



Date of Interview: July 31, 1984
Interview of Mrs. Edna Bast
Bast Lane, Shady Side

1984.001

Interviewer: Jennie LeFevre

JL: Mrs. Bast, can you tell us when you came to live in Shady Side and under what circumstances?

EB: Well, my ... I was just 22 months old when I was brought here.

JL: You came here with your parents?

EB: I came here with my adopted, the people adopted me.

JL: Uh huh, uh

EB: I was 22 months old.

JL: And where did you come to live in Shady Side when you came?

EB: Right up in that old house up on the shore.

JL: Up on the shore?

EB: My mother died right over here where the Smithsonian is, right on that point.

JL: Yes ma'am.

EB: And, she's buried right across there at KDB (Ranch) and now just where, I couldn't tell you that. That's what I was told. And my mother, my foster mother and father taking me and raised me.

JL: And could you tell us a little bit about your childhood here in Shady Side?

EB: It's just about the average ... just play around the water and doing things that ... I'd get in the boat and row my foster father's breakfast out to him in the morning, about 6:00, across the river and he was a crabber and he had spent most of his life crabbing and on the water. He was from Baltimore, but he came down, bought the house up there and that's where he settled.

JL: Did they have children or were you an only child in that family?

A: No, I was an only child.

JL: Now, did you go to school down here in Shady Side?

EB: Well, I went to school down here, went to school and _____ out, but I was one of those, if it rained, I might get wet.

JL: You had to walk to school?

EB: Walk to school and you walked in mud like that. You'd see a little place and you'd think, "Oh, I can step on there and get out of the mud," and boy, you'd stepped on that, zip, down you went.

JL: Who were some of your classmates down here when you went to school?

EB: Well, I'll tell you, it goes back. Ralph Lee, Robbie Lee, Willie Carson, Wallace Bullen, and the teacher, the principal, she was from New York and she had a daughter named Edna, same as me. There was two Edna's in the school and I went with the ... the mostly ... the Rogers girls and boys, with Gertie and, uh, and they were going out of the school, I as I, about to say, as I entered. Miss Ethel's sister, Helen Weatherberry, Georgie Weems, Georgie Sandsbury, he's passed away, too. And, uh, Mae Atwell, used to live down on bay shore where all them Hazard's lived and um ...

JL: Where was the school located in Shady Side?

EB: Right where it is, right out here where the ...

JL: Out on the corner?

EB: Yeah. But it wasn't, it didn't look like that, it was only a little one room school. And, they built another room on to it and Miss Talmadge was the teacher at the time. So of course, the population increased and they built another room and every morning we had to go to Mrs. Talmadge's room, make our appearance there, know, know, that we were in school. She said they taken any debt (?) and when that line lined up, she was right there in front watching us. And there was no misbehavior, you better stay or you were yanked out of that line and plenty times you didn't know what you were being yanked out for maybe something happened out on the ground.

JL: But I'm sure you never got yanked out of line.

EB: No, thank heaven, I never. But, I'll tell you one thing, I learned more right in that old house up there, as far as learning lessons and things; by a man that worked with my father.

JL: Could you tell us about it please?

EB: And, I can see it just as plain, setting on his lap at the table learning my ABC's, spelling out words, and doing things like that and he had an A-number one education.

JL: Who was this gentleman?

EB: Uh, Lawrence Furlong, but, he was from Baltimore and he came here to work; and live with my father and work here, and he had ..., his mother kept a sailors' boarding house at Long dock in Baltimore. And she worked her fingers to the bone to give him an education which, it didn't do him a bit of good because he was a heavy drinker and he let that get the better of him and it just made everything hard for him. But my father would bring him down here and of course at that time, you had to go to Annapolis or Baltimore or somewhere for you could get any liquor or anything. Now you can go to your next door neighbor and get it. For a price. Oh and uh, we've had a pretty good life, my mother took care of me, I never went hungry, we had some tough times, and I worked as after I grew up, my father shucked oysters and I went to Marche's and shucked oysters, get up, the Emma Giles would come in around about 12:00 and he'd want to get an order every shipment out, it wouldn't matter, I'd get up at 3:00 in the morning and shuck oysters when I was 13. And we shucked till 9 o'clock and he cradled(?) by and barreled, those oysters, and put them in the boat and sometimes he had to row em to the steamboat wharf. Didn't have any wind that he could sail at that time and there weren't no motors then like they are now, and he rowed

them out, so then you had to get to Galesville, cause it was only in these later years that this side had a Tolchester boat coming in.

JL: Tell us what you did for entertainment when you were a young, grown young lady, like in your teens?

EB: Well, there was lots of things we could do. We never had no ___ call like they got now to have things and do things, but we would go from one house to the other, have parties, we used to have a man, we used to have a man that they, he used to walk from Deale up here, used to have a fiddle and he played the fiddle.

JL: And you would all meet at a certain place and listen ...

EB: And we would meet at a certain house we wouldn't all the time meet there, we'd go from one to the other, maybe just, when we was gonna have one, maybe just say we'd have it here, then the next time we'd have it to one of the other young people, and they take and ... well, we had, of course we had some classes that thought they were a little bit better than we were, they didn't associate with, and we had some of them, we didn't associate either. That was our crowd. When I grew on, my husband lives right there where Jack Nieman lives, 'at's where he was born and raised.

JL: When did you meet your husband and where?

EB: I went to school with him.

JL: In what grade did you meet your ...

EB: I used to fight like the dickens coming home, shove one another in the mud puddles and, I'm not kidding you, and I know when we had a hole, Bernie Springer was coming the road, each one would try to shove the other and see which one ...

JL: How old were you then?

EB: Well, I was, I started in when I was six ...

JL: When did you, what age did you meet your husband, what age were you in school when you met your husband?

JL: Oh, I was up in my twenties when I met him, I believe. He lived right here on the side of us and we were married in 1920. My daughter, she was born in '22, and my son ... he was born in '29.

JL: So you came down to live in a little house on the point when you were first married?

EB: No, I lived right here, just moved, stayed right in the home with my mother and dad ... I wanted my husband to go get a job, he had every opportunity when the war broke out, to have chance, that he could have, made his way up, uh ... he wouldn't accept it. He liked, he liked gunning and blinds and things and he didn't want to take and settle to anything he hadn't studied yet, until his later years.

JL: So what ...

EB: And I, of course, when the bank would come along and then the city people started coming out here and then after they started coming out here, well ... But I was born in Mt. Lyons (Zion?), that's where I was born at. And I was brought down on Cheston's Point over there and that's where my mother died. I have two right brothers and my father had been married before and he ..., she had two boys and a girl by her first husband and when and she married my dad, why she, uh, they had two boys and a girl. And momma's dead. And my sister, has uh, she's been dead about two years, I guess, now, my half sister, she was 91.

JL: You were talking about the summer people who came down here when you were young, what did you think about the summer people when they came down here then?

EB: Well, I'll tell you, you want me to express my thoughts?

JL: Yes ma'am, indeed I do. That's why we would like to get this on tape.

EB: Those people came down here, they thought these people down here were so poor they couldn't breath. And some of 'em come down here and when they found out the working people and what they done and how they worked and lived, it opened eyes like that. And one woman, I won't mention any names about it, but one woman came down here and she had a, her church in Washington, that she entertained once a summer, every summer she'd entertain them one day, and she had a lady that came out of her church down here and when she walked in the yard, looked around, she said, "Why on earth, she said, did you ever come in such a God forsaken place?" And so, I mean that woman walked on her and this woman had been a maid in her young days, in a kitchen, in Washington and she said, "Let me tell you something, I am living among a community of God fearing, hard-working people." Oh my land, look what's coming ...

JL: So, so...

EB: And she says, "I'll tell you this much, she said, if you don't like it, if you don't like it, there's the road, she can take and get in your car and go back and never come back here anymore."

JL: Well, did she come back?

EB: I don't know. Insert JL: Laughter. EB: I doubt it because I doubt if she'd have her.

JL: Laughter. Tell us some more stories about your ...

EB: She had a good class family and you ... and you never heard no disturbance or anything, lots of them down here, they were ... they had a good time, they would go out and swim and laugh.

JL: I heard about people skating on the river out here ... did you used to skate a lot?

EB: Yeah, I used to skate.

JL: And who did you used to go and skate with?

EB: You skate with the crowds ...

JL: What were some of their names, we would like to know.

EB: Oh, well I, oh, we used to have married and single, they'd all; they'd all just get out here together and have one good time. The old "Emma Giles", she was a side wheeler, the river would freeze left and she couldn't break the ice to get up to the wharves and they used to have the old "Susquehanna" that was a propell boat, and they'd bring her in, send her in to break the track up to the wharves, to get around to the wharves to get the groceries and things for the stores and things because they weren't no transportation, you picked ... a lot of these stores would take and take a double team of horses and wagon, drive to Annapolis, put their horses in overnight up there and stay over-night to rest them and then take and load them up the next morning and come back. That's how we got a lot of our stuff, when frozed out. And, they taken and, uh, they, my mother like a whole lot of them, Ennis Bast and whole crowds of them would go out skating and you could go skate clean out to the steamer, way out near to South River, and, uh, the captain, Captain Cobb(Kolb?), would come out and holler at them, "Come on aboard." And he'd get them all aboard and make them all get on the stern part of the boat so they would weight that down that when they; said full speed ahead, why the boat could run near to the whole length of the boat up on the strip of ice and then break it. Sometimes they'd have a icebreaker to come or the old "Latrobe" would come in, the ice breaker and they'd break them around to the wharves. Yeah, that's the way it was and you had to get everything that you got you'd have to get and have it hauled by steamer if it came from

Baltimore down, cause people, you could come down here, you could get corn, people asked to get ferried across the river there, he used to raise corn and stuff and people would go over there and buy the corn and have it, well they'd go over in a boat, if the river was open and get their corn, to feed their chickens, they raised chickens, my mother even in our later years my mother even raised a few turkeys right out here in this field. And, they had the, and as I grew up I just helped around and sometimes somebody would want a ceiling and rooms scrubbed down, I'd go do it. I'd get about a couple of dollars, maybe, in pay. Sometimes we'd work at back and forth that you come and help me, I'll come and help you. That's the way people lived them days. They didn't have any railways or anything, and sometimes, spring time it was time for them to pull up their boats for the spring to paint them and wash them off and get 'em ready, put copper bottoms on them, they'd pull ever who was gonna pull up, they'd go around and they'd tell the men and they'd all cling together, get together, well today we'll haul so and so's boat out. Then, when it come time for my daddy's, then Captain Jakie Linton and that gang all over in that area would come together, they'd all go down, put block and pulls on the boat, hook it to a tree, pull it out. And they could get... if they didn't have that, they'd take prys, a big pry and start her up, catch a high tide and start her up, then they'd take and get her up so far, then they'd block her up on blocks. Dry the boat out. There weren't any railways and things that you could go pull a boat out. Annapolis was the closest one. And they had the, the old Emma Giles would have excursions and we'd all ... she would go to Tolchester. We'd all get on that boat and go over to Tolchester for the day.

JL: Did it have an amusement park then?

EB: Yeah, they had things that you could take and get on over there, we used to have a good time.

JL: How much would it cost you to go from the, get on the Emma Giles and go to Tolchester?

EB: How much?

JL: How much did it cost?

EB: About a dollar and a half, two dollars.

JL: That was round trip?

EB: That was a round trip. And they used to take in to..., uh, a lot of people used to go from here to Annapolis and get on a train, not a bus, but a train, go from there to Ocean City if they wanted to spend some time after that opened. And that isn't like it is now down there, or the last time I was there, cause I haven't been there now for some time, cause Cecelia used to take and go down, there was a place down there that it was called, oh what was the name now of the hotel, Miss Timmens, her name was run it and Cecelia always went down during the summer on a weekend and then she'd go down on Friday and we'd go down on Sunday and get her, that's in our later years. She'd go and spend some time down there and we just, well it was just going and coming all the time, so you could amuse yourself with lots of things that was a lot different than what it is today. Course, there's too many things now that people can, you know, go in and enjoy themselves and have fun and things. Or you can go out in the middle of the river out here, throw you a couple line overboard and catch us a fish when you wanted. Now you don't see a fish unless you go to Lord knows where and sit down on the shore and little croakers like that, catch one after the other, just loaded. Now you're lucky if you get one in a day, I tell you. My daddy, whose dead and gone now 30 years, 31, going on 31 years, and I tell you, if he was here, he could give you the history of the bays and of the things and predictions that he made, when I was like that ...

JL: What type of predictions did he make?

EB: Well, he told them that when they built this Conowingo Dam up there, they were going to ruin the bays. Because, in the winter when we had these heavy snows and things all up that away and up in the mountains, when the spring thaw come on, why, the water, fresh water come down with, with a rush, and it would sweep to the bottom and stir up the filth and dirt and carry it on out to the ocean. And now since

they built that they don't come down fast enough and melt and, in fact, I don't think we have the winters now, snows and things like we had then.

JL: Were there other predictions he made about this area that you could tell us about?

EB: Well, he said when the city people started to come down here they were gonna;, one day, after he, after he saw one of them worked on, you know, worked around don't you know. But we do, we have some nice ones to come in now. I don't mean that, I'm not condemn the people around this place. But they are nice people, some of them are; that come around different times, and if you needed a help, they always come to the front and would help you with things you know as far as if you were ever broke down or something happened, they'd come, all you'd have to do is call, they'd come. But then, course they just got, I, I say that it's due to that is what is causing the high taxation that we have now on top of everything.

JL: What other predictions did your father make that you've seen come true?

EB: Well, I just live with it, through, mostly all of them that I said, he was a boy, as a boy his father used to take him down the James River and all around to fish and crab. They'd go down in February and as the water warmed up, the weather warmed up, they'd work their way up the bay. They tented down in, they'd pitch tent over on a farm or whatever shore where they'd ask permission if they could put their tent there and take and camp there. Farmers would come down, sit and talk to 'em and they'd take into, if they were near a corn field they'd tell them there was the corn there, go there and help yourself if you want a mess of corn. And they'd take and, uh, they'd work their way up, he's, they camped over here in Cheston's Creek. I mean at one time that's how he got to like this place from camping over there and living over there and he, just him and his father, just decided they'd like to settle here and father didn't live long, very long after he settled here, his father was, uh, a veteran. He was at Gettysburg with, uh, Grant, General Grant. That's my grandfather now, that's my daddy's father. With General Grant and he, uh, they were captured, taken prisoners and the South was marching up through Baltimore and he had never seen his son, his daddy, had never seen and he, uh, was marching and when he got up near where he lived, he said, "My," he said, "What I wouldn't give," he said, "to see my wife and son." and they met this guard going up, this guard, he said, you from here? He said yes, I live right over on that next street, they walked along awhile and after while he looked at his, that was my daddy Turner now, and my foster father, he looked at him and he said, his father, and he said to him, he said, I've got to go up the line here, he says, and if you're in this line when I come back, I'm gonna ram this bayonet in you, he meant for him to that close to home to get out. And he said the first alley that grandpap come to, zip, he was gone. Said they started to ones that was other prisoners they started to holler and he says you little SB, you better shut your mouth up, he says, or I'll ram the bayonet in all of you. But they were hollering because he was getting out to go up to lunch to see wife and baby. And, uh, daddy said his father said that General Grant was, the bullets were coming so close to him, that they were shooting the buttons off of his, shooting the buttons off of his coat. I said boy, I... Cecelia was telling a man one time about that her grandfather was with General Grant. He says, my, my, he said I wish he was living now, I could write a book on him. You can, you can write a book, I think you can get a lot out of those things. And she's been bringing me some books and I just finished one on Wyatt Earp. And I'd always thought that was just a make up book, but it's not that was reality with him. Just finished, I got to save them for my grandson, he likes to read. And there's ... there's all my babies up there. There's ...

JL: Tell us about your babies.

EB: Inaudible. This is, uh, my grand ... my youngest grandson, Paul, sitting on Santa Claus' lap.

JL: That's very nice.

EB: And this is the latest picture that I have of the two great grandchildren.

JL: How many great grandchildren do you have, Mrs. Bast.

EB: Just two.

JL: And how many grandchildren?

EB: Just two, two boys, Butch and, Butch and Paul.

End of Side 1

Continuing conversation with Mrs. Edna Bast.

EB: There's ...

JL: Yes ma'am?

EB: There one picture of her, this is my daughter now, with Mr. Pascale with her, presenting her with her twenty-four years of perfect attendance. No sick leave. That's my daughter, now, I'm talking about. She just retired after 38 years with the State - and she, - they give her a luncheon at Bay Ridge Inn and I didn't know whether I was going to be able to go, she called Ronnie and talked to her and Ronnie said, well I don't know, said with Grant working, I don't know just what time he gets in and she told her what happened, when to let her know if she could make it so the day before Ronnie says to me, Mom do you want to go? I said, well Ronnie, I can't go by myself. She said, well, she says, we'll try to work it out, she said, it won't last that long, she said, and I think that we can make it. So she had given me a pretty dress for Mother's Day and she got my dress out and hung it so it wouldn't get any wrinkles or anything in it and we went up there. Wound up, guest of honor. I thought when they, when Al came and told me that was for Cecelia's supervisor, which I knew him because we were use to going in there when Al was running the press, same as big George Galloway and Don Hall was doing. The one that more people I think, I think they had pretty well about near every one of them there that was able to come; wasn't sick; that was able to come and could take and,uh, represent and she had one, two, three, four, it was four of the big wigs there as speaker. And she, she sat next to the thing where they were standing, I was next to her and her supervisor was between Ronnie and I and, uh, we had, and my gosh, it run till way in the evening. She had 87 of the State employees and including Charlie E. Hart, big wig, and all of them, that spoke. And she had one man got up and spoke, my Lord, if you, if you could of seen the letters and the things she was getting, certificates and things, I thought there wasn't going to be no end, she's,uh, well they made her, she has an album about that thick that they made up of the pictures. And, she's getting a set for me and a set, I think she said, she's getting a set for me and a set for Ernie, made up.

JL: Speaking of pictures, you just showed me a photograph album, would you like to tell us some of the pictures you have in it?

EB: Well, this is one of 'em, this is one that I am ... Lanie was going through for something. I don't know what it was. Lanie was, she was going to something or the other and she come to gather some pictures I had. These are some of them, now this, now this is my daddy here, and this woman, she was sick, so daddy said to, daddy used to ship crabs to her husband. He had a crab place.

JL: It says here that these ...

EB: Landing on Steamboat Wharf ... Bob Wright, Ulysses Turner, and that's my brother standing there and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith with her daughter. They come down and stayed cause she was sick and daddy thought maybe she'd come down she could feel better from it. Then this is the landing at Galesville, that Estella Turner, now that Estella Turner, is my mother, that foster mother. And this is my daddy's aunt and this is his cousin, and this is him, this was his last boat, he bench built that he was finishing up.

JL: What type of boat was it?

EB: Bateau.

JL: A bateau?

EB: And this is a crowd of them standing on the wharf of Galesville and this lady she, that was daddy's foster mother, his mother died, too, when he was young and this Aunt Sis, married her husband's brother and then they had daddy and another group of children. And this is my mother, foster mother, and these is the two cousins of my daddy's. And this is a crowd, now, some of these I don't know. This is my mother and this is daddy, uh, daddy's cousin's daughter.

JL: It says that they're standing on the deck of the Emma Giles.

EB: Yeah, and, uh, this is the cousin, one of the cousin's sons. Um, and this is where we're pulling into the wharf and daddy, he's directing me how to steer the boat in there so I wouldn't bump the wharf.

JL: What a beautiful young lady.

EB: And this is Eddy Bast - cutting ice and hauling on the ice, hauling his oysters to Galesville.

JL: What year would you say that car is?

EB: Land knows, I don't know! This is only the truck, uh ...

JL: Oh, it's a truck.

EB: Now this is the cab of a truck and this is the back part of it, they had boards on in and this is Jeannette standing here, now you remember Jeannette, I know ...

JL: Yes ma'am.

EB: And, uh, this is where they're putting the oysters in the thing to put it on the boat, on the drag.

JL: Would you like to tell us what is written on this next page?

EB: "Tonging for oysters in the middle of West River, hauled to Galesville by drag, Eddie and Jeannette Bast, Ralph Lee and Charley Bast." That's them, that's them. And Ralph Bradley had a little fuzzy faced dog and Ralph grabbed that when I took that picture and he's got the dog up and one of them said, "Oh, we don't know the dog from you." Grant had ... uh, ... Ralph had a beard and the dog had - was fuzzy around the face and he had it right up along side his jaws like this. And this is Cecelia when she was cited in '81 for her 24 years of perfect work attendance. She run the address-o-graph and collator machine in the print shop and she was, from the time she went down in there, by the print shop, she never left it. She never, she could have went up two or three time in personnel and up in among the others, she didn't want it, she wanted her crowd she was with. She got along so good with them.

JL: More delightful ...

EB: Now this is Raymond Bast and my Grant, Grant, Sr., on an iceboat Charley made for them, "Homemade ice boat in 1940". And this is my father here, that's at the Jamestown Exposition, he was a carpenter and he went down with the carpenters union and, uh, they were down there and set up for that. This is Ronnie, my daughter-in-law, and her father-in-law sitting on the cabin of Charley's boat. So, we got her in there. She just wanted the _____. Now, this is a, this man here, he was, uh, daddy's cousin's husband and this boat in this bottle was put in there, was made for him in 1800. Early 1800 and he was a tug boat, he went down and met these big ships coming in, they used to have to tug 'em in, run the tugs along side them and tug them into the docks and things, where ever they were going in, German, England, whatever ship it was, they had to meet them, so he went home one night and he told his wife, he said El, I'm getting tired, he said, of tug boating. She said, "Oh really?" she said, "what are you going to do then?" She said you don't know anything else. He said that's alright, I'm going to be on the water. So

he went down to the Old Bay Line and they give him a steamer to sail; down Norfolk and Lord knows, all around. And, they say he couldn't be beat. Say they'd be standing down there to the, uh, piers where they come in steam ships come, steam boats come in.

JL: He was a friend of the family or a relative?

EB: He was uh, husband of Daddy's cousin, Alan Stark, Captain Stark, his name was and he, uh, said they'd all be standing around, they'd say well, a lot of times, you know, when it's a heavy snow storm or it's bad weather or something, they wouldn't send the boats out, the steamers out, they'd hold them over till the next morning or so and some of them said they'd be setting there and they'd say, Well, what, what boat is due tonight? And they'd say well, so and so, Captain Stark, they said, "He'll be here." And at that time they didn't sail by compass or anything, and they said, believe me weather or not that boat would come in, snow storm, you couldn't see, hardly see the bow of the boat. And this is, this is my foster mother, when she was younger. And this is my foster father and a friend of his' in and his father and he come down in later years and used to come down in the summer and stay with us all the summer and winter he'd go back and stay with his nephew. And this is Cecelia when she was a baby. And this is my foster father, my mother, Eddie Bast in there, Manny Newsupe(?), he was a cousin of Daddy's, her daughter, and this is Charley's, my husband's father, Fred Bast.

JL: How many years were you and Mr. Charley married?

A: If he had of lived till the following November, we would have been married 64 years. And this is my mother and daddy taking out now, in our front yard after he had put his cement wall up there. Then after the two kids come, he had to put a fence around there because he was afraid they'd fall off of that wall in the river. And this is Uncle Ben and Daddy's, it was her sister-in-law, his sister-in-law, she was a widow and we used to tease them nearly to death (chuckle). And this is the side view of our house up there going from here up to the wharf, this is the side view. And you know what's happening there?

JL: No ma'am, would you like to tell us, please?

A: When Grant went in the Navy, I didn't think I was gonna, he was gonna survive, my son now, Grant, when he went in the Navy, I tell you I thought, I didn't think she's gonna make it to see him get out of it. And this is Ralph Lee and now ask me who all these are, cause I don't know, but I know my father's out there and Charley Bast, well I wasn't married to him then, and Ralph Lee, Clarence Selenton(?), and a bunch of them cutting ice out here in the middle of the river, cutting a track there so the boats could get out to go to work. That's the way they used to do. And this is Cecelia language teacher in Southern High School. And this is another part of our house, that's this end out here. That's Daddy's boat. That's my daddy's boat.

JL: And did he build that boat?

EB: Huh?

JL: Did he build that boat?

EB: No. This was a log, this was a log boat. It was hewed out, out of a log. This is a boat that was give to Grant, no this is the old same one here, this is Dad's boat. And this is a man that rented my, the cottage up there where Weaver's live now. And this is Daddy, this is Charley and this is Ed Kline, friend of ours. And when we built, when Daddy built the wall, one day that's Eddie and I sitting on the wall with his dogs sitting ...

JL: Oh, you were big then, you weren't going to fall off, were you?

EB: No, I was all married then, when that was happening. And this is a friend of my mother's and Cecelia when she was little. And this is where they used to, if they had the boats off shore, anchored off shore, and it frozed up, turned real cold and froze up over night, they would cut a track in and bring the

boat in to along side the wharf, the little wharves they had. And this is my mother, my daddy, and, uh, she's my sister-in-law, she was a half sister to Charley, Ora Wilde. They all stand down there and we taken pictures of them. And this is, this is Charley, and ...

JL: Looked like he liked to fish...

EB: Fish? That isn't fish.

JL: What is it?

EB: Them's frogs!

JL: Frogs, my goodness look at all those frogs ... I did look at it wrong.

EB: Yeah, this is Mickey (inserted later: Thomas), do you know Mickey? He's dead now.

JL: No, no.

EB: Mae Thomas's, Mae Owings, she was, Preston Owings' sister.

JL Did you used to go frogging with them?

EB: No. And, uh, this is Mickey, this is Grant, and this is Charley. They'd went frogging and they strung them all up so we could take a picture of them. There they are with Grant and Mickey's two twins, with the frogs. Then this is our boat, that's Charley's boat that he had.

JL: What was the name of the boat?

EB: "Norma". And this is Mr. Hahn. Daddy used to sit down under the tree there and read his paper. Daddy, he's reading the paper and Pap Hahn, he's sitting around there talking to himself. And this is the Higgins' children. And that's Charley's youngest sister, she died the first year she went in school with diphtheria. And this is the boat Daddy built. And this is when Grant was, he wasn't married to Ronnie then, he had met her and she had come down, he had a leave from the Navy and he was home. And this is a friend of Cecelia's. And this is Grant, I believe, on the ship that he was on when he was in the Navy. And this is Ronnie up in front of their place in Philadelphia. She ... now this is a couple; that's painted, she painted two pictures, she was, uh, they ... the man had brought the place over here and Hovel rent it from them. So he was something with the government at the time, it was during the war, and lo and behold. Helen and George, they, we, we got, to know 'em, to come, and that's their picture, she's the one that painted the one you've got in the other room there. And this is Ronnie and Grant out, Ronnie and Cecelia out in the yard. This is where they used to cut up when they come down.

JL: What did ... oh my goodness ...

EB: Yeah, Cecelia playing with her boots. That's over at Mt. Vernon. We had a, this young fellow, here took us all, took Ronnie and Cecelia and I over there.

JL: Well, Mrs. Bast, would you like to tell us what is your best memory of Shady Side when you were young?

EB: Well, I, I just think I have real good memory of it. And there's lots of things that I have looked back on and I was more for water and things, I like going down the water and then some things and, uh, after the children come we used to get out after I got married and we, we'd get out in the boat with the kids and go fishing. And this here young fellow here, he was in the service at the time, he, uh, was a friend, Cecelia's first boss. And this is a boy she went to school, went to Southern with. And this is when Grant was in the Navy, this is him and Ronnie up in the statehouse grounds sitting on the _____.

JL: Would you reminisce a little bit more about Shady Side for us, please? Are there other ... you must know other interesting things about Shady Side. What was done here and the things you did or ...

EB: Well ... it was just an ordinary, everyday life. You went along, you worked, and you felt like you won ... we used to ... Mr. Nowell used to have a boarding house and every Saturday night they used to have a dance there. And we'd go to that, stand, we didn't dance, I didn't dance, but we used to stand and watch the other ones. Knock down, drag out, throw 'em off the floors when they weren't dancing right and, uh, Captain Charley Hartge, he was up there, he used to have them on Friday nights, I believe. And we sometimes would walk down there. But you had to walk everywhere you wanted to go then, you didn't have no car then that could be jumped in and run _____.

JL: I imagine it was dirt roads then too, wasn't it?

EB: Yes, all dirt roads. It was just in the later years that we had a road up here that was paved. And county took it over. And, uh, we walked out ... we used to like to go to the colored camp meetings, they used to have camp meetings out there, right, right across from the old Centenary Church, in a wooded area where it's all cleared out now. It was a wooded area and boy they'd just get up there and we'd be all standing on road watching like a bunch of youngsters.

JL: We'd listen to them sing and ...

EB: Yes, oh they used to be happy and they used to have, and they used to always have somebody that could really shout it out to them. He kept them all spell bound listening. Put me in mind of Jesse Jackson when he gets on that there TV. And it's just one of those things that you live by and live with, you _____.

JL: So, then you had very happy memories of Shady Side.

EB: Yes, I do. I have good memories of Shady Side. And as I say, up until the city people come they just, it just seems like the things just, as far as I'm concerned, it didn't bother me too much, cause I was up in my years then and settled down now, and leave them.

JL: Would you mind telling us how old you are, Mrs. Bast?

EB: I am, I'll be 88 in December, in December.

JL: And you've had lots of years in Shady Side, then?

EB: Well, that's why I told you, now Jack Nieman and not Jack's father is older than I am. And I guess he could give you a lot more that I could give you, cause we all, we all went to school together. But then they were all up pretty tall things over top me. If you look at our pictures, you couldn't take and see me, bunch of little ones we all, us little ones was all just ... (insert JL: Mrs Bast) get out on the school grounds and play, this one teacher we had, you better not be standing off and not be in with some of them. She did, she was out there coming to find out why ... if you had patched clothes, lot of them didn't want to play with you ... un, uh ... and she come out and if you were standing on the side and you weren't playing with them, if you had a patch in your dress or darned patch on your stocking, cause in them days they patched them, and you had patches on em, what's a matter, you're not playing with them ... they won't let me play. Boy, she'd go around and break up the ring, what they were playing, ring-around-the-rosie, or something, she'd break that thing in and put you right there.

JL: How many years did you go to school in Shady Side?

EB: Well, I tell you the truth, I didn't have too much schooling, to stay in the school. I'd start, and then like I say, when it got a little bit cold, it was too cold, I couldn't, you'd have to walk and I couldn't go. If it rained, I might get wet, and if you ... roads was muddy and, uh, and I never had, at them times as much as you could, that people could drag along to make you know, a now they could be some of these old heads could come back and see the prices crabs, fish, all those kind of things.

JL: So, could you ...

EB: Wait, now, there's another thing, how long, can you realize how long we had electric here?

JL: No ma'am, I would like for you to tell us.

EB: Ronnie, (insert Ronnie: Yeah.) Grant will be 54 won't he? (Insert Ronnie: 55) 55 That's how long we've had electricity. He was born the 10th of August, he'll be 55 next month and he was born the 10th of August, 15th of October the electricity was turned on here.

JL: Did it make a big difference?

EB: I'll say it made a big difference. And my son don't like painting, he don't like to paint, I said no wonder cause when he was, when I was pregnant with him I was painting shutters, Daddy was painting the house and I was painting shutters.

JL: When did you get your first telephone down here?

EB: Now, now I don't know. My half sister was the first one to have one and that was over here at, uh, Delores' house. It was over there at Lewis' house and I really couldn't tell you when we first got that. But she was the first one and then Charley Perry over here on the shore, his wife had the next one.

JL: Did the people go around and use the telephones of the people that had them?

EB: Yes, they, you could go and use them. And it was supposed to be, you could have local calls, like going to the store and them kind of things, why you'd just take and go and call and not pay.

JL: What stores were down here then?

EB: Mr. Will Owings, Mr. Bob Nowell, and that was about all then, at that time. At that time, then the, uh, Brashear's opened up where you lived, he bought that over.

JL: When did he open up a store there, I've often wondered myself.

EB: Well, lets see, er, uh, Grant was going to high school and they had it open. Grant, I guess Grant was going to grade school then. Yeah, I don't think he'd entered high yet ... and built, cause Mrs. Hartge had the store first, she had a little store, but she did not, you know, she didn't sell ... care to ... much sell. And then Mr. Brashear's cousin, he opened the one up where, uh, Captain is now. And then they sold out to somebody else. Then (inserted later: Lynn) Siegert had one for awhile and then Mr. Paulus bought from ... I think, Edward Leatherbury and Woody Avery was running it. And then they had a ... and that was about all I guess we had ... all that we had in Shady Side. So I, that is just about what I can, about what I can ...

JL: Well, what do you think of Shady Side now?

EB: Well, I guess it's all right.

JL: We thank you very much...

EB: Nice time, you know my time is nearing to an end, I am, of course we got to, we got to live with the people now. Times changes.

JL: We thank you very much Mrs. Bast and we will treasure this tape. Thank you very much.

EB: Uh huh, you're welcome.