Qt: "What years were these that you were in the Army."

MN: "I was in during the '40 ... I think I went in in '43."

Qt: "Oh. And where were you stationed"?

MN: "I was stationed in Louisiana, in New Orleans, near the city ... close to the City of New Orleans. I was at Camp Plushee (?). I stayed for two years there then I went to Korea after the War ended. All the time I didn't go overseas, but just when the War ended. I did spend the last year in Korea, South Korea."

Qt: "Well, we're glad you made it back. [Laughing.]

MN: "Thank God for that."

Qt: "OK, how about brothers and sisters"?

MN: "Ok. I have ... there was seven brothers of us and four sisters. Out of the seven brothers, all of them served in the military except for two. All of the rest of them served in

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the military service. One was in the Navy and the others were in the Army. Had two sisters ... had four sisters ... one is deceased, three still living."

Qt: "Are any still in Shady Side"?

MN: "Yes. My older sister and the next to the oldest sister is still in Shady Side."

Qt: "And what are their names"?

MN: "One is named Mary Gross, she's married to Frank Gross; and one that's named Virginia Hopkins. She's married to Frank Hopkins. He's like a service man, drives a taxicab to Annapolis, Frank does."

Qt: "How about your brothers? Are any of them still in Shady Side"?

MN: "Yes, I have one brother next to ... all of them, well two brothers .. still, there's only like three of us left: William and Herman. William is like sort of retired masonry worker; and Herman and I works together. Now we do some, like, masonry work like concrete work, that type of work that we do."

Qt: "Still"?

MN: "Still, part time, some time."

Qt: "Awesome, part time, some time ... I like that. So tell me about the area where you grew up."

MN: "Well, the upper ...from around ...the Columbia Beach area. To my knowledge, this is where I was born and bred, and it was a very quiet, friendly area. At that time, as I can remember growing up as a child, like our neighbors, and we was children, to go out and play from house to house, you could stay as long as you was supposed to stay; and they didn't have

to have telephones. They could go out in the yard, it was just so clear that they could holler and say your time was up for you to come home. And every body was so friendly. You know. I know that we were asked the question 'who was your God parents?' Well everybody was God parents, because if someone saw you doing something that you wasn't supposed to do, you'd get a double one because they would correct you also. Everybody was just so friendly and nice to one another.

The family that was really the closest to us was the Brooks family and the Matthews family. They were, you know, right across, real close to us. They was, you may as well say, one family, because, they ate, we ate, we'd run and we'd play, they'd run and play. So it was just ...so friendly"

Qt: "Now the house that you grew up in, is that still standing"?

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MN: "No, it isn't. That, my father, back in the '40's moved his house from one part of his property and built in the '40's another house which was like a bungalow that he built. But the old house that I was born and bred in was like a 5-room house. It had two rooms down stairs, which was a living room and a kitchen. They always had a large kitchen for the family to sit and eat in, and their living room was where they retired to maybe to turn on an old radio or something that we had to play, and we had three bedrooms upstairs."

Qt: "What did your Dad and uncles do for a living"?

MN: "Well, my father was ... as I said ... in this area, my father ... he was a waterman, but he was very much interested in transportation for others. He always had a concern for other people. And he owned his own ... it was a fact ... he owned the first bus to carry children to high school from the Shady Side area and part of, like, Traces, he picked up the children that went to what was called YH Based High School. I think they're in the process of trying to restore it again now, but not for a school. But any way, he used to carry the children to school. And the parents, at that time, the County wasn't paying for transporting the children to school. The parents had to pay for ... out of their pockets ... for transporting their children to school. And at that time I can remember the old bus didn't have heat on it but the children made their way out and caught this old bus to make it up to Bates High School."

Qt: "That's in Annapolis, isn't it"?

MN: "That's right. And at that time, the children, the white children Mr. Seegar. He had a bus. Daddy had the children, caught the black children to Annapolis High School. The high school for white children were up in Lothian, and that's where the old Mr. Seegar used to carry the children to school."

Qt: "Do you remember his first name"?

MN: "Who's that"?

Qt: "Mr. Seegar"?

MN: "Len ...I think ..."

Qt: "Len? Is that Nellie Jane's father ..Nellie Jane Cherry"?

MN: "Yes, because his place is right down past where the old ...he used to live down where the Shady Side Market is. That is where his home is."

Qt: "Yes ..that's ..."

MN: "I think there was two brothers. One ? pharmacy ?? before they had school buses."

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Qt: "How about any farming that went on on your property? Did you grow any crops or raise any animals"?

MN: "My father, and not only him, well, all families had a horse and a cow, and we raised hogs and the like, and say tomatoes and corn. They used to raise that. Garden for whatever their needs ... supply for the winter ... to get enough from the garden to carry them through the winter."

Qt: "How about things that you couldn't grow yourself? When you went to the store, where did you go"?

MN: "Well, the only local stores that was around that I can remember ...from Shady Side to Churchton, right up on the corner, there was a store, which was named Hopkins Store, where the old Swinbrant's ... Do you remember Swinbrant's"?

Qt: "I do."

MN: "Well before Swinbrant owned that property, there was a man that used to was named Hopkins. He owned it. We used to cut through the bushes from school and come over and get old ? Jenny ...? Five cents, carry back to school and she ?? going on back to my area, where I lived at, there was Herb Crandall's Store where mostly we went to, you know, buy anything like eggs or flour whatever we needed for the time. There was another store down off West River Road, now it's called ... we used to always call it 'Kooster's Lane'. He had a full country store down in that area... the only stores that I was around that I can remember in my time."

Qt: "How about church? Was that a thing that you were 'gonna do as a child? I mean, was that 'a given' when you were coming up"?

MN: "Church"?

Qt: "That you would go to church"?

MN: "Well, oh, yeah, definitely! They had the church all the time...Sunday School, grew up in the church, as I said, I grew up in Shady Side, so my home church was and still is like St. Matthews, grew up as a boy, attended St. Matthews, like I say, till I got up of an age and went into the service. But I was like a Sunday School teacher in the ...down at St. Matthews Church. And right now, for the last several years, I have been married, ever since I've been married, I've been working for the Franklin Methodist Church. I'm like a lay speaker at the Franklin United Methodist Church and several other offices in the church ... ?."

Qt: "And who did you marry"?

MN: "A sweet lady!" [Laughs!]

9.

Qt: "I hope so!"

MN: "I am married to Madgeline?? Brown Nick. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Grace Brown."

Qt: "Did she grow up in Shady Side also"?

MN: "No, she well I think ... I think that was called the Churchton area, right off now what is called now 'South Creek View', right in that area there. She ... that's where her home was. So I didn't care to run all over the place to look for a wife." [Laughing]

Qt: "You didn't marry a foreigner, right"?" [Laughing]

MN: "No."

Qt: "How about children"?

MN: "Yes. We have four boys, and one deceased. Harold is deceased, and I have Curtis, and Kevin and Marshall, Jr., which is into the ministry ... he's a minister."

Qt: "Are they living in the local area at all"?"

MN: "Yes, they're all living. Curtis is living in Annapolis. And the rest lives right next door to us. Marshall lives in the family home."

Qt: "One of my favorite things is cemeteries. Can you tell me about any cemeteries that are... that you grew up around and people might not necessarily know about them"?"

MN: "I wouldn't really know exactly where it is right now, but believe it or not, we went to ... before today, and I was telling my wife when we was going back the?? road, it's a cemetery right there on the edge of the road of the ... that used to be the Crandall property

there that has grown up now. It was only like one or two graves back there, and she was asking me ‘well, whose graves are they’, and I told her the ... as I can remember ... you know, as children, we always prowled through the bushes, and it was the Colbys, it was a family named Colby, and I think it was only one or two graves that were there on it. That’s before you turn off to go into Nick’s Road, where Crandall’s dairy farm used to be? It’s sort of back in there, right on that ? area ...back in there ... like an old graveyard back there.”

Qt: “Are the graves marked”?

MN: “It was at that time, the last time I could remember going back, it was like some old grave markers .. like the last time ...years and years since I’ve been back ... but I know it was as a boy, like a graveyard.”

10.

Qt: “Do you remember how the last name was spelled”?

MN: “Colby, I believe.”

Qt: “C-O-L-B-Y”?

MN: “Something like that.”

Qt: “Or K-O-L-B-Y”?

MN: “It was a ‘C’”.

Qt: “And well, you know, I might have to talk to your wife because I have heard tell that there is a graveyard down near where she was brought up.”

MN: “Who is that”?

Qt: “Your wife. Down near South Creek View, if you were going down Ira ... not Ira ... Holly Lane”?

MN: “Oh, well yeah there is a cemetery back there ... there’s a Gross cemetery back there.”

Qt: “Ok, cause I’ve never been back there. I always think I want to try to find it.”

MN: “It’s two graveyards back there.”

Qt: “I might have to have you take me around ... traipse me through the graveyard.”

MN: “Yeah, it’s two graveyards back there. One of them I don’t think you could get to the graveyard.. You know, like, if it was summer, you could probably get to it. And I don’t

know whether you're familiar with it or not, but right up where ...Deep Cove... you know where Deep Cove is"?

Qt: "Yes."

MN: "Just before you get to Deep Cove Road, it used to be a building there which has been converted into a home now, a yellow home there. Right behind that was a Gross Cemetery right behind that, too. Right in the back of that building ... it was a called a ? unity ? hall? And it have been converted into a home now."

Qt: "Ok, so ..."

MN: "Right in the back of that it's a cemetery."

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Qt: "So that ...is that the house that's right on Shady Side Road"?

MN: "Right on Shady Side Road, the yellow house."

Qt: "At the corner of Deep Cove"?

MN: "Yes, right in the back of that is a cemetery."

Qt: "How about the Dennis Cemetery; do you know anything about that"?

MN: "I know where it is, but I don't know too much about that one. I know where the graveyard is."

Qt: "'Cause at some point I need to, like, take a ... do you know what a GPS is"?

MN: "Yes."

Qt: "I need to go back and take GPS readings on these places, but I think I could walk around a long time if I didn't know where I was going, so I might be calling you. [Laughing] How about if I mention a couple of places and you tell me what you remember of them, OK"?

MN: "OK."

Qt: "The Old Rural Home or the Andrews Hotel"?

MN: "Andrews Hotel? I can remember a lot about that one. That's where my mother used to work at. She used to work as like one of the maids at the Andrews Hotel, and my aunt was the head cook there, her name was Carrie Nick."

Qt: "Sure, I know who you're talking about."

MN: "She was married to my Uncle Jerome."

Qt: "Cause she stayed with the Andrews for a long, long time...probably till Miss Ethel died."

MN: "That's right. We're talking about the hotel now right? The hotel was right there on the corner where the post ... right across from the post office."

Qt: "Where the post office used to be"?

MN: "Used to be...do you remember the post office...you used to go there? She used to, when she was overloaded she used to use like two houses that were there. It was a way you'd

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go around the corner if she had a overload in the hotel, she had rooms over top of the post office, you used to walk to the post office to pick up mail."

Qt: "Did you ever go into the Andrews Hotel"?

MN: "Oh, yeah, always went down with Dad when he had to go down to pick my mother up. I remember that hotel ? good."

Qt: "What sort of things would be happening at the hotel when you would go there"?

MN: "Well, mostly it was just folk would come there for the summer from the city, they would come down for their vacation. Well, I guess just to be sitting around like relaxing, 'cause they had came out from the city, just coming here to relax, I guess, is all I could remember."

Qt: "Probably cooler here." [Laughing]

MN: "Yeah, that's right."

Qt: "Do you remember any other boarding houses."

MN: "The only other boarding house I could remember which is still standing, now right across from the firehouse, that was a boarding house for black folk."

Qt: "Do you know who ran it"?

MN: "The lady was named Helen Carter, she was a Carter. Her name was Helen Carter, and her daughter was named Matilda Carter, and they ran that there, as I said, for people who came from the city and wanted a place too, that's why that old building's so big there."

Qt: "I think it's a duplex now. They turned it into two"

MN: "It had a lot of rooms in it, you know, upstairs and downstairs."

Qt: "Do you remember the 'Emma Giles'?"

MN: "I don't. I heard them talking about it, but I don't remember it."

Qt: "Can you tell me any stories you heard"?"

MN: "I know they said people used to bring in all of the, like grains or whatever they needed they'd transported from Baltimore, they'd bring it or whatever, and the people go down to Steamboat Road and pick up whatever had been transported from Baltimore down by the 'Emma Giles', the supplies they needed in this area."

13.

Qt: "Did you ever hear of any of your friends or relatives that have ridden on the 'Emma Giles'?"

MN: "No, I haven't."

Qt: "How about the show boat"?"

MN: "Can't remember the show boat."

Qt: "We've talked a little bit about the post office, do you remember the movie theatre"?"

MN: "The movie theatre, in my time, the only movie theatre that I can remember like was when they'd come around, bring the old projectors around to the school. Then they had a theatre ... they used it for a theatre up where the U&A (?) Hall, what I was telling you about before it was converted. They used to use that for like a theatre for short movies up there."

Qt: "While we're talking about, well, you brought up schools again, tell me about your school that you went to here in Shady Side."

MN: "OK. Shady Side Elementary School, which is still part of the school that stands now up there, where Lula G. Scott is now, the front part facing the ... from east of Shady Side, because the main front part, on the east side, is the main school, that was the only part that was there, just that one part. Several years ago they moved the school, the two-room school from Churchton by trucks down the road, built a piece in between and joined the two schools together. And that's when it became the Shady Side Elementary School. All of the kids then joined into the one school. At that time, Miss Battle, Miss Alice Battle, was the principal, and Miss Nellie Nowell, she was one of the assistant principals. I think Miss Nellie was assistant principal, because they pulled all of the schools together and we went to Shady Side. But the real school, whatever, it was just a little two-room elementary school, that was all that was

there. We didn't have any, like running water on the inside or anything, just a little two-room country school."

Qt: "Who were your teachers"?"

MN: "My principal was named Mary B. Wiseman, and the lower class, 1st graders, were Miss Lillian Burrell."

Qt: "So it was just two of them"?"

MN: "Just two; it was a two-room school and like a cloak room and a pantry, and that was their office in the schools at that time."

Qt: "Do you have any memories that jump out at you from being in that school"?"

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MN: "Not really."

Qt: "You never got in trouble"?"

MN: "Never got in trouble. I was always a good boy." [Laughing]

Qt: "Oh good." [Laughing]

MN: "That's one thing now, I guess, that the parents and teachers were allowed to do at that time that maybe it would be good if they could now. If the children need to be punished, the teachers wouldn't worry to go ahead and punish them, not to really abuse them but they had permission at that time they could go ahead and punish them. I think if they could go back to some of those old traditions it would be better, some of them."

Qt: "That's right. Do you remember a car sales lot at all in Shady Side"?"

MN: "They never had like a car sales lot, but it was a gentleman that had a place that he used to sell some cars ... his name was Conrad? I'll tell you where his place was. Do you remember where the second post office was there, up before you get to Avalon Shores, which is still there standing now"?"

Qt: "Yes, where Garden Associates Environmental ..."?"

MN: "Yes. Well it was like a little garage he had there, and he used to sell some cars there, wasn't a lot."

Qt: "And his last name was Conrad? There's a cemetery behind that building. Have you ever seen that"?"

MN: "Oh, yeah. I know that – St. Paul. You remember the little church that used to be back there? St. Paul's."

Qt: "Now is that the church that's next to the Kiwanis Club, the Community Center, or is that a different one?"

MN: "No, there was another one back there. There was a church right back behind where the building ?? the post office, right there back behind it."

Qt: "What happened to it?"

MN: "It burned down."

Qt: "Did not know that."

15.

MN: "It was a little church. In fact, there's a graveyard back there now and the church was right back behind the graveyard."

Qt: "The next place I want to ask you about is this place, our place."

MN: "OK. I ... several years ago, there was a gentleman that needed someone to sort of take care of the building and, you know, keep the grass cut and what not up outside, do a little odds and ends around. One of the gentlemen's name was Goldsborough, and I used to come down and, you know, keep the grass cut around the outside and whatever maintenance that was needed to be done, painting and what not. I think at that time everything around here then was, if anything colored, it was green. [Laughing] And this room down ...last time I was in this building, it's a lot of some parts been taken out of it because this room, at that time, wasn't as large as it is now."

Qt: "Oh, so maybe they took down a wall or something?"

MN: "I think they took down a wall what not in this room, the one we're in now."

Qt: "How long did you work here?"

MN: "It was like, I guess, 2 or 3 years that I remember, and I don't remember the years it was."

Qt: "What decade? Was it the '60's, 70's..?"

MN: "I think probably the '50's or '60's when I was here working here. As I said, there was a swimming pool that used to be out in front and there was a little small outside shed that used to be back here to your right, back on the way...."

Qt: "Back here? 'Cause there's a shed there now with a big boat in it."

MN: "No, but I think it was a smaller size one, because I poured concrete floors in them and there was buildings that were back there and it was like an outside shed."

Qt: "So how about the kitchen, where was the kitchen when you worked here"?"

MN: "The kitchen I think is still in the same location where it is now."

Qt: "Back here behind us"?"

MN: "Yeah."

Qt: "And what went on ... 'cause there's like a house next door, you know, built onto this that we show as the museum of where the Avery House used to, well, where the Avery family

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lived. So what went on in that side of the house versus this side of the house or versus upstairs. Do you remember"?"

MN: "I don't remember that part of the building over there. But I remember mainly this part right, this building right here...that I remember"

Qt: "And you think it was more rooms than this just this one big room right here"?"

MN: "Yes. It was more than this one big room right here."

Qt: "So did they, you know, sit around and read the newspaper in here? How was it decorated? What were people doing in here"?"

MN: "Well, most of the time when I came down it was after it had been closed down for the season. It wasn't any one here so I think, most days, they would be like on the weekend."

Qt: "Did they come down all year"?"

MN: "Not all year. Like in the winter time it would be closed down in the winter time."

Qt: "And the people that owned it, it was actually a group of people, right"?"

MN: "Yes it was."

Qt: "They were like Masons from DC"?"

MN: "I think it's what they were."

Qt: “And one of the reasons I understand that they bought this place was, because they were all Jewish, they couldn’t take advantage of the local recreation and all. They had to buy property on the Bay in order to ...”

MN: “I don’t know what it was, but I do know they were Jews, I can remember that, because, like I said, the gentleman I really ... that I had to contact was named Goldsborough.”

Qt: “Did anybody else from Shady Side work around here that you know of

MN: “Not that I know of...not that I know of.”

Qt: “Can you tell me a little bit more about the make up of this building, like what did the front of this building look like towards the water”?

MN: “To my memory, this building had like French doors on it with a lot of panes in it, but they were not sliding doors. They were just ... they opened by hinges. The door it had on

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there first. And if my memory is bringing back to me, that it was like once you went out it, it was like, it wasn’t like a porch, it was like a platform right across the front part of the building at that time when I was working.”

Qt: And did that lead to the pool”?

MN: “Well, if you had ...it wasn’t any like, you could go off of the platform and then into where the pool was located. They didn’t have any walks or anything. It wasn’t any concrete walks or anything to get to it.”

Qt: “Was the pool fenced in, that sort of thing”?

MN: “Yes, it was.”

Qt: “Did they have to hire a lifeguard and all that sort of thing”?

MN: “No, no they didn’t any lifeguard.”

Qt: “Now back to these buildings that you poured concrete in that, like outbuildings behind the building. What were those buildings used for”?

MN: “Well, some were used for outside bathrooms or toilets, whatever you want to call it at that time. Some parts of them were used for storage, storage buildings, at that time when I was, when I poured the concrete. It was mostly for like a storage building that was out there.”

Qt: “Now how much of your life have you been working in construction because we ... rumor has it that you’re the best when it comes to concrete, you know, building foundations, that sort of thing.”

MN: “Well, there again, I started off in business as a self-employed contractor several years, some 30 years or more. I was working like at pile driving with Crandall, but I decided that I had to skip and I wanted to, you know, use myself, and I wanted to try for myself, so I started in business for myself. I guess it was just for not really going and training or anything for it. I guess it was just a gift that came up through the family. I can remember back that my grandfather was a builder, and then my father, he came up like, you know, he was a builder. Somehow or other I just got into construction, I just got into doing concrete work, and it was something that I fell in love with, just doing concrete work. And I had the break to do some concrete work on a job, and the man told me, said ‘some day, this is going to mean something to you’. So I decided, well I was going to try it for myself, and I started working in concrete work. I started my own business and everything, just worked in concrete, and just put my heart into it and always have ... the heart to whatever I was going to do, to do it right. It was to please the ... always try to please the customer, and that’s what I, my motto was in all my time of, you know, doing my work, I always did put my best to it. Try to make it the best. Always wanted the customer to be pleased with whatever I did.”

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Qt: “Now how about your brother ... you mentioned that, at some point, that now that you’re retired, you two...?”

MN: “Herman, why he’s not much younger than what I am. We’re both in our 70’s, so we just, that’s like only part time we’re going down to pick up some smaller jobs that we can just master ourselves because it’s so hard to find the young folks now that want to really put their heart into doing the work, of the mechanical work, to make sure it’s done like it should be. They want the money, but they don’t want to put the work into it. That’s why, you know, I never just never try to drop it off or name or recommend to other people, because I mean they just don’t want to do it.”

Qt: “So, the buck stops here!” [Laughing] “Tell me about ... have you ever had any jobs where you had to work at like pouring seawalls, etc.?”

MN: “Oh yeah, well sure. I had jobs with your family. I worked with Mr. Nieman ... he ... when like it wasn’t too many concrete trucks to deliver you concrete and he had formed a seawall up here in Shady Side, and he had his little mixer on the shore where he mixed the concrete up and ... always a wise man, too, so I ..??. He had rigged up a cable where he could put the concrete in the buckets and he could carry the concrete down the embankment to pour in the wall, and if I’m not mistaken I think the wall is still standing. Last time I was in that area, the wall ... part of the wall was still there.”

Qt: “Now which Nieman was this?”

MN: “I think the one Nieman was Roxie.”

Qt: “Ok, was this in Deale or Shady Side?”

MN: “No. This was in Shady Side the wall was put up.”

Qt: “Oh, OK...down...”

MN: “Nieman’s Point.”

Qt: “So, was it at the boatyard”?

MN: “No, not at the boatyard.”

Qt: “At the actual point.”

MN: “Right on the front of the Bay there where we poured the wall at.”

Qt: “That would be Roxie...he...” [laughing]

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MN: “The wall is right down there now. Go right down there now and show you the wall we put up down there.”

Qt: “Now we would tease him about how he could rig anything up.” [laughing]

MN: “That’s right. He sure could, he really could, yes sir. And I remember the ... on the point where your, what is it, your grandfather? Where he used to be that he was one of the greatest oysterman that there was, I think, on the Bay. We all grew up on the water, as I said, I was just a boy, but I can remember him, because he was one of the greatest oystermen. Everybody would talk about Capt. Nieman. How many oysters he could catch. He could catch more oysters than any body was out on the Bay there. ‘Cause all the boys followed him. He was a great oysterman.”

Qt: “They did, they did. Now did you ever do any hand tonging”?

MN: “Yes I did.”

Qt: “It’s hard work, isn’t it”?

MN: “Yes it is.”

Qt: “I can’t imagine.”

MN: “That was the way we started off, hand tonging. I think it would be good, maybe we’d still have something in the bed if they’d stayed to hand tonging. But then they got these patent tongs that was called the drop tong reeds?, where they sort of mashed up more than what they ...then they got the hydraulic one and they finished... cleaned up everything. I’ve seen the Bay really go down hill.”

Qt: “Now how long did you work on the water or did you just do it part time each year or something.”

MN: “I worked on the water up until I became about the age of like 18 years old. And then, you know, it was because that was just a seasonal thing, you know. You’d work on it like ... you’d go out on the water in September, you had like a Bay season time, then after that, you know, it was going to construction.”

Qt: “ So you didn’t clam in the summer”?

MN: “No, I never clammed. The only means we had of clamming when I was coming along, you had to wait until the winter time when the tide went out, and you’d go down to Bay Shore and take a shovel and dig for the clams. [Laughing] But clammers, at one time in this area, you didn’t have .. they wasn’t catching clams. Now you go out and catch ‘em on a conveyor belt. I remember my dad had one ..?? ‘onliest thing, they liked to crab and fish.”

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Qt: “Now when you went out, did you just hand tong, for oysters”?

MN: “No. I had at first the first part of my working on the water, yes, it was hand tonging, but I had one of the manual drop tong rigs...when that came in.”

Qt: “How about crabbing? Did you do any crabbing”?

MN: “I never did any crabbing myself. My uncle used to crab.”

Qt: “Did he use a trot line or ...”?

MN: “Yeah, that’s what he used, he used to use a trot line.”

Qt: “Do you know what he used for bait”?

MN: “Some kind of old eels, salt eels, they used to put on the trot line. Go out there, bait them up every evening, and then go back, drop ‘em out, set ‘em out, pull ‘em backing, re-bait em or go back the next day. I had a brother-in-law that lived next door to me. Up until he got up in his 80’s, and he used to still go out in the West River there and used to crab with his trot line.”

Qt: “In the West River”?

MN: “Umm huh (affirmative), up in the West River area.”

Qt: “How about fishing”?

MN: "Fishing, I used to love fishing myself. I used to like to go out and, what they call trawling for fish. ...?? Have to have the hand guard ?? One boy, as I can remember, stayed up in there yet ??? and he's 73 years on the Kootz, catch the fish out there. I still fish for 'em."

Qt: "Kootz, you called it Kootz? Where's that"?

MN: "That's right ... straight out from, out in the Bay right off of, trying to think what the name of the point is, right out in the 'smell' of the Bay, the first buoy out in the Bay, out there. Where 73, was 73 ?? Probably changed ... been so long since I've been on the Bay."

Qt: "Well could you see, you know, the land around here at all from Kootz"?

MN: "Oh, yeah, you could see."

Qt: "So was it off, like, Idlewilde or Cedarhurst"?

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MN: "Yeah, right off that. That's right where you was trying, you got it right off from Idlewilde. That's where Kootz was."

Qt: "Do you know why it's called that"?

MN: "No, I really don't. I don't know why they named it that, 'cause they have one place where we used to...down the Bay, they used to call 'Wild Ground', and there was another place they used to call 'Thomas Point', they used to oyster, and another one they used to call 'Dal's', and I was told they're bars, they just had different names they called ... they named the bars."

Qt: "Have you ever heard of 'Hacketts'?"

MN: "Hacketts, yes."

Qt: "And how about 'Three Sisters'"?

MN: "'Three Sisters', that's out on the Bay, I think."

Qt: "I think it's off Cedarhurst, but I'm not real sure. I really wish I could corner some body to make them tell me where they are."

MN: "My brother-in-law could tell you. Frank Gross. You know Frank Gross? You don't know Frank Gross, but he could tell you 'cause he's a real waterman. He could tell you the names of all of them. In fact, he was one of the captains used to be..."

Qt: "Well good, I will "

MN: "Frank could tell you. Frank or Paul."

Qt: "Good. All right that would be great. Now tell me how you feel about growing up in Shady Side."

MN: "Well, Shady Side.... I still love Shady Side and I don't think I ever want to go any place other than Shady Side to reside as a home, but it's so much that came from the cities now, and Shady Side is sort of polluting it a little bit now. But I don't think you would ...I have never seen a place any better than I would want to live than it is in Shady Side."

Qt: "How about raising kids here"?"

MN: "As I said, up until ... if you can keep 'em away from what's coming into Shady Side, what's coming in Shady Side, you know, I think it's just Shady Side was a nice place, quiet place. I think that's what everybody falls in love with Shady Side. They want to get in there and they don't want to leave." [Laughing]

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Qt: "That's right. How about the Bay? How has the Bay changed"?"

MN: "The Bay ... I was speaking to Ms. Daly and I was telling her when I first came in, and this was true. When I was coming up and you could go crabbing, and say like you were soft crabbing, you could see right down to the bottom of the Bay or around the shores and you could look right down and see the crabs, you know, crawling around."

Qt: "No kidding"?"

MN: "That's true, in the grass, you could see the grass and everything right down around the shore, but now it's so polluted that you can't even think about seeing. And I think it's come from being ... so much being dumped into the Bay just polluted the Bay so?? the Bay, back the way it was."

Qt: "So, if you could change something, what would you change"?"

MN: "Well, I don't think we could do anything about changing now 'cause, especially the Bay. I don't know what they would do to ever ... I don't think they would ever get it to come back to where it was now, 'cause it's too much building, that's the one thing, there's so much building now, and the population, they ... not only the Shady Side area, but it's just overloaded now, and that pollution, I guess, has got to run some place. That's one thing that's really drowned our Bay out ... the Chesapeake Bay. That's the one thing that's drowned out."

Qt: "Well, I want to thank you so much for talking to me today. I've learned a lot."

MN: "My pleasure."

Qt: "I'm sure our audiences will enjoy it for many years to come, so thank you very much."

MN: "All right."

[Interview ends and tape ends.]
