



Interview of F. Ray Weems
Interviewed by Ginger Corson
Date of Interview: **November 15, 2001**
Oral History Chairperson: Mavis Daly
Video by George Daly



Transcribed by: Donna Williams: January 31, 2004
Edited by: Lynn DePont, October 9, 2004

[Tape begins after Ms. Corson had begun to introduce Mr. Weems.]

Interviewer Ginger Corson: ...2001 and we're having a visit today with Ray Weems who's going to share his memories of Shady Side with us. Thanks for joining us today.

Ray Weems: You're welcome. Thank you for inviting me.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: So, let's start with your full name and when and where you were born.

Ray Weems: OK, my full name is Fernando Ray Weems, and I was born in Shady Side, Maryland in 1936.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And how about your parents? What are their full names?

Ray Weems: My father's was Fernando Wilson Weems and my mother was Mamie Lena.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK, What was Mamie Lena's maiden name?

Ray Weems: Jenkins.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. And where were they born?

Ray Weems: My Dad was born in Shady Side, and my mother was born either in Alabama or Texas, I'm not 100% sure right now.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: You said something about her; she went to college and then came to Shady Side?

Ray Weems: She graduated from Baylor College in Texas and then came to Maryland to teach school.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Do you know where Baylor College is in Texas by any chance?

Ray Weems: I believe it's in the central part of Texas.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Like around San Antonio or something?

Ray Weems: I believe it is.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about your grandparents? Did you know them at all?

Ray Weems: Yes, because they lived with us when we were young. I know they both were born in Alabama.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. What were their names?

Ray Weems: Now you got me! [Laughing.]

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Was this the Weems side or your mother's side.

Ray Weems: My mother's side.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Your mother's side, OK.

Ray Weems: I'd have to think about that.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. How about the Weems grandparents?

Ray Weems: They were born, my grandfather was born in the West River area; and my grandmother, I'm pretty sure, was born in England. She was a Hartge, in that family.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And what was her name?

Ray Weems: Her name was Ida Hartge.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Is that Ida Belle?

Ray Weems: Ida Belle, correct.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK, and she was from England, not Germany? I think I heard she came from Germany.

Ray Weems: I think she might've; I'm getting that confused a little bit.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. And then you know your grandfather Weems' name?

Ray Weems: He was Wilson T. Weems, Wilson Thomas Weems [of Red Top Farm].

Interviewer Ginger Corson: All right. When you were growing up, did you have any aunts or uncles that lived near by?

Ray Weems: Yes, I had an aunt that lived in Friendship, who was on my father's side, her name was Aunt Sarah, and I had Ida Grimes, who was also my father's sister, that lived in the Annapolis area.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. So there were like, cousins that would wind up around the house.

Ray Weems: Yeah.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about your brothers and sisters; you want to name them for me?

Ray Weems: Well, I had four sisters and two brothers. My oldest sister is Angelyn, then came my brother [Richard] Dick, then my brother [Wilson] Dale, Martha, myself, a younger sister Nancy, and Marianne.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And do any of those live near by?

Ray Weems: Angelyn lives in Edgewater; Dale lives in Maine (he is now deceased), Dick

still lives in Shady Side. My sister Martha just recently moved back here [Virginia] from the east coast of Texas; Nancy lives in South Atlanta, Georgia; and Marianne lives in Greenville, South Carolina. [Note: Marianne died on March 22, 2004. See obituary at the end of this transcript.]

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Now how long has your family lived in Shady Side? Do you have any projection on when the Weems first got here?

Ray Weems: Well, based on a book that my sister's family did, probably early 1800's, late 1700's.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Do you know where they came from?

Ray Weems: They came from Scotland, in this area.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Can you describe for me exactly where you grew up, like where the house was?

Ray Weems: The house is still there, on West River Road; and there's been some changes now from when we grew up there, but it's still standing.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: When you're going down West River Road, is it the first house on the right?

Ray Weems: That's the big house on the right.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Do you know who lives there now?

Ray Weems: No I don't know who bought that there on South Creek, on the left from the back of the house.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. What kind of amenities did it have when you were growing up that might have been a wonderment?

Ray Weems: Electricity and I remember we had the bathroom put in; then, later, a telephone.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That was a big deal, huh?

Ray Weems: I think it was.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Ok. How about church? Did you all go to church on a regular basis?

Ray Weems: We went to the Methodist Church

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Which one?

Ray Weems: Centenary Methodist Church.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK, how about school?

Ray Weems: I went to Shady Side Elementary and Southern High School.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Alright, and describe the elementary school for us; the building, the teachers, the principal, school grounds.

Ray Weems: Well, it was a four-room, if I remember, and Miss Ethel Andrews was the principal, and Mrs. Nowell was the teacher then 'Nellie Nowell,' her name was, I think they called her; also Mrs. Linton was a teacher there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Were any of them a particular favorite or a particular fear?

Ray Weems: Well I don't want to say 'fear,' but school was important not only to learn out of books, but you learned a lot about the way things should be done and how you should do it. And if you didn't do it, you heard about it when you got home. [Laughing.]

Interviewer Ginger Corson: What type of chores did you have to do before you went off to school?

Ray Weems: Well, there were seven of us and all of us had something to do. So I took care of the chickens and got the eggs in the evening. Also, it was my job to get kindling wood overnight and have it for the next morning.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And how about your brothers and sisters, did they have any special chores that may be one had a better chore than the other or something? Do you remember any rivalry like that?

Ray Weems: Well, not really. I think the chores were pretty well delegated according to age. As you got older it got a little more difficult for you.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Ok, that sounds pretty fair [Laughing.]

Ray Weems: You had cows to milk and pigs to feed and all that, so.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That's incredible, when you think that growing up you had all those animals around; and now, if somebody had a cow in their yard, you'd think it was a big deal.

Ray Weems: They'd call the police!

Interviewer Ginger Corson: [Laughing.] What types of things did your family do for fun, like going to the beach or park or zoo anything like that?

Ray Weems: Well, we never really went to the beach. Being on the farm, a lot of us kids and always four or five more kids in the neighborhood then, we kind of made our own fun. We'd play ball, and in summer we went swimming in the river and did crabbing. In winter we did a lot of ice-skating.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about crabbing? What would you do to crab?

Ray Weems: We either do dip netting or called a seine, you know, a net that you pulled along to catch crabs.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about soft crabs? Did you ever go out soft crabbing?

Ray Weems: Quite a bit.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Did you do it same way?

Ray Weems: Just netting and we did pull seine; and if we caught some hard crabs and soft crabs, too, it was a big thing.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: [Laughing.] It still is! Did you ever go on vacation or take any trips that you remember?

Ray Weems: I really don't remember us taking a vacation. We'd visit members of family. We had cousins on the Eastern Shore and Annapolis. I guess back at that time, Chesapeake Beach, we'd go down for the afternoon. We always had the Farm Bureau Picnics down in that area

Interviewer Ginger Corson: What about family reunions? Have you all ever gotten together, all of you?

Ray Weems: Yes, when we were growing up, that was our big summer activity. Everybody looked forward to the family reunion in August. It would be uncles, aunts and cousins there, a lot of relatives there. My father believed in family getting together, and for the last few years, we've had some in our generation.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Good. When you were growing up and you were sick, what did your family do? Was the doctor called, or did you use herbs or any special concoctions?

Ray Weems: Well, we often talk about that. You know, we didn't have a family doctor, all of us are still here. So, I guess there was a lot of family remedies for colds and sore throats.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Anything you remember in particular?

Ray Weems: You mean any particular sickness?

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Right, a treatment that you received.

Ray Weems: I do remember when I was probably five or six, I had scarlet fever, and the doctor come there. And, of course, they had me quarantined upstairs in my room, and the other brothers and sisters would sneak up and all those things. But I guess I was there for a period of time and got better.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: You didn't get any horrible pills or anything that you took while you were quarantined?

Ray Weems: My mother gave me some pills. I guess I took some pills, I really can't remember. I remember we all got measles, one got 'em and we all got 'em. There'd be four or five of us in a room with the measles. Then the mumps came. I guess it was a matter of time, and they cured us.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Do you remember the doctor's name at all?

Ray Weems: I remember a Dr. John down in Avalon Shores.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: I've heard him mentioned a lot.

Ray Weems: He was right across the river, but you'd have to drive around to get to him, I guess it was kind of a situation that we weren't used to. So whatever you did, you didn't know any different.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Well, that's kind of good.

Ray Weems: Oh, yes. Right.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And you just got the normal thing.

Ray Weems: I did fall off a horse one time, and my father was cultivating the garden or whatever, and I was up on a horse. I think I fell asleep, I mean I fell off and sprained my arm. They thought it was broken and they took me over to him. And I remember him putting a splint on it. That was a big thing.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Were there any memorable traditions that your family practiced, like every Sunday you would do a certain thing or eat a certain thing?

Ray Weems: Well, just about every Sunday we went to church, and I remember my Dad killing five or six chickens on Saturday so we could have them on Sunday, whether it would be fried or baked. Because when we sat down and it was usually seven of us, and my mother and father and grandmother and grandfather. So there was enough there. We consumed a little bit of food.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Sure, wow! Now can you remember any stories about old, old Shady Side that somebody might have told you when you were a child? You know, that are long gone?

Ray Weems: I guess one of the things that really sticks in my mind [telephone rings in background]..they would take the sleigh or whatever out on the West River and cut ice and put it in the icehouses, and the real deep snows, you know, that sticks in my mind.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: So it was mostly weather-related?

Ray Weems: And summer-related. The activities that went on at the Hotel Andrews.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Anything specific?

Ray Weems: Not really, other than just having a good time, I heard people were talking about it.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That was a big deal?

Ray Weems: That was a big deal, 'cause they had their own fishing boat. And I remember them talking about steamboats coming, and the *'Emma Giles.'*

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Anybody ever actually get on it that you knew?

Ray Weems: Probably some of my relatives that came from Baltimore.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. What inventions or development changed your life and how when you were growing up?

Ray Weems: Well, I guess when we finally got electricity it started to change our lives and everybody else's in the neighborhood, and television, I guess, was another big thing.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: When you got electricity, how did it get there? Did somebody have to come, I mean, did everybody get it at the same time? Or you got it because you knew somebody? Or you had the money? Do you remember any of the details of that?

Ray Weems: Ginny, I really don't. I remember there was some people that didn't have it and a lot of people that did. How that was gotten or why, I guess whatever was available, and I guess being able to pay for it had something to do with it.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: It was probably like indoor plumbing where a lot of older people said 'I don't want that in my house.'

Ray Weems: That's exactly, they were used to that lamp and they wanted to keep it.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Sure. Did anybody in your family ever serve in the military?

Ray Weems: Yes, all three of us brothers did.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: During any particular war or just.....

Ray Weems: My brother, Dale, was in during the Korean War and then when my brother Dick went in when the Korean War was over; and then when I went in it was a conflict, but it wasn't in wartime.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Which branch of the service?

Ray Weems: I was in the Army, and my brother Dick was in the Army, and Dale was in the Navy and Air Force.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Uh ok. Tell me a little bit more about your father, like what was his occupation, where did he work?

Ray Weems: Well, I remember Dad being more of a farmer, and in later years he was sanitarian for the health department; and I guess it was a little bit before my time that I can remember, but he was a Deputy Sheriff for Anne Arundel County. And he used to tell us stories about that.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Any you'd care to share?

Ray Weems: I guess he used to talk a lot about the bootlegging situation that was going on back in those days. 'Course as a kid, it was always exciting to hear about those stories. In the winter when it would snow, we used to always sit around, and he'd always tell us stories because there wasn't anything else to do. So they were fond memories.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Cool. How about your Mom? Did she work outside the home?

Ray Weems: Well, Mother taught school in Anne Arundel County after the kids were raised, and before that I think she was a teacher for 37 years.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Wow! Now your mother lived a really long life, didn't she?

Ray Weems: Yeah. She died; she was just about ready to turn 91 when she died.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And how old was your Dad when he passed?

Ray Weems: Dad died in '74.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: 'Cause I mean your mother died just recently?

Ray Weems: Yeah, about four years ago.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Wow. When you were growing up, where would you go -- well, obviously you didn't have to buy eggs, didn't look like you had to go anywhere for milk. How about sugar and flour?

Ray Weems: Well the one I remember most, I guess, is the one right across the road from where it used to be, is Renno's. Well, it's still Renno's; but before that, it used to be, I think, a fellow named Crompton opened it first?

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Ok. Al right.

Ray Weems: And then I think Renno bought it, I know the family bought it. But I remember further up the road you used to go up to Dent Road, and there's a Crandall's store there. I used to go with my Dad. Leatherbury's store on the corner at Cedarhurst Road. And then there was Swinburns' store as you come down across from Andrews Hotel.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: So, he didn't have a particular favorite?

Ray Weems: No, we never went that much to really get anything.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Now when you bought sugar and flour; how did it come?

Ray Weems: Flour, I remember the big bags of flour, you know, like this [shows height from floor with hand] and sugar, probably bigger than they are now. I remember my father taking wheat and corn off to get it ground up for flour and buckwheat, cakes and those types of things.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Where would you take that?

Ray Weems: We'd take it up to a place in Lothian on 408. There was a Moreland Store there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Oh, no kidding? I hadn't heard anybody talk about that yet. Do you remember a store down here, like across from the ball field?

Ray Weems: Yeah, that was, in later years it became a surplus store. You know, I can't recall the name. Brashear's! Brashears had that store. I'm not sure.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Do you remember a Hartge being in on that?

Ray Weems: No, I don't; that was before my time.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. When did you move away from home?

Ray Weems: Well, I was drafted in the Army in 1958, and that was my first trip away from home. And I was gone for two years.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Where did you go?

Ray Weems: In the service?

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Yes.

Ray Weems: When I was drafted, I went to South Carolina for some training; and I went to Texas for infantry training.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Which part?

Ray Weems: Fort Hood. I left that area, and I was sent to West Point, New York, there for reception services and stayed my time at the Military Academy.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Oh, cool!

Ray Weems: So I had pretty good duty there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Tough winters?

Ray Weems: Yeah, right.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about marriage? When were you married and to whom?

Ray Weems: Let's see. I married Janet Turner from Tracy's Landing, and we got married in 1962. Boy, I hope that's right. [Laughing.]

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Well, if it's not 'on the nose'..... And how did you meet Janet?

Ray Weems: Well, Janet was a good friend of my younger sister, Marianne; they went to school together. And, of course, she would visit us, and they were always there. At that time, you know, they were just little kids to me, and Marianne was the youngest. Then when I was gone for two years and came back, my sister grew up and also Janet did. So the next thing you know, we dated and we got married.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about children?

Ray Weems: We have two daughters, Brenda and Laurie. Brenda is now 39 and Laurie is 34.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Now I understand you have a family business?

Ray Weems: Yes.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Tell me more about that.

Ray Weems: The name of the business is Southern Maryland Cable. We started it in 1982 and worked for the telephone company and we've grown from a couple of employees to a little over a hundred.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: I read in the newspapers you're one of the largest employers in Southern Anne Arundel County.

Ray Weems: Yeah, I read that, too!

Interviewer Ginger Corson: You were surprised? [Laughing.]

Ray Weems: Well, I never really paid that much attention to it.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: So, who would be interested in your services?

Ray Weems: Well, we do work for Verizon Communications and several other communications companies. We do a lot of work for the Federal government, and Calvert County government and Frederick County government. We've done work for Anne Arundel County, and we've done pretty much of the hook-ups for the Anne Arundel new Medical Center.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Well, good.

Ray Weems: And do work in several states.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And all four of you work in the....

Ray Weems: All four of us work together.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That's neat. Now are your girls married at all.

Ray Weems: Yeah, Brenda, the oldest, is married, and she has three children, two girls and a boy. And Laurie, she was married, she's divorced now, and she has a son, 9.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Well, that is just so cool. And so how far is work away from home?

Ray Weems: My home (pointing to himself)? About 700 feet. [Laughing.] It's right behind the business, it's set up right behind the house, we have a building, an office building in back. Brenda lives in Virginia, and she works three days per week out of her home, sometimes four, and Laurie lives in Annapolis, and she's there everyday.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Cool place to work. Now how did you come about these skills, to be in this line of work? I mean, how did you learn to do them?

Ray Weems: Well, I was born and raised on the farm, and when I came home from the service, we were still doing the farm operation. And as time went on, and labor and what have you, we sold the farm, and I went to work for the utility contractor, and I got the opportunity to go with Levitts & Sons, the builders there, and I went there and got the training in home utilities. And then I became a private manager in which I dealt with telephone people, and electric people, and I got licensed and everything to join. So, in 1972 I partnered with a fella, he and I started doing work with the telephone company, and we worked together for ten years; and then he wanted to go one way and I wanted to go the other, so we broke apart, and I started Southern Maryland Cable.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Neat, neat. Alright. Let's go back to "old time" Shady Side again, and I want you to tell me about any colorful or interesting characters you remember or that you knew in the community.

Ray Weems: Oh, boy! Everybody was interesting, I guess, in their own way, I guess I have to say the most colorful person was Miss Ethel Andrews, what do you want to call it, a kind of the "unofficial mayor," that was well-respected and that's kind of a hard one right off the bat.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Well, I remember in growing up that there were lots of people that you'd see walking down the side of the road, that there was usually a story behind them. Anybody like that come to mind? Jim Brent comes to mind. [Laughing.]

Ray Weems: Yeah, a lot of the black people walked and had their own distinction of size, and the way they dressed. But when I think back now, there was a lot of people that just walked on the road.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Ok. Do you remember hearing of anybody famous ever coming to Shady Side?

Ray Weems: No I can't. I don't know what you mean by famous, like an actor or...?

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Yeah. Well, I mean because I know we had our own Senator here with James Atwell. But I'd heard that Babe Ruth was in town to go fishing and things like that. But nobody ever came across West River Road?

Ray Weems: I don't remember that.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. All right, tell me about the bay freezing over?

Ray Weems: I can remember the times I would see the barges out on the bay. I really don't recall anybody going out with a sleigh or cars or anything which the older generation talks about; but I remember us ice skating in most of the areas around here that we thought was half-way safe that we could ice skate on.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: 'Cause you could go clear to Galesville.

Ray Weems: Oh, yeah, we used to skate from our house to Galesville frequently. It was one of our means of transportation, if you wanted to go to Galesville.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And what would you do when you were in Galesville?

Ray Weems: We'd always take some shoes or boots with us, and we'd wander around, and try not to get in trouble and come back home.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: [Laughing.] Oh, Ok.

Ray Weems: But the wind would usually blow straight down the river where we lived, and we usually took a big old blanket or a sheet, and two or three of us would hold onto that and the wind would bring us home.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That is so cool!

Ray Weems: That was a lot of fun.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Wow, I mean that was technically a sport in and of itself. You don't see anybody doing that any more.

Ray Weems: And occasionally we'd build our own little ice boat out of a sleigh and have a little sail on it, take it around there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That's neat. How about flooding?

Ray Weems: I guess it was later years, maybe in high school, we used to go sleigh riding up at Cumberstone. They had a big old farm back in there that had some nice hills on it, and we'd always sleigh ride.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: You thought I said sledding? I said 'flooding'.

Ray Weems: Flooding! Oh, I'm sorry.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: That's Ok, [Laughing.] 'cause that was a good story, too.

Ray Weems: You know, I only remember one time when we had one of the hurricanes, and I'm not sure which one that was, that the water came way up in our backyard; and I guess the house from the river is probably 200' or so, and the water did come up that high.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Did it get in the house?

Ray Weems: No, it probably halfway up there that time.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Wow! Do you remember if it was in the 60's, '70's or '50's?

Ray Weems: That was probably in the '50's. And it used to always flood out on the road there by, just before Renno's Market, that little dip there?

Interviewer Ginger Corson: By Lula G. Scott?

Ray Weems: Yeah.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Right, right. I think it still does. [Laughing.] Ok. I'm going to mention a few places associated with early Shady Side and you tell me what you remember about them or remember hearing about 'em: The Andrews Hotel?

Ray Weems: I remember Andrews Hotel very much because, like I said earlier, my Dad used to raise a lot of vegetables and stuff, and he'd take 'em down to Miss Ethel. Miss Ethel used to buy corn, tomatoes and eggs, and butter, and I used to be with him most of the time and he took me down there. And then as my brothers got older, they took them down, but I still went with him. Miss Ethel would either give you a nice hot roll with some jelly on it or a cookie or something. So that was a treat.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Neat, neat.

Ray Weems: But I remember the carnival that they used to have there and it was right across from the Hotel, and we used to park out on Miss Ethel's lot there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about the 'Emma Giles'?

Ray Weems: I don't recall anything but conversations and pictures in books.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Did your father ever deal with the 'Emma Giles'?

Ray Weems: I remember my father saying that he was shipped out in the Navy to Baltimore on the 'Emma Giles'.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: OK. Showboat?

Ray Weems: No, I wasn't exposed to that. I don't remember anything about it.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Don't remember any specific stories?

Ray Weems: No.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about the post office?

Ray Weems: I remember the old original post office across from the Hotel. I think Miss Ethel ran the post office at that time.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: She kind of did everything, didn't she? [Laughing.]

Ray Weems: Yes, she did. She was "a" person.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: The movie theater?

Ray Weems: Yeah, I remember the movie theater across from the grocery store there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Do you remember any specific movies that you saw?

Ray Weems: I don't think our parents let us go to the movies, to tell you the truth, not at my age. The older children probably, but not our age. I remember it being there.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Do you remember a car sales lot? I think it was a Ford lot?

Ray Weems: No I don't remember that. Next to that, in that area?

Interviewer Ginger Corson: I believe so. You don't remember anything specifically?

Ray Weems: No, I don't remember that.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: How about a local newspaper?

Ray Weems: Yeah, *The Great Swamper*.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Were you ever written up in it?

Ray Weems: No, I wasn't. But, I remember the paper.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Ok. Anything else you wanted to specifically mention?

Ray Weems: Not really, but my heart will always be in Shady Side as long as I live, I guess.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Isn't that funny? It's almost like a heart-shaped sign gets in your blood?

Ray Weems: Exactly.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: And when they say 'you can't go home', I don't think that's true about Shady Side, do you?

Ray Weems: No, I just have great fond memories of the people and our family and it just brings back good thoughts.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: Ok, well, good, good. Well, thank you so much for joining us today. I've learned a lot more about Shady Side, and I know that our viewers will really enjoy hearing about your memories of Shady Side.

Ray Weems: Well, thank you for having me, and I enjoyed every minute of it.

Interviewer Ginger Corson: All right, good.

[Interview ends.]

- - - - -

Post Script: Obituary of F. Ray Weems' sister, Marianne Weems Baldree (follows below).

Marianne Weems Baldree, of Edisto Island, Greenville, South Carolina, died March 22, 2004 at her home. Born in Shady Side, MD, she was a daughter of the late Fernando Wilson and Mamie Lena Jenkins Weems. She was a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Surviving are daughter, Kelly Baldree Lusk of Piedmont; sons, Terry Baldree of Greer, Troy Baldree of Greenville, and Todd Baldree of Simpsonville; sisters, Angelyn Virginia Parks of Maryland, Martha Weems Sawyer of Virginia, Nancy Weems Carpenter of Georgia; brothers, Richard Jenkins Weems, Fernando Ray Weems, both of Maryland; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was predeceased by a brother, Wilson Dale Weems. Memorial services were held March 26 at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Memorials may be made to Pendleton Place Children's Shelter, P.O. Box 10323, Greenville, SC 29603. (Williamston, Pelzer, West Pelzer, Piedmont & Powdersville Journal, South Carolina, March 31, 2004.)