

ORAL HISTORY  
Siegert, Lucile Kirchner

Captain Avery Museum

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Interview: Lucile Kirchner Siegert

Interviewed by: Ginger Nieman Corson

Transcribed by: Donna Williams, March 20, 2004

[Tape begins with what appears to be interview in progress...]

Q. March 7th, 2002. My name's Ginger Nieman Corson, and today we are pleased to have with us Lucile R Siegert who used to live down here in Shadyside. And she's going to tell us about her memories of Shadyside. So, thanks for joining us today, and let's start off with your full name and when and where you were born.

A. Well, my full name was Irma Lucile Kirchner, and I dropped the 'Irma' part because it was all too long [laughing], I thought. And my mother was Gertrude...Irma Gertrude Pullen, and she married Marion Richard Kirchner. His father was George Kirchner and his mother was Myrtle...was Maggie. That's the only name I ever heard was Maggie, I don't even know what her lineage was. During the flu epidemic, they lost three members of their family, two sons and my mother. And my uncle went up there and Aunt Jenny to see what they could do to help around, because they died 1, 2, 3 three days apart.

Q. What year was this?

A. 1918. So they decided to let me go with them, and I expect they intended to pick me up later [laughing], but they waited too long. I'd already dug in there at Aunt Jenny and Uncle Harry's place, you know. And I wouldn't go so they'd say, 'well, we'll try later'. But my aunt used to say, 'you'll have to go up there and spend a week with them every summer'. Oh, Lord, did I hate going up there!

Q. Now, where did they live?

A. On Chalk Point Road. And I was born on what they called Friendship (?) Lane; it goes right down to South Creek. You know where they're building all back in there on South Creek?

Q. Yeah, on Chalk Point?

A. Chalk Point's another part. It goes all the way down to the West River where the boats used to come in there, like the 'Emma Giles' and all. South Creek was too shallow for that. My father evidently had a boat there, and he and his brother, Marion... Joe... Joseph had a boat, and they worked, and they had just gotten their...I don't know whether it was a pilot's license, or something to do with a boat, or navigating the river. And they died, both of them.

Q. On the river?

A. No...no...

Q. Just in general.

A. Just in general. When the flu got them, they couldn't work, that was it. It was a terrible snow storm there, and my grandfather and grandmother, with some help, I suppose, brought us up to their house, because nobody could heat that house where they were. They had my brother and me up there at the house, and their house was pretty full because Edna, their youngest child, was still living at home. She was 13 years old time and well, after I moved down there with Aunt Jenny and Uncle Harry, Aunt Jenny says, going down the road in the buggy, I was going [makes noise with mouth simulating the sound], clucking to the horse. I was ten months old and I was ready to drive a horse, or thought I was any way [laughing].

Q. Now what's the address of that house that's down in West Shadyside where Aunt Jenny lived and Uncle who?

A. Harry. It's on that mailbox that sits out there.

Q. I want to say 6357, but I'm not sure.

A. It's...I forgot.

Q. OK.

A. It may be on some of these pictures.

Q. OK. But it's down in West Shadyside on a big bend, just before you get to what we call Smith Road.

A. Yeah, but it's not Smith Road.

Q. It's not Smith Road [laughing].

A. How did you know that? [Laughing.]

Q. That's what we always called it. But Freedom is down there.

A. It's Connor Road.

Q. Connor Road! That's what it is legally, but ...

A. It's because Mrs. Smith lived down there, and that's what people called it. But there's another house beyond that that belonged to my other great uncle who was Richard, Richard Kirchner built that house. I understand he built boats and things down in there.

Q. Do you know who owns that house now? Or the last you recall?

A. Freedomman/ Friedeman (SP)?

Q. Oh, OK.

A. Freedaman owned that now, but it's been a series of people that have lived there, but Freedaman, I think, has done the most work on it, you know. And he had built a big pier out there 'cause he had a great big yacht he used bring in there, and I think...I know it's still in the family of Freedaman, I'm pretty sure. I've never heard any body say..

Q. That name is still on the pole going into that...Now what's interesting about that road is that if you go one more house over, you have to go all the way out Steamboat Road to get to it.

A. You know why? Because I used to deliver milk to the Leatherbury, Mr...Capt. Leatherbury...Capt. Ed, we called him. Sometimes I'd go on a horse, sometimes I'd go on a bicycle, and sometimes later I drove a car, and then...his property touched...I think it touched that property, I believe. But between there, there was a drainage ditch that ran out to the river. And was it a real good scoop...I've run the car through there a number of times, but I could ride a horse through... he didn't care. [Laughing.]

Q. Well that must be where Jenna Fitz lives now, 'cause there is a house between the two of 'em.

A. Yeah. And that house was built by one of the granddaughters of Capt. Ed's and Miss Lily. That's who lived there in the big house, and they used to run a boarding house like...I don't know whether they served meals or not; they probably did, because they had another building on the other side of it. And that probably was a place where people could go and eat when they stayed there. And then she rented it...they rented it out to a I say a 'song and dance' club, and they had nothin' but girls in that club. And they'd come down from D.C. and they'd swim and they'd dance and have a grand old time, but that was only for a year or two that they did that.

Q. I want to sneak your birthday in here. What was your birthday?

A. My birthday was February the 4th, 1918. I'm 84.

Q. You're doing really good, really good. Now you talked about your paternal grandparents. Do you know anything about your maternal grandparents?

A. You mean my...

Q. Your mother's parents?

A. Yes. I've got a picture...I just found out that her mother was named Julia, I think. I'm not sure of that...I have no proof of it, but I have a picture of my grandfather, and his name was...[slight pause] .. I guess picture of him on a boat...he owned a boat [points to her left] and he lived down here at...you know where... Parish Creek...it's up there and he had a house right there at the head of Parish Creek. I think Nelly Nowell finally bought that house after he died, and his children had grown and left the area. They went up to Philadelphia to work on the boats up there during the war, and Nelly Nowell bought that house...actually, it was another family that... Gordon Caldwell used to live there, his father and family. I don't know anything more about him except that Gordon used to court one of the Lee girls. And we used to think it was real cute. [Laughs.]

Q. OK, but you don't remember his first name? Your mother's father's first name?

A. My father's was Richard...no Marion Richard.

Q. Your mother's father?

A. Pauses...

Q. It was Pullen, right?

A. Pullen...It was Pullen. That's funny... I'll have to look in the book.

Q. OK. Well, if we have time at the end, we'll get your pictures out, and we'll get it down for posterity, OK?

A. Well, then I'll be telling you more stories [Laughing.]

Q. All right. Well, we'll make sure we save a lot of time. How about...did you have any brothers and sisters?

A. Clifford. His name was Marion Clifford.

Q. Kirchner?

A. Yeah, ugh huh. I'm thinking that's right, because I don't remember them calling him...they called my father Marion; and I think that Clifford was a 'junior'. I'm...I've run across it in a couple of places. I think he was called Clifford instead of Marion.

Q. Now who raised him?

A. My grandfather and grandmother kept him.

Q. And is he still alive?

A. No. He went through the whole World War II? He went through the whole thing, from one end to the other. He went all over the United States, first one camp and then another. He was training for the tanks, and they shipped those tanks out across the United States to, say maybe, Washington, I don't know whether they went that far or not. He said then they dropped all the way down to the end of California where the Gobe Desert is. Isn't that what they call that desert in there? Gobe, or some kind of desert in there, and that's where they took those tanks to train because they were training them to go into Africa. And before they could complete their training, they had taken over that area. And so they had to go train on something else, so they sent him back. He spent a lot of time in Louisiana and then on up to Camp Pickett. You never heard of Camp Pickett? OK. He was up there and they took those tanks to Solomon's Island, because they wanted them to dump 'em overboard and see them come back up on the banks, you know, because they were figuring on them landing over in France, you know. They were training them for that. And I didn't see him when he was up here on that. So when he left Camp Pickett, they sent him up to Ft. Dix, I think it was. And from Ft. Dix, they sent him up to Massachusetts. And they would fly a plane across those big old banks there...rock(?)... everything they had them lined up there to shoot at this plane that was towing targets. After they got through that, they got back to Ft. Dix and wasn't long, he came home and got married, No. 1.

Q. Oh, OK.

A. So, I hope I don't hurt any body's feelings on that [laughing]. But any way shortly after that, he went overseas and he went to England. And they stayed there a heck of a long time before they actually made that trip across there, but he was in that. But he was lucky in every, every time. They split his company in half -- "A" and "B", and he was in B. "A" went over first and they lost nearly all of them, the tanks and the men. Of course, I didn't know this until later, and when he went over, I guess they pulled in a little closer, because those tanks, there wasn't anything there for them to grab hold of to pull them out.

Q. Oh my gosh.

A. That's planning for you. [Laughing.]

Q. That's war.

A. I don't know how big a company it was... maybe they didn't all drown but it was pretty bad, you know. And I'm so glad he didn't tell me that until he come home.

Q. So did he have any children?

A. No. 2, he married. No. 1, I helped him to get his divorce.

Q. OK

A. By mailing information to him.

Q. [Laughing.] Divorce by mail

A. Yeah. And so, when he come home, he married this other girl and they had a little girl, and she

kept saying it wasn't his. And yet, they named her Patricia Lucile, and I only saw Patricia Lucile once in my life, and I've lost track of her now, completely. But any way, he supported her for, I don't know, how long. She ended up by going out to California, and her mother got married after they got a divorce. And then she got married again, and of course, I guess the girl was....maybe she got married out there...I think she married somebody from Severna Park. I looked up the last name...it was Couch...C-O-U-C-H, and I looked that name up, called up everyone of 'em. They didn't know anything about it. So it wasn't that one. Then....and she came back to...she came on one of these trans (?) ...these trucks. You know, that bring stuff in from...this was Oregon...where she was(?) And she had this little red-headed boy and I saw a picture of him, and he looked just like Clifford.

Q. Oh, for heaven's sake.

A. So it must've been his daughter.

Q. Ok.

A. And Clifford saw him, too...got to see him. But the third wife, let's say she hated his guts...or her guts!

Q. Oh!

A. [Laughing.] Any mention of him, she didn't want him to call her. But every chance he got, he'd call her, every Sunday morning he'd call her...? out there in Oregon(?)..and...

Q. Is he still around? Clifford, your brother?

A. Oh, no. He died about five or six years ago now.

Q. And where was he living at the time?

A. He had a house up there...



Q. It was in Maryland?

A. Yeah, yeah it was ...trying to think...Hamilton estates.

Q. Oh.

A. You know where that is?

Q. No, but it's like Davidsonville?

A. No, it wasn't Davidsonville. I think his address was Edgewater, I believe.

Q. Oh. All right. Now how about aunts and uncles? Do you have any aunts and uncles live around here aside from Aunt Jenny and Uncle Harry?

A. Yes. I had great aunts, and this one aunt that was 13 years old...I told you about lived with my grand I used to go visit her up at..she lived in Lothian...up in that area. They had a big farm.

Q. What was her name?

A. Edna Pullen. And she had two children. She sent them to a school up in Massachusetts, I think it was, somewhere up there. She was going to make them play a piano if it killed her.

Q. Did they?

A. Yeah.

Q. OK, good. [Laughing.] That's good. And, your grandparents, where are they buried, do you know?

A. My grandfather and grandmother Kirchner's buried over at Galesville, and so is my mother and father.

Q. OK.

A. My mother's father and his wife were buried there at Centenary, but it doesn't have any stones or anything there to show it. And I told Stephanie...you know who...?

Q. Yes.

A. I told her, I said, now look, they're not going to build on that, I said cause I know my mother and father's buried there. I've been told a number of times, and I don't know what I could do about it, but I'd like to put a marker down there, but I don't know where to put it. You know, it's hard to tell.

Q. Well, I'm cemetery chairman for Shadyside so we'll talk later. [Laughing.]

A. OK [laughing].

Q. Now do you know how long your family has lived in Shadyside.. the Pullens and the Kirchners? Like how did they get here, and how long have they been here?

A. My grandfather Kirchner's father came over from Germany, and they were supposed to have gotten property in Pennsylvania. They paid for it and everything, but when they got there...no property. They had sold it again, I guess. I don't know what happened. So then he had to go look for work, so he got a job with a...as a caretaker of this piece of property that ran from...all along Chalk Point Road clean on down to the water, which was a huge chunk of ground there. And each one of his children...he gave property to, out of that property. So the Kirchners owned all of that at one time down there. He never was a wealthy man, but he made a good living. He had, what, ten or eleven children, something like that; and each one of them got a piece of the property. And that's... I don't know how Uncle Richard got that piece of property down near off of Hunter Road; I don't know how he got that. I don't think Grandfather owned that. His name was William Frederick, my Great grandfather.

Q. William Frederick Kirchner? And he's the one who came from Germany?

A. Um huh [shakes head in the affirmative.]

Q. Do you know his wife's name?

A. Margaret...I got Margaret... so many Margarets there until it's funny.

Q. Do you know what her maiden name was? Was it Knopt?

A. Yeah. K-N-O-P-T.

Q. So, you're related to Gloria Shenton.

A. Yes, but Glorious is through her mother. Her mother...her mother was my cousin and her mother was my great aunt.

Q. OK. Wasn't it like Marguerite... Miss Ethel's mother?

A. Her name, now wait a minute, hold on. I don't think it was Marguerite. Matilda!

Q. Matilda. OK. All right. I think I 'gotcha straight now. [Laughing.] How did the Pullens come to be in Shadyside?

A. I don't know.

Q. OK. Now was your father killed by the flu also?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you have any idea how many people were killed in Shadyside - was it just a lot?

A. A lot.

Q. Wow. That's incredible. I don't think I'd ever heard about that flu epidemic.

A. You didn't?

Q. Huh ugh.

A. Well it was raging in 1918, did you know? They said the streets of Baltimore was lined with caskets.

Q. Oh my gosh! That would be interesting. I should go back in the newspapers and look at them. A. Yeah

Q. So you grew up in the house that you lived in for how many years?

A. I lived there...I got married and then I went to Galesville and I was 20 at the time. I lived over there for six years in Galesville.

Q. Where did you live in Galesville?

A. Siegert's Lane [Laughing.]

Q. Ok, and you married Graham Siegert?

A. Yeah.

Q. In what year?

A. 1938.

Q. OK. How did you know him, from school?

A. Went to school with him. [Laughing.] Yeah, I'll never forget. I was sitting in the library, and this boy next to me, he was telling me a whole lot of stuff, you know, and Graham was standing in the door looking at me. I knew who he was, but I didn't say anything about it. But this boy next to me, he says, "I'll tell you one thing. That's one guy you want to stay away from."  
[Laughing.]

Q. That's funny, that's funny. Wow! Now talking about the house that you grew up in, did you drive down there today? Have you seen it?

A. No, I was down there the day that I went to the Friendly Circle I went in there and I talked to somebody...I think he was either doing plumbing, wiring or something. And they were working on it. And I didn't go inside. But the one thing floored me was the fact that they had torn down the chimney that took care of the fireplace. And I told that guy, I said that was a stupid thing for them to do because that was a brand new chimney. It was.

Q. You're kidding?

A. And it had a fireplace in it, and it was solid right straight through the side of the house. And two flues in it, one for the heater and one for the fireplace.

Q. Son of a gun. Well, so much for that.

A. So much for that.

Q. But they razed that old house and then they saved the old part of the house that's towards the road, but then they tore down the back part.

A. Yeah. Well only the part that was built during...prior to the Civil War was that little short...that short piece behind the big piece that was near the front of the house. That was built after the Civil War by...I called him Capt. Hallock. That was grandmother Hallock's husband. And then Uncle Harry and Aunt Jenny bought the house from them when Capt. Hallock died.

Q. What was Capt. Hallock's name, do you know?

A. Josh.

Q. Huh. Josh Hallock. OK. Didn't he fight in the Civil War?

A. Yes.

Q. I think he was in the Civil War.

A. I could kick myself so far. I should've hung onto that discharge papers. He was discharged from the Northern Army. He was from Long Island. And he...it should have...I should've hung onto that, instead, I thought I was giving it to Archie Rogers, who would've been his... his grandson. And, of course when Archie died, and Annie (?) died, and Pete got it. And I happened to be up at the....this...you know where Harry Stone's (??) had his place? Now it's a laundry and everything..little house? Well they...his wife had an antiques shop there, or a junk shop, whatever you want to call it. And I went in there, and, lo and behold, here was this picture of Capt. Hallock. I about flipped my lid. That stupid person...getting rid of a picture like that...beautifully...it was framed...it was about this big [indicates size using both hands]. Oak frame on it. Well, wasn't anything I could do about it, and, evidently, she just didn't know what that discharge paper was. I never did see that again.

Q. For heaven's sake. Well, that is sad.

A. Yeah, I expect if you had his right name and everything, you could write to the War Department?

Q. Ah, you can probably get it up in D.C. at the National Archives; but it would be wonderful to have a picture of him.

A. He was a good looking man.

Q. Awesome.

A. He had a black beard...[laughing], as much as I hate beards...but he was a good looking man.

Q. Do you know of a picture that exists of him now?

A. No, I had a tin type, and I gave that to one of his grandsons, and I don't know which one I gave it to now. I gave the one that was a picture of the grandfather to Gordon...Gordon Hallock? And I don't know whether he kept it or not.

Q. OK. I might ask Miss Ella, cause that would be a great picture to have for the Heritage Society. All right, well tell me some more about that house. What kind of amenities did it have and...

A. Well, first it had that...two rooms. One down and one up, and a stairway to go up. I think they used the cook stove to heat the room...that's about all we ever used at first, when I was there. Because we always had one of these real big old coal stove or wood stove, had a water tank on it and everything. You know, it was a real old-fashioned thing. And I'd come in out of the snow, my feet would be soaking wet, I'd open the oven door, get a piece of wood out of there, and warm and dry my feet out [laughing].

Q. Put 'em right in there, huh? Now tell me about going to school, ugh...

A. Going to school. I loved going to school, but the stupid thing they did was when they first opened that school out there, they were short on a number of students. And I was only five years old and a dumb one at that, you know. I mean I didn't know my A-B-C's, I didn't know how to count or anything. You know, I was just really in bad shape, I guess you might say. Because little kids now, I think about that they could count and all that before they're talking. So Miss Ethel said to Aunt Jenny, she says, 'send Lucile...send Lucile'. So Lucile went out there, and that first year was...absolutely nothing, you know. But they put me in the second grade. How would I know anything if I didn't know anything in the first grade? [Laughing.] OK. So they put me in the third grade. How would I know anything if I didn't know anything in the third grade or the second grade or the first grade? Really, it was pathetic, and so they held me back in the fourth grade. I still didn't learn anything. [laughing].

Q. Now was that...what grades were in this?

A. OK, there was a fourth up to the eighth.

Q. OK.

A. Miss Ethel had the eighth. She had the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth. And while they did have a high school in there one year, or I don't know how long it stayed, but it was only for those that gotten out of the eighth grade into the high school. So...

Q. So, you had Miss Ethel as the teacher... were there other teachers?

A. Miss Dawson...Miss Dawson and Miss Ethel.

Q. OK. Did you ever get out of the school because of something exciting happening in town, or too much snow, or flood, or anything like that?

A. Oh, I never missed a day from school...very rare. I have the certificates to show for that.

Q. And you had to walk?

A. Had to walk. I know one year, it wasn't the snow, it was the ice. And here was this road that was curved up like this [demonstrates with hands], and it was fairly hard surface, wasn't tarred or anything. But the sleet and ice and everything had froze over it. I'm telling you. That was one job to get up on that road. So Uncle Harry said, 'well, I'll go up with you', and Lawrence Wilby was living in Mrs. Hayes' old place. They were taking care of him, and he and his father and mother and one...he had a brother, Albert. They didn't send Albert to school. I don't think he was old enough, to tell you the truth. But anyway Uncle Harry walked out there, and here we were slipping and sliding...you couldn't keep your feet under you. Went on out there to the school. The school was closed!

Q. AH!

A. So, we had to go back.

Q. Now was that...is that the home where Mary Nieman used to live? Is that the house you're talking about that you were walking past?

A. [Shakes head 'no'].

Q. Where is this house?

A. What, Aunt Jenny's?

Q. No, no. The one where the Wilbys were?



A. Oh, no. That was before the Wilbys got that house.

Q. Oh, OK. So where were the Wilbys living at that time?

A. They were living up in Hayes' place.

Q. I don't know where that is?

A. Well, it's up in... it burned down.

Q. Oh, OK.

A. That's the reason you don't know. After Mrs. Hayes...she couldn't handle it anymore. You know? I mean it was a huge place. Mr. Hayes was a judge, and it was a farm. It was ten acres or maybe more. They owned that land across the road from our place. And that's...big woods and another lot in back of that. And then, even where Smith's house was, all down there right down to the shore. And used to be a boarding house along...I think some of the Hartges built it.

Q. Oh, OK.

A. I...somebody told me to look underneath of that house to see what kind of lumber was in there. And they had used trees, I guess had been skinned off for the foundation. It was a well-built house. I mean if you walked across the floor, you didn't hear any noise. You know what I mean... a squeak or anything like that. 'Cause I stayed up there a lot when I was going to school. Especially when I was going to high school. I used to... Miss Hayes would stay up there. There wouldn't be a soul around. She used to have a black lady that would cook for her, but she used to get drunk, so she had to fire her. [Laughing.]

Q. Oh my. Well tell me some more neighbors that you had living around that house.

A. Well, the Lintons lived in back of me. That house was torn down and they built a new house there. Of course, George(?) Grinder bought that... some property from Aunt Jenny and Glorious did, too. And,

let me see now, oh, the Harveys bought some...a piece. George Grinder...yeah that's the house. The Harveys...George's wife...when he died, she married again, and this man's last name was Harvey, and I don't know who the people are that own it now. And a Mr. and Mrs. Owen built that big house there. And of course that house before you get to their turn to go up there, there used to be...behind that was not a huge building that was a boarding house, and that belonged to the Fox family.

Q. Is that where Katie D's is?

A. Huh?

Q. Katie D's?

A. Yeah. And that new house that's off to the side of the old house was the people that...King Syrup...what's there name...Mangols.

Q. Mangols.

A. Yeah. They built that house...used to keep us in syrup all the time. [Laughing.]

Q. All right. How about across the street, like where Capt. Atwell lived. Was he always there?

A. Uncle John Atwell owned that property. And it had belonged to his mother, and she was a Shipley from... evidently from over Galesville area. I don't know. The Shipleys now you hear...up there...way up there, like almost to Glen Burnie. They had a home 'Shipley's Choice', you've heard of that. Well, that was the same family she was from, and, but she was the cutest, neatest little person you ever did see. Uncle John was nice. He was a son..her son..and he was crippled. And I said...for years, I didn't know why. And Uncle Harry said he got sick one time and he just sort of curled right up.

Q. Oh, for heaven's sake.

A. I mean he lost the use of his legs and his arm. I've got a cane over there that... I've had it ever since Uncle Harry died because he made that cane for Uncle Harry, and it's made out of some kind of sappling and it's got a handle on it

Q. Oh, that's neat...that's neat. Well, speaking of getting sick, do you ever remember being sick and having a doctor come through? Tell me about your doctor?

A. It was Dr. Dent. Dr. Dent delivered me, so he knew me right well. [Laughing.] And he was a great old guy, he really was. And I had measles so bad, worse... I guess I was sicker than any other time of my life, and my nose bled and it kept on bleeding. And Aunt Jenny kept on wringing the rag out, and that water was as bloody as it could be and scared her... really scared her. So Dr. Dent came down and looked at me and said: "Look at those lips...they're all red... there's nothing the matter with her..."[Laughing.] But he...to stop that bleeding, he give me this... well it looks like...I don't guess it was plastic, maybe it was glass, I don't know. But it had a plunger in it, and he put some kind of a powder in it, and he blew that all up in my nose, and believe me, that stopped it, whatever it was. I thought it was going to stop me from breathing, to tell you the truth! He said "Don't you scratch that out...just let it stay there."

Q. Son of a gun..but you don't remember what it was? You never knew what it was?

A. No! I didn't ask, 'cause I didn't like the idea of bleeding like that. And when I...this is something else...When I went to Washington and stayed over there one whole summer and went to beauty culture school; and while I was over there, my nose bled every cotton pickin' day...every day! Well, it would stop after a while. I didn't do anything about it but just... I had to leave the classroom cause I couldn't stay in there and have that happen. After it would stop, I'd go back in the classroom. But it was so hot...no air conditioning. 14th & New York Avenue. You know that building on the corner there?

Q. Now, tell me...you mentioned earlier that you had delivered milk. How did that come about?

A. Well, they...Uncle Harry had cows, and he milked cows and sold the milk and the butter. Aunt Jenny had chickens and eggs, and she sold chickens. She sold eggs and all the vegetables that, you know, could handle. And he would have at least four cows milking, and he...if he got sick or something, I ended up having to do it...milk...'cause I was still going to high school. But prior to that, he sold milk to Mr. Wagner that lived down there on Wagner's Point, the old house...do you remember the

old house down there?

Q. I just know it was called Wagner's Point.

A. Well, he lived down there. Well, he was a gunsmith and of all things, his grandson, one of his grandsons, shot his hand off with one of his guns.

Q. I don't know. Is he still around?

A. Oh no, he died later, but, I mean, he did...he got over it. But they had to take off some fingers. I think they took off right like that...something like that [shows where fingers were removed using her hands].

Q. How about the local stores? I know there was probably the Owens' store? That was near where you lived on West Shadyside Road?

A. Yes. That was Wallace Owens. And they lived upstairs. It was a two-story building.

Q. Really?

A. Yeah.

Q. 'Cause it's just one story now.

A. Oh, well that isn't...that's something that they built later.

Q. Oh. Was it exactly where that house is now? Where Miss Lydie Owens used to live now? Bobbie Owens rents it out? It's right at the end of Bast Lane?

A. Yeah.

Q. OK. Did he have a wife that helped him run the store?

A. Oh yes. Lydie Owens, and she was related to Bobbie's father... mother.

Q. Well I think...

A. There was two...Rob Owens, and he had two sisters, and they lived in that house. And they all died, and Rob was...Rob left it to Bobbie.

Q. Oh, OK. And Heinrich's Store?

A. Well, that was a big family, and Irma was one that...well she was a couple years younger than me. And she just died here recently. She lived down Fairhaven...married a man and they bought that farm down there, and she was never able to sell one stick off that farm. The county wouldn't allow her...I don't know why.

Q. Where was the Heinrich Store located?

A. The Heinrich's Store was located down at the end of...what is that?

Q. West River.

A. West River Road.

Q. Could you see that from the house that your grandparents owned on South Creek?

A. Oh, on South Creek, yeah. My father and mother lived there. They could see it.

Q. Oh, all right.

A. And they used to row across there and get their groceries and things.

Q. How cool was that?

A. [Laughing.]

Q. All right. Do you have any stories about the show boat?

A. Well, my aim was to go every night. [Laughing.] And they'd have these shows, and they would be funny, and some of 'em would be sad; but there would be that old time stuff, just like you would see on the show boat you've seen on tv, you know? The same idea. And they sold candy and stuff like that.

Q. Do you remember how much they charged for you to go on board?

A. I never paid. [Laughing.]

Q. Oh, OK. [Laughing.]

A. You know, I either went on a date or somebody would take me or something like that, you know.

Q. All right. Tell me about the 'Emma Giles'.

A. The 'Emma Giles'...well, they would get a group of people together and go over to Tolchester, which was across the Bay. And it was an amusement park. And they had flying horses, you know, and those little cars that used to run around. And ponies with a cart, and I was in seventh heaven...I could've rode those carts around forever. [Laughing.]

Q. So where did you board this steamboat?

A. Ugh, it would come into Shadyside. We had that pier there, you know. We left out of there and would go on across the bay, and he let us out, and I don't know where it went after that. But then he'd come back at a certain time, he'd pick up the whole bunch and bring us back into Shadyside. But that was my biggest thrill. I went on a roller coaster, and it was (?) Iris(?) Leathebury, and one of the Linton girls, and they sat me in between the two of them. And when we started to go down that thing like this, and I grabbed hold of them...their clothes and like to scared me to death. [Laughing.] I'd never been on one before.

Q. Now, do you remember what the captain's name was on it? Now was there any entertainment on it, on the 'Emma Giles'?...you just rode it over there and came back?

A. No, we rode it...we went to Baltimore a lot of times, Aunt Jenny and I. She had some friends up there. They used to go shopping, and Aunt Jenny said she missed me one time going up there. And she said...somebody said, 'Oh, that little girl? She's down there with the darkies.'" [Laughing.] I had gone down there, and they were feeding me left and right. You know...sandwiches. I was hungry.

Q. You were on the 'Emma Giles' a lot then?

A. I rode it a number of times. I never got sick on that. But one time I went up with Capt. Ed in his boat...

Q. Capt. Ed Leatherbury?

A. [Shakes head in the affirmative.] And coming back, I got so seasick, I don't know whether...could have been something I ate while I was up there, but I'll never forget that.

Q. Well, tell me about your family now...your children...their names.

A. Well, I had Sandra... was the oldest one. I showed you her picture. She died about five years ago now; and a set of twins, Mary Beth and Sue Ann. Both of them are RN's and doing fine. Then Greg came along. He was eight years after the twins...something like that. And we put him through Fork Union Military Academy in Fork Union, and I'd say it was the best move I ever made in my life, to get him into a decent school. Those men down there took the best care of those boys big difference in the way he taught. The only thing I didn't like about it they made him a Republican. [Laughing.]

Q. How about grandchildren and great-grandchildren?

A. Well, I just had a great-great grand children about a month ago.

Q. Oh, no kidding?

A. I've got two great-great grandchildren, and Mary Beth is the grand-mother. Let's see, Mary Beth's grand-daughter had them, two little boys. One's named Jacob Daniel, and the other one is Eric Isaac.

Q. Well, neat, neat! Well let me have you show these pictures here. Can you just kind of hold them up in front of you so that George can get them on the camera there.

A. [Displays one of the photographs.] This is...it's not going to be easy for him to get that...

Q. That's perfect...just hold it for him right there. Get that George? Now tell us about that.

A. Well that's the canning house that was located down at... that was at the end of Hunter Road; some people call it Smith's Road, but it is on the map as Hunter Road.

Q. And that's West Shadyside?

A. That's West Shadyside, and the steamboat used to come in there. You know the road...Hayes...the little road runs down and you can see the water at the end of it?

Q. Hayes Road.

A. That's where the boats...the steamboats used to come in there.

Q. Now is that where the pier is? This huge pier here?

A. No. This one probably had to do with that. Over there(?) because they pulled all the piling up for the steamboat.

Q. OK. What would they take on the ship? You mentioned tomatoes...

A. Yeah, they...wagons would come down from the high lands and they would have baskets of tomatoes on there, and they would take those for canning. And they canned those and shipped them to Baltimore, I guess. And then they also, in the winter time, they had Polish people [Laughing.] come in there, and they used to bring oysters in, and they shucked oysters, canned them and sent them to Baltimore, also.

Q. OK and then what did they do with the oyster shells?

A. Oh, the oyster shells...they had lime kiln --K-I-L-N, I think is how you spell it. And they would take wheel barrows and run em up a plank or a runway of some sort, and dump those oyster shells in that kiln and set it on fire. And they had made lime; and the lime was used for...the ground around here was full of clay, and it would lighten the ground up so they could use it for the garden or whatever,



depending on what they wanted lime for.

Q. All right. And show me this other picture of you as a little girl.

A. This one?

Q. Yes.

A. [Holds up another photo.] This...this is my transportation picture. [Laughing.]

Q. Yeah, you've got quite a set-up there?

A. That little dog...he wasn't that little, but he was a strong little dog. I've seen him do remarkable things, and all I'd have to do is say, "Come on Bob...Bob dog." and put that harness over his head and across his breast and he would take off. I wouldn't have to tell him where to go. Sometimes he would take me down to the store. Sometimes he'd take me...now this is up from the store. This is up the road from the store, and they took his picture there. The people in that building, they gave me this picture.

Q. Do you know what the name of the people was?

A. Yeah. It was Bast. Henry Bast, and his sister owned the house that sits near the road. You can see it from the road. That was Goldstein's.

Q. Oh. OK.

A. And up the road...and further up this road would be the Fox Boarding House. They had boarding houses all around, so that would be...and they had a nice sand beach down there.

Q. And that's where the 'Katie B' sits(?) is.

A. Yeah.

Q. So this is all down in West Shadyside?

A. Yeah, uh huh.

Q. OK. Well, I really appreciate you coming by and talking to us today and sharing your memories, and thank you so much.

A. You're welcome...it's fun.

[Tape ends.]