

Interview with: **Ed Goldberg**

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Re: Our Place/ Fishing Club Project

Sponsored by: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

Interviewer: **Barry Kessler**

Transcribed by: Christina Davidson: December 2007

[Barry Kessler] Q: This is Barry Kessler and I'm about to call Eddie Goldberg in Tacoma, Washington to conduct an interview for Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. Okay, we are now recording. Eddie, are you there?

EG: I am.

Q: Okay, hang on. .... we're finally on. It is such a pleasure after such a long time – waiting to get together. And I only wish... all I can say is, I wish I was there in person or you were here in person. Because, you know, being face to face would be really advantageous. But we are doing the best we can.

EG: ...After being on your website, I saw[?] how to get there in person, but I don't think that's going to happen any time soon.

Q: Well, we can always hope.

EG: Right.

Q: Maybe things will take a turn for the better and we'll get you out to this coast. Thinking back to your days in Shady Side, is there some way you can sum up the experience? What was it all about?

EG: Sum up the experience.... that's a major task you just put to me. Shady Side was really my father's vacation. Nothing interfered with it. Summer started as soon as the weather got warm and then it didn't matter what happened until – whatever holiday it lasted 'til. I guess until Memorial Day. And, it was great fun. It was educational. It was being with a lot of nice people. And even though some would have thought it got to be boring, weekend after weekend, it wasn't. It was always a change and always interesting.

Q: What did Shady Side mean to you as a young person growing up?

EG: A weekend in the country, and that was about it. It was... sometimes it interfered with plans that I would have made otherwise, but everybody went to Shady Side. So it was just one of those... accept and look forward to parts of life. You know, I knew that the summer was going to be spent with every weekend down at Shady Side. So that became part of the family.

Q: Can you describe for me what it would be like traveling to Shady Side from your home?

EG: Interesting question. I just got a flashback. When I was old enough to finally drive, I used to love it, because it was an exciting drive for me. With the Maryland roads – curvy and higher speeds than I would have normally done. But it was fun. It was educational. And as far as to describe what a weekend would have been like?

Q: No, just about the trip.

EG: The trip itself?

Q: Yes, exactly.

EG: Interesting. There was no way to say that all the trips were different. I'm not sure what I can say about a trip. A trip is a ... you know, we were on the road and heading to Shady Side.

Q: And, when you got there, how did you usually feel? Or what did you usually see?

EG: Again, there was no consistency because ... we might get there, sometimes, late on a Friday night. Or get there in an afternoon. When we got there, it was always the same. It was unloading the car, taking all the food into the kitchen, getting our personal belongings set up wherever we were going to be staying. And then going about whatever we wanted to do, depending upon the time we got there. If it was still early enough in the afternoon – might jump in the swimming pool, in later years. If it was late, there were other people there and most everyone was going to sit down and start playing cards.

Q: And where would you usually be staying?

EG: I always ended up, I think, in the dormitory at the ... east, north... I guess it would be the north end of the building. Boy's dorm on the first floor. And... that was mine. Part of it was mine, I should say.

Q: Can you remember which part?

EG: Yeah, it was, I'd say, usually the middle bed, near the window on the ... south side of the building?

Q: Okay, and who else would be there?

EG: At that time, early on... no one. I don't think there were any other boys. Later on there were. I know in later years, there was Jerry Yochelson. I'm trying to think of who else.

Q: Ronnie Sheinbaum, maybe?

EG: Ronnie was there, yes, but that ... I think. You know, I remember Ronnie, I remember him well, but I don't remember who was in the dorm.

Q: Okay, well that's alright. Is there anything else about, kinda of, after going to bed, that you remember? Because the girls I've talked to remember extensively, the jokes they played in the evening, the stories they told to each other, once they were supposed to be asleep.

EG: No, Barry, I'm afraid not. I usually went to sleep when I went to bed [laughter].

Q: Okay. And what about waking up in the morning?

EG: Usually we would get up very early to go fishing. For some reason, the fish that were there, when we got up at 4:30... weren't the same ones that were going to be there at 8:00. They'd be all gone. I don't know why we ever got up that early. But... it didn't matter when we woke up, William was out in the kitchen cooking breakfast. The man just didn't sleep when he went down there for the weekend. We would go fishing. It was always cold that hour of the morning. And the boats... I don't remember the boat... I do remember the boat, but I don't remember the dimensions. But it was small, and we'd get about, I don't know... four, five, six people on board that damn thing. And it had a little outboard motor on it and we'd chug out there for half an hour and go fishing for four or five hours, and then chug our way back home, with our little perch ... and spot. And then we'd have... whatever was there we'd cook up for whoever wanted to join.

Q: Others have said... have talked about your father's punctuality in leaving for fishing.

EG: In leaving fishing?

Q: No, to shove off to go fishing.

EG: Oh yeah. If he said we want to leave at six, he expected everyone to be ready at six. [laughter]. ... didn't like compromising too much. A 6:00 departure was a 6:00 departure. And he would always wait if someone was late, but he also made a show of letting them know they were late. [laughter]

Q: Anything else you can tell me about your father's interest in fishing?

EG: No.

Q: Do you have any sense of how he might have originally gotten the bug?

EG: He used to go down to Shady Side initially, I think, with another family member who belonged. Sam. That was his brother. And ... this memory is really confused, I'm not sure how it sets. But I think Sam is the one who used to take him fishing, initially, and then over the years they decided not to get along, or whatever, and William picked up the fishing bug. And it was just something he had to do Saturday mornings, Sunday mornings. When he didn't, he was not happy, but he'd get over it. Like taking a toy away from a kid.

Q: What if it was raining really hard?

EG: Good question. If it was raining really hard and the seas weren't rough, we'd go fishing. And if the seas were rough, but not too rough, we'd go fishing. Now if it was really rough, then we might not go fishing. I've been out there when I swear there was ice on top of the river and winds blowing. Fishing seemed to demand his "all." In other words, no question but that "Shady Side" and "fishing" were one word. And he was going to get in as much fishing as he could in a weekend.

Q: What do you think drove him to want to fish so much?

EG: I don't know. No idea. I wouldn't even guess. It was his relaxation.

Q: Was there anything else he did to relax? Or just enjoy as a hobby or activity?

EG: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

Q: Was there any other activity that he did as a hobby or a type of relaxation?

EG: Shady Side was his relaxation. And it didn't matter if it was fishing or repairing something or just laying out in the lounge, you know, in the afternoon sun. He kept busy when he wanted to be busy ... and anything he did at Shady Side was total relaxation for him. He could spend all day playing horseshoes and be fresh as a daisy at the end of the day.

I remember once, we were tearing down some old furniture there, burning it. We started early in the morning and the fire was still going, along about midnight. And he'd been out there all day. I don't think he'd even taken a break to eat. He just enjoyed anything he did at Shady Side.

Q: How did he get through the rest of the year?

EG: Probably looking forward to the summer. Now, he didn't have any other major interest that were comparable for wintertime. The rest of the year was just work week, weekend with the family, work week, weekend with the family... but nothing... no place that he could go, you know, that could compare to Shady Side.

Q: The boat that you were talking about was your father's own boat ?

EG: Yes.

Q: Did it have a name, or can you describe the boat... what features it had?

EG: I don't remember the name. Could have been called the "Goldie." It was an outboard motor, and I'm thinking, somewhere in the neighborhood of 18 feet, maybe smaller. Had to be smaller than that, although how much smaller I don't know. I know we could get four of us in there and it was pretty full. \_\_\_\_\_ ? and me, even more full. And we would sometimes go out with five fishing.

Q: Who would the guys typically be, on your fishing trip? You and your dad...

EG: ... and Danheiser (?), he was always part of the crowd. .. Sidney Danheiser. Kamerow and Sacks used to go and then they got their own boat later on. Stanley Kamerow, Herbie Sacks, wow! Memory does things. I'm trying to think of who else was there. I know Dan was always there. Colman didn't go.

Q: Colman who?

EG: There was another guy, Ruby? ... Matt Ruby? or something like that. [he probably means Nat Ruby - BK] He used to go. And then, of course, Dad always had company that he would invite down for Saturday or so and if they stayed over, they would join us fishing.

Q: And who would those people be?

EG: I don't remember. I know that most of them that I do remember, came from Dacon (?) Products and in later years, Trade Supply (?) – people he worked with.

Q: Speaking about fishing... can you go into more of what you would catch and how you would catch them? Assuming, which is virtually true, that I've never been fishing.

EG: Wow! You really have never been fishing?

Q: Well, my dad took me out when I was little, but not that much. Not much that I remember.

EG: Well, the primary fish that we caught were spot and perch. And they were all ... pan size. I don't remember any weights on them ... if they checked in at a pound I'd be surprised. We'd get some additional fish, larger ones, the ones that put up the better fight were called "hardheads." During the winter, and this happened later, after Stanley and Herbie got their boats, they would go out fishing for Blues. Blues are much larger. have sharper teeth that require steel leaders... I don't know, I never went fishing for Blues.

I was the one who always got seasick. Didn't matter. Weekend in weekend out, I'd get seasick. I still get seasick [laughter] and I still go out on the water. As long as I know I'm going to get seasick, what the hell? We would go out there... I guess we could catch 30, 40 of these things and bring them home. There was a cleaning bench on the parking lot side of the showers out, and we used to stay there, water running both sides of the bench, telling all kinds of jokes or whatever, and clean the fish for hours. It was a bloody mess.

The other catch out there were eels. The only one who liked eels, and take them off, was William. They looked like snakes. They're slimy. They're great eating, though. Fantastic. But we would wrap a cloth or rag around his arm and he'd go grab the eel and take him out and put him in a basket. And then when he'd bring them home he'd nail them up and skin them down. And that's about all it took to clean an eel. He'd gut 'em and skin 'em.

Summertime, when it was hot and the weather was... and the water was flat, we would go out for crabs. You could see crabs on top of the water. They were kicking out concentric circles and just head up to them on a boat and scoop them up and get yourself a whole bunch of crabs in a relatively short period of time. Depending upon the season, half of those had to go back – they were females. And then we used to put out crab traps – trot line, with fish or eel tied to little hangings of rope, every so many feet, I don't remember. And just ease the boat along there, pull on the trot line and as you pull the bait up, there were crabs – you scoop 'em up and go on your way. And ended up most weekends cooking up a 55-gallon drum of crabs and it was great fun.

Q: What about the guts and the cleaning part? What would happen to all the mess?

EG: Throw it in the trash or burn it. Normally just letting the garbage... I don't know what we did with it early on. No, we had garbage service there, all the time, I guess. You know, you're talking about a bucket-full, that's all – maybe a couple of buckets full.

Q: And the fish would be filleted or just....

EG: No, we'd gut 'em, cut the heads off, and scrape the scales off, and that was ready for cooking. And basically, with the perch and spot, you would flour them and put them in oil.

Q: And would it be your Dad who went into the kitchen to fry them up, or ...

EG: He did, or anybody could. His forte was cooking crabs. That's what he enjoyed most. As far as the fish, yeah, he cooked those too, but .... I don't think he got that big a kick out of fish, but he sure enjoyed making the crabs.

Q: Can you describe how he cooked the crabs?

EG: Oh Lord. A big old trash bucket ... close to 55-gallon drum... load it with crabs and water. I'm trying to think, how much water, I don't know. Then, when the crabs were in there, just throw all that seasoning on top of them – salt, pepper, Bay spice(?), and that was about it. A little bit of vinegar, and then just put it on a fire and cook them until they were done. The crabs, of course, are green when you have them live and they don't turn red until you cook them. So it depended upon how hungry he was – he usually finished cooking the crabs – fish he didn't ever finish cooking, which was always funny. If you wanted raw fish, that's when you would put William on at the grill.... he would never leave it on long enough. His patience didn't last quite long enough to cook the fish ...

Q:... all the way through...

EG: Right. Never. And it didn't matter who said what. Weekend after weekend, he never left them on long enough.

Q: So sometimes the fish were grilled and other times they were fried?

EG: Damned if I remember... I remember them cooking them up in the kitchen. As far as grilled, you're talking about on a grill-type thing – I don't know.

Q: You mentioned grills and I thought, I hadn't heard that before, so I just wondered...

EG: Oh, did I say grilled?

Q: You did, just now. But that's OK.

EG: Oh, OK. ...let's take grilled out of there.

Q: You may have been .... in on the frying pan ...

EG: Yeah.

Q: OK, your sister, Doris, mentioned an episode of night fishing. I don't know whether you were out there fishing at night, ever, but ... actually, I think according to her story, you were. And I just wondered if you remember going out fishing at night with your father?

EG: Yeah, I do. Not very fondly, either.

Q: Why was that?

EG: We went out ... I don't know if we went out at night or we stayed out there too long. All I know is, it got damn dark. In fact it was as black as all get out, out there. And, no one really knew for sure, where we were. And I think, to this day, those of us ... if we could get together, who was on that boat... would swear that we were following the taillight on a freighter somewhere. But somehow, he made it back to where we should have been. Quite honestly, I don't know how ... nor do I think anyone else on the boat knew how... it's just that, all of a sudden we saw something that we knew where we were. And William, of course, said he knew all the time, which was bullshit. And we were out there running scared, because it was dark and there is just so much gas that you hold in that little motor. We were out, we figured, pretty... generally a lot farther than we normally went out. And why

we were fishing that night, I don't know. But I do remember that one. It never happened again, you can bet on that.

Q: ... because?...

EG: We were all scared. No one else was going out on a boat with no instruments or lights or anything else. And only limited fuel.

Q: And when you got back, how did the folks in the house respond to your arrival?

EG: They were kind of panicky too, wondering where we were. I remember that much. Specific comments by any one individual, I don't remember.

Q: Or your family?....

EG: Yeah. I know that everybody was worried while we were gone, relieved when we were back ... as well as all those in the boat, too.

Q: What about some of the other activities your father did... with his friends, during the day, back from fishing? Sports... did he swim, did he play...

EG: He would go swimming. He mostly worked around the building and whatever. He liked repairing things. Anything and everything that was broken, he would somehow get into... or help fix it... or on his own. I remember he spent weekend after weekend ... there were some swings out there. And I remember it took him forever, cutting this wood, and drilling holes in it ... But he didn't have any of the proper equipment. Everything he had was make-shift. And if he wanted to drill a hole, usually he ran next door to Mike Dunn and borrowed his drill. And then he'd bring it back and see if that fit. Everything was definitely catch-as-catch-can. and he was "guesstimating" what he did, and it always seemed to work out. If something was broken in the kitchen, he'd be working on it. ... I don't think there's any area of the club house that wasn't broken at one time or another, that he didn't work on.

Q: ... but, for relaxation...

EG: That was relaxation.

Q: That was it? OK. You mentioned he played horseshoes.

EG: Yup. He played horseshoes. He played cards at night. On the nice days, sit out there reading a book in the lounge, or whatever. Go swimming when everybody was in swimming. A lot of time spent working on the boat.

Q: I want to switch over to you a little bit more, and ask about who some of your... what some of the activities you would have done as a kid, besides... the fishing. After the fishing.

EG: I probably remember what I did least. I know there were a couple of girls who were closer to my age. I was sort of an "in between" age. Most of the youngsters were younger than I was. And the adults were, of course, older. And I was, you know, three, four, five years in between everybody. I know we used to go out in a little boat that.... I think it was Bette-Claire Colman's. And there was another gal there, and I think her name was Evelyn, but I'm not sure who it was.

Q: That was Evelyn Colman, that's her first cousin.

EG: Well, it could have been three of us... we were like the Three Musketeers. We went out in this damn boat... a little boat. We used to row it. And I still remember, we went down the shoreline a ways, visiting – I think their name was Banks (?) – they used to have a big 'ol power boat. And we went up to see them. And as we were walking through the lawn, they had the same sized boat that we had just gone over in, as a flower container on their lawn. [laughter] Now I always remember, somehow the boat never seemed quite so safe, after that.

Q: Where did they live, vis a vis the club?

EG: OK, as you face down toward the water, they were towards your left, maybe five, six families down. They had a large pier with something built on it, I don't remember what. I know something was on it. That was the "money" crowd.

Q: Did you ever go up, toward Parrish Creek?

EG: We might have, I don't remember. Normally, going to Parrish Creek, we usually walked over. Would have been a lot quicker.

Q: A lot of people remember going up that way, and I think maybe even Ronnie and Jerry talked to me about wandering through the woods, as, you know, a group of boys... which would have included you... as they were kids.

EG: Yeah, you mean going over to Parrish Creek? Yeah, if I remember right, if you come out the entrance to the club house there... or should I say "museum?" Anyways, you come out and hit that harder surface road, you turn left to go further down the countryside.... there was a big empty lot out there – we could cut across that lot. Because the road itself, went three-quarters of the way around it, and it was.... certainly not easier going through the woods, but we could do that. I sure there's no... very little woods there anymore.

Q: Do you remember where you would head to?

EG: Oh, where we would go? We would probably all gone over to Ennis Bast's.

Q: Tell me about him.

EG: That was a character and a half. Ennis Bast and his wife was Alice. Capt. Bast was the first "local" I ever got to meet. And he had himself an old one- \_\_\_? boat out there. He could go anywhere, anytime, and bring that boat back to shore. Now let me tell you, we were out with him one day, in bad weather, on that boat of his, and he was a little... well, three sheets to the wind... by the time we were heading in. And that was another scary day, because, here we've got a drunken sea captain, and fog conditions where nobody could see squat, and we're expressing comments to him about why is he going as fast as he's going when we can't see anything? And he let out the nicest stream of profanities – reaches out and grabs a hold of his dock – we were home, and he was the only one who had any idea where we were, but he knew exactly where we were. [laughter] ... I don't know how, but we were right there.

Q: Amazing.



EG: Yes it was.

Q: Who do you guess, was on that trip with him?

EG: Oh God, I know William was there. Danheiser was there. And I don't know why we were on his boat though. Oh wait, I do so. We had just gone up to, maybe, I think, Annapolis, but I'm not sure – to get some crabs, or to get something. I'm sure we'd gone somewhere where we wanted to go by boat, to get something --- anyway. That's a long time ago, Barry.

Q: But you're back there, which is just fantastic. That's, you know... to just try to place yourself there. Anything else about Ennis Bast? Did you develop a relationship with him?

EG: I think the norm was to develop a relationship with him. He was a crusty old sea curmudgeon, .... whatever, I know I was saying part of it wrong. I don't use that word too often.

Q: You probably don't know too many like Ennis Bast.

EG: That's right. And Alice was just a sweet as could be. And, I'm trying to remember, she was an "add on" wife in later years. And they made a great couple. Ennis was just the salt-of-the-earth type. I remember, once he and the old man and I were... down in Shady Side at – what was the grocery store called? Anyway, the grocery store owner, whatever he was, used to drive a Buick – I remember that. Let's see, he drove a Buick and used to go up to Canada to go elk hunting ... The damn store was named after him.

Q: Are you thinking of Chrisoff? or Renno's?

EG: Could be. Renno's! I think it is, I don't know. Anyway. William had bought himself a gallon of paint and he turns to the guy and says, "You got a receipt?" And Bast turns around and says, "What do you need a receipt for? You've got your goddamn paint." Oh well, I guess it was funny then.

Q: Oh, that's great. I guess Jerry Yochelson told me about how much fun it was to go over to Ennis Bast's place, because he would lend a... lend you a rowboat to go out in. Maybe that was after the... after your...

EG: ... that would have been for Jerry. I don't ever remember borrowing a rowboat from Ennis. He was getting old when I knew him. There's another old character too... I don't know. Anyone ever mention Wadie(?) to you?

Q: No. ... who's Wadie?

EG: Wadie didn't live there. Wadie lived in town. In fact you had to go through town to get to Wadie's. Wadie was hired labor. As he used to say, he was "hired Black labor." And I remember the first time I drove Wadie home. He had a house that actually leaned. And he had all these poles holding it up. And that was his house. Wadie had to be 180, or somewhere close by. Skin like leather. I don't remember his last name. I just always remember his house, leaning way over like that.

Q: And where did you come across him? Where would you typically come across him?

EG: He, I think... I'm trying to remember the first time I saw him – I think they were cutting down some trees at Shady Side, at the Club. And there's Wadie – he's got his truck and he's going to haul the stuff away. And then he was always around for any time they needed labor. I'm sure he didn't have a phone. So I don't know how they ever got a hold of him at that time, but ... he was always there when he was needed.

Q: There wouldn't be... would there be any social interaction with him?

EG: No.

Q: Yeah. What about with Ennis Bast? Did he ever appear at the Club?

EG: He and Alice might have come over if there was a big "to-do" going on. But other than that, I don't ... you know, I can recall him being there when there was a big cookout, where all the families got together. You know, everything got set up outside and there was, you know, a free-for-all. And I can remember he'd get invited to something like that. But I don't think he particularly liked associating with most of the people from the Club.

Q: Why do you say that?

EG: Well, that's pretty much a gut feeling, that I remember \_\_\_\_? He was much more comfortable on his own turf. He had a nice house there. He was set up... if I remember right... nice piece of land, heading out to the water where it was ... he had his dock and his boat there. And the rest of the property just eased on down to... what you would picture in a movie... where the cat-o-nine-tails come up out of the water. I don't know if they had those but, that type of picture where the land goes into the water at one point there.

Q: Were there any other people from town that you would occasionally see at the Club, or that you would interact with on a weekend – summer weekend – local people?

EG: No. Other than a neighbor... on one side or the other... I would have to say no. You know, you BS with the guy at the grocery store or... I used to stop by the firehouse and give them a bunch of First Aid stuff when I was in the military and because we were constantly wiping out containers that included First Aid stuff. It was supposedly thrown away and I would take it down there. ... Interaction, I would say, was minimal. Although, I don't know... for some reason I think there was somebody else but I can't remember who it was.

Q: Well, what about the Dunn family?

EG: The Dunns. Well, I consider them part of Shady Side. The Dunns were right next door – I assume they still are. Even there, the interaction was somewhat limited. Wilbur was the one we knew best. That was Mike's father. And he was the one... we went to... Wilbur was a mechanic of note. He was really good at what he did. And it didn't matter if he was working on cars, or whatever he was working on – he was good at it. So, whenever we ran across a project where we needed expert help, Wilbur got involved. Mike seemed to be taking up right after his dad – he was training him en route. In front of them, right on the water, were a couple of rental cottages. And I'm not sure who owned them, but there were some people who rented them every year. I just can't think of their name. We got to know them pretty well but I don't remember them.

Q: There was a girl, Carol Hawkins and her brother Jack, who's grandmother owned one of those cottages. And I know she played with Bette-Claire and Evelyn from time to time. And I think she... I just interviewed her recently and I think she said she remembered you.

EG: Yeah, I think I know her too, but not... I wouldn't have pulled her name out of a list of four that you... did you know these people. On the other side, by the way, there was a nice big house with a long approach, and that turned over quite often ... different buyers. And we used to spend some time over there, especially the kids my age – because we were pushy. We'd go say hello to new neighbors. Most of the crowd didn't. So we got to know the people who were renting on a year to year basis. We got to know the neighbors on the other side. And unless they actually came over to say hello to the people in the clubhouse – I don't think they would have ever gotten to know one another. The people in the Club sort of stayed within their own family.

Q: And why do you think that was?

EG: No idea. Even now I don't know. They weren't introverts ... maybe 25% might have been introverts, but for the most part I'd say they were extroverts. But they said, okay, this is our area, let's stay right here. I don't know, it was like having your own little family there and they were cautious about who they opened up to.

Q: What about the distinction between them and the local people, in that they were mostly, if not all Jewish, and the others and the local people weren't. Is that... could that have come into play?

EG: I'm sure it did. But you know, I don't think it was a question of anti-Semitism, it was a question of... most of the people there, who got to know the people of Shady Side were church-goers. And finding out that so many of the people at the Club were Jewish... I think that they... not dislike them but sort of felt sorry for them. I know for Ennis Bast, it was a novelty to him. He'd never met a Jew before. He'd be blunt enough to say it too. At least not one who said he was ... when Ennis would say that, he'd say an awful lot. I don't know, I expressed that rather poorly. I never felt anti-Semitism from any of the people I ever met there. I found it across the West River there one time. There was a beach... Beverly Beach, and I didn't realize... in fact, as you stand on the dock and look out, it's just to the right side of Rhodes River, if you know where that is. God, I haven't thought of that name in many years. And there's a beach there – used to be an old retreat, I think. And I know that a group of us went there, once upon a time – we were basically told “out” and “stay out.” And that was my first overt expression of anti-Semitism. And that's growing up in Virginia where I used to see KKK burned a cross [at?] the Masonic Memorial. I didn't even realize that was anti-Semitic ... I guess I grew up kind of dumb.

Q: Sheltered in some way. But how and why did you all go over to Beverly Beach.

EG: I don't know. I know it was a bunch of guys, and I know it was before a weekend ... I don't know why. Well, we went over to spend an afternoon there. They had slot machines. But we couldn't get in. I don't remember who I was with. They used to have nickel slots. And I knew about it because I'd gone to camp near there. Up the Rhodes River, in fact, Camp Letts, which was a YMCA Camp. And that's where my folks sent me for three or four years during the summer. That was before I was old enough for Shady Side. [laughter]

Q: And do you have a sense of how... who it was that excluded you and how they realized you guys were Jewish?

EG: No. I just remember they wouldn't let us in ... I remember the big picture, but I don't remember any of the details

Q: And so you turned around and left?

EG: Yeah.

Q: And do you remember sharing that experience with any of the other people back at Shady Side?

EG: You know, I did... I told them about it the following weekend or... and I don't remember anybody's reaction. I'm thinking they probably all just nodded and said "yeah, that happens" but I don't honestly know.

Q: Bur there weren't any further, similar occasions or experiences?

EG: No. I never went back there and I never ran across it anywhere else down there.

Q: Tell me about your bar mitzvah.

EG: [laughter] Interesting. My birthday is in July and if you stretch out whatever section of the \_\_\_? Torah you read, and you get to the earliest possible date that you can have a bar mitzvah if your birthday's in July... you probably come up with May the 12th – at least that year you did. So as not to interfere with Shady Side, my bar mitzvah was on May the 12th. Which is a pretty long stretch for someone who doesn't turn 13 for another couple of months. It was set up that way specifically, so it would not interfere with Shady Side.

Q: Who were the most eccentric people at the Fishing Club, if you can remember? What were their...

EG: Eccentric?

Q: Who were the... was there anybody there who you felt was different and interesting? Any of the other members? Or do they all sort of blend in to the crowd?

EG: I found them all interesting. I hung around with some more than others but I think that was because they hung around in different crowds. As far as different, the only one I can think of different, I can't think of his name... he was our secret drinker. Milton Diamond, God, how did I forget his name? Milton had a love affair with Vodka, and he didn't think anyone knew about it. And everybody knew about it. [laughter]. And he had bottles all over the damn place, and he'd spend his weekend drinking. Which was fine – he was never drunk as far as I could tell. And it wasn't until I was a lot older – probably within the past 15 years – that I heard what an alcoholic really was. And so, you know, he was basically drunk all the time, I just didn't recognize it. I don't think anyone else there did either. But we all knew he drank. But without knowing what an alcoholic really is... I don't think we knew it.

Q: Tell me about the large picnics that took place, when there were lots of people there. I just wonder if you could describe one of those.

EG: I'm just trying to recollect and remember them. No, what I remember about those type gatherings is so broad brushed. You know there were a lot of people and food all over the place --

people playing horseshoes and badminton and volleyball. And the pool was jammed full of kids and what else? There were just people all over and it was great. It was nice to see a piece of property like that which was so totally under-occupied when just the members were there. When the families came down and they had a big to-do and there were guests and all that... and you could see a couple hundred people running around there, and it was outstanding. And I remember it was just a joyful day.

Q: And finally they all left and the members were... stayed behind.

EG: Exactly. But it was... like sitting there in the afterglow, whatever. It was a nice day, everybody had a good time, and you sat there and you sort of reminisced about "wasn't it nice to see good 'ol so-and-so." All of this while you're doing dishes and cleaning up the mess. But by the time the sun was gone the mess was pretty much cleaned up. And then you'd sit out on the porch and sort of look out there on the yard ... and sort of re-live the day just sitting there looking at it. It was after one of those that you could always depend on that porch being full. Otherwise they'd be sitting in the living room -- or the gathering room, or the great room, or whatever they learned to call it over the years.

Q: What kinds of things did you like to do – say, in the evening?

EG: I enjoyed playing cards or just sitting out on the porch talking to people. Maybe I'm just remembering the older years without remembering that much of the younger ones. I know we spent a lot of time playing cards. The initial game, earlier on, was canasta – and I don't know what we ended up playing later. Oh – we spent a lot of time playing cribbage and something else... a lot of time talking to people. I spent a lot of time those years reading also. People would sit down there – they'd go in the big room and sit down there, and you could tell what they were doing or not doing and you left them alone if they were reading. If they were sitting at a card table, and there was only one or two, then a couple more would go join them and say "you ready to play?" They would just go from there. They would hold poker games every now and again. In fact, I think the poker got to be a regular thing. But it was a cheap game – nickel, dime, quarter type thing – it was just a fun-type game. That's how the evenings were spent.

Q: Did people ever get in each other's way or have a dispute?

EG: Interesting. Yeah, but I don't think any of it lasted. A few words exchanged in the heat of the moment and it was "flash" and then it was over. I don't remember any serious conflicts. Not that there weren't – I just don't remember.

Q: Is there some way for you that the experience of being at Shady Side has continued through your life.

EG: No.

Q: Any time when, in later years, it suddenly flashed back to you or it suddenly effected some decision you made or anything like that?

EG: You mean, was it formative in any manner?

Q: That's what I'm driving at, yes.

EG: I don't think so. [laughter]. Other than meeting people that I would deal with later or dealt with going on – no, I don't see it as a formative episode. I see it as a respite in the on-going crush of growing older.

Q: Because, many of those whom I have interviewed are so passionate about the experience that they had there, because, for one reason and another --- and I've gotten quite a few different responses – it has... there is some kind of central element of their identity that they trace back to being at Shady Side.

EG: Really? [laughter]

Q: Yeah, many, many, many people.

EG: I think that's wonderful. I don't feel that. I enjoyed my time there – loved it – but I don't see...

Q: You don't have to have it, I was just trying to probe because I get it so frequently.

EG: Yeah, I don't see it.

Q: Okay. And in some cases, it's the girls who talk about – it was the way they formed their relationship with their father. Going out on a boat or what-have-you. It was the memory of the father that is wrapped up in the experience at the club.

EG: Yeah, I can understand they would feel that way.

Q: But it sounds to me as though you... you spent a lot of time with your father, fishing at Shady Side, and then that was that.

EG: Pretty much.

Q: Fishing hasn't become, somehow, a lifelong passion of yours.

EG: Nah... I hate fishing. [laughter] No, I go fishing once in a very great while. I've been out in the Great Northwest – I've gone fishing twice in twenty years. Not a passion. Going out on a boat, which we did every weekend for all those years growing up – outside of the ferry between wherever and Seattle – haven't been on a boat. Don't miss it. I'm a people person. I love people. I can remember, for the most part, but I don't find anything formative in Shady Side, per se. Individuals, yeah, I sort of credit that as my "growing up" years. But there were a lot of other things happening at the same time. The Shady Side that I most remember was in my late teens. Only because ... that's my memory these days. I might, on occasion, remember when it was earlier – and I do – there are certain glimpses of when I was younger down there. But I find it difficult to separate those from ... knowing what you... because I don't know. I find it difficult to say, when I was such-and-such an age we did such-and-such, because I don't...

Q: Sure, but when you think back to your late teen years what is the predominant feeling or thing that you remember?

EG: As it relates to Shady Side, well, let's see... mother had just died and for some reason, I latched on to Lil and Aaron Yochelson. And at Shady Side I guess I spent a lot of time with Lil, just talking.

And it was just a question of, we tended to bond, and I remember that much. But still, nothing formative.

Q: Well, that's alright. My tape is done – we've taped an hour – so I'm going to turn off the machine.....

[TAPE/ DVD #2]

EG: ... OK, then they were coming back from somewhere by boat – tie it up to the dock – walking up the steps toward the Club House – and there are all these people standing on the front of the grass. Very unusual sight. Some have binoculars in hand. And one of them calls William over, and I'm shooed up to the Club House, and as I get up there, I looked back around there, and there are people all up and down the waterfront – looking out on the water. There was a duck blind out there and there's a couple out there having a real fine afternoon making love... and all these people on the shoreline are watching them with binoculars! [laughter] I remember that now. An exciting day at Shady Side, Maryland.

Q: But they pushed you in the house so you wouldn't see.

EG: Yeah, I guess I was a younger age. But you can't keep a kid away. But that's my little story I wanted to share.

Q: That is funny, that is funny! Since you were just... when we ended the other tape... you were beginning to tell me a little bit about why you became so close to Lily Yochelson.

EG: I don't know. She was easy to talk to. Lily was a woman of rare ability. She would listen and when something needed to be said, she knew when to say it, how to say it. She was an outstanding sounding board \_\_\_\_\_? I didn't have that anywhere else... and it became easy to talk with them.

Q: This was in 1956, when your step mother, Ester...

EG: Right, after she died. And this was actually the following year – following summer.

Q: Where would you, generally, be talking to Lily?

EG: You mean physically located?

Q: Yeah, where would I picture you?

EG: On the porch. Sitting in rockers. Or in the big room. And she taught me how to do cryptograms, and I guess more expert in crosswords. Crosswords I knew, but cryptograms – she taught me. I don't know, some of the nicer things I remember.

Q: The thing is, when you say you are a people person in some ways that's what happened at Shady Side – was the interaction with this close-knit group of families.

EG: That could be. I never looked at it as an education based on Shady Side... I always looked at it as an education that would have occurred, regardless of where you were, just by growing up. But you could be absolutely right. Because there wasn't anyone there I didn't get along with. And I loved hearing the old stories.

Q: Who, for example, would tell the old stories?

EG: I forget who... I guess it was Dad (? – Dan?) who told the one about Sadie Gompers. Now I don't know how Sadie was related to Sam Gompers ... they were probably married, I don't know.

Q: It is Sadie Gompers... what's the story about her?

EG: Sadie used to live there. She was a member. She was there when I was just a very young whatever. Or, no she wasn't, I just heard the story. Let me take it back. She was there when William started going down there. Because, I remember they always told the story... they were all sitting around the big room. And she used to use tepalas (?) is that the right word ... a bed pot...

Q: Oh, a chamber pot.

EG: Chamber pot. And they are all sitting around there and the only one up in her bed. because she was rather old, was Sadie Gompers, and they hear her fall, and flop on the floor. And the next thing they know, they hear that damn pot bounding off a wall ... and a nice stream of profanities from this lady. [laughter] They told that story for years, so it's hard to forget.

Q: Poor old thing!

EG: Exactly. Sounded like she could handle herself though.

Q: But she was long gone by the time you were little?

EG: Yeah.

Q: Anything else that people talked about the old days... the earlier days of the Club? Did you ever meet any of the Gompers?

EG: I don't know. I would have to say, probably not, or no.

Q: What about the Colman brothers – Bette-Claire and Evelyn's fathers? Because they were members going back to the 1920s....

EG: Oh, I knew them. Yeah, them I knew. What the hell was Colman's first name?

Q: Lou or Bill.

EG: Bill. Bill was the one, I think, who belonged?

Q: Oh, they both were members.

EG: They did? Which one died first?

Q: I can look that up for you.

EG: I don't know, one was really skinny. That I remember.



Q: Lou was the older one and he was born in 1896, he died in 1983. Wilbur was ... or Bill... was born in 1903, and that was Evelyn's father... let's see if I have his date of death somewhere. Didn't seem to write that down. I should write that down, if I can dig it out. I have many, many photographs from Evelyn and Bette-Claire.

EG: And I even found you a couple of photographs by the way. I found two of them the other day.

Q: Ah ! Do you happen to have them there right now?

EG: Let's see, I did a minute ago.

Q: I mean, I can't see them, of course, because you're in Washington, but if you can describe them for me, then when I do see them, I can catalogue them properly.

EG: OK. I don't know what the hell I did with them. Hold on... let me ... I'm sitting in a chair at the end of the dock, fishing, and I'm looking back over my shoulder with a nasty grimace at whoever is taking this picture. And I know when that one was – this was 1971 or '72. I was recuperating from hepatitis, and I went down to Shady Side to do it.

And the other one is a great picture. It's a picture of Tec – Tecla -- and William sitting there at the kitchen table with all these crabs in front of them.

Q: Oh, fabulous ! And so, that would have been taken... when?

EG: Good question. Tec died ....

Q: 1977.

EG: Was it '77?

Q: I believe so. I would have gotten that information from your sister. Died 1977.

EG: OK. I lost track of that date.

Q: I don't know when she and your father were married though. So, somewhere in between there.

EG: They would have been married sometime around 1960, I think.

Q: So there is about a four-year gap there.

EG: You know, I was in college. I don't know if he got married while I was in college or after I got out. I just don't remember. But anyway, that's the picture – sometime between 1960 and '77 then.

Q: All right, but based on the ages of them, I just wondered if you had ventured a guess.

EG: As to what year it actually was? Yeah, the kitchen's been re-done – I'd put it at '75.

Q: Ok, great. That is wonderful.

EG: I meant to get these off yesterday and I forgot.

[END of AUDIO]