

Interview: **Paul Edmond Coates**

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East West Shadyside Road
Shady Side, Maryland

Q: Paul, could you tell me if you were born in Shady Side?

A: Yeah, I was born in Shady Side on April the 7th in 1921. Just about, oh, it was another building, it was my mother's home, approximately 1,000 yards just due west of here, which was still all the same property because this was, at one time, one huge farm. And then after that, we had moved to Annapolis.

Q: I see. . .uh, whose. . .whose... .then your parents owned this big huge farm.

A: Oh yes, they owned this huge farm. We had horses and cows and goats and chickens, turkeys... they had everything here, plus the vegetables and then in the front of the building of the house it's in back of me right now, because this is the new home we're sitting in now, right here in front of this one which is on the water, there was his own private oyster grounds. He had ten acres out there. Today, here in '86, I own today, I still have three acres of those oyster grounds in front of the house today.

A: That's interesting. . .what. . .what size farm does he have?

Q: Well, out to where you can see a road now, uh, from the seawall right here in front of the house to the road out back is six hundred foot. That was a road at all times. But before then, back in his days, I say, earlier part of my days, about way before then, there was six hundred foot of more property in front of this house here that had been washed away over the period of years... until he put a seawall right out front which still stands there today.

Q: Do you have brothers and sisters?

A: Yes, I have two brothers and two sisters. Uh, I have one sister passed away and one brother passed away. I still have a brother and sister left. And they lived in Catonsville in Baltimore and I have another sister. . and the other sister, she lives in Vicksburg, Maryland.

Q: Would you mind telling me what your brothers and sisters name?

A: That was Ruth Coates, there was Ola Coates, Dorothy Coates, Vernon Coates and then myself, I was the youngest of the five.

Q: Well, that was what I was going to ask you, which. . .which one were you in the family. Could you tell me what your. . .well, you said your father lived on a farm so.

A: No, that was my grandfather had a farm. My grandfather. . . and my father, he was, uh, a game warden and he also drove the school bus.

Q: Oh, your father.

A: My father, yeah.

[Type text]

Q: He was a game warden down here?

A: He was the game warden here in Shady Side, yes.

Q: You. . . would you know what years that was?

A: Well, that had to be just before I was born. . . that would have been probably as early as 1918. . . up until 1921 or 1922.

Q: Are your parents still living?

A: No, my mother and father are both passed away. My father passed away in 1922, my mother passed away just four years ago, or maybe five years ago. . . it'd be 1980. . . right, actually be six years ago 'cause this is '86. It would be this month, six years ago, my mother passed away. And then my other sister, she passed away in, uh, December 9th of 1981. So, I'm here on this property now by myself.

Q: Uh, could you tell me. . . when I spoke to you on the telephone, you told me that one of your grandfathers was the blacksmith down here. Could you tell me a little bit about that?

A: Yes, he. . . uh. . .

Q: What was his name?

A: His, uh, Charles Larson. Course, back in those days, they called everybody who'd be on the water, they called them captain. So, uh, his name was Captain Charles Larson. And, he's from Sweden. He got his ship and, uh, him and guess just got another hundred men to come here to Baltimore and that's where he met my grandmother and they were married and they came here in Shady Side which in those days. . . .well, my grandmother owned this, all this property herself. She was the original owner from the beginning of where. . . back in the early 1800's, uh, she bought this place and then when she married her husband there, they, uh, they lived here on this piece of property and got the farm for it. So, my grandfather when he came here, the place was known then as the Great Swamp. That took in the area called Deale. . . Churchton.

Q: I've heard that. . . I've heard that expression.

A: So, course, he had a blacksmith shop going, like I said, we lived here on the water. We had a beach right here at one place, there isn't today because the water has risen since then. The beach is all gone. It's actually seawall that holds back the water today. But they pulled the oyster boats right up on the beach that came from Annapolis. They brought their oyster tongs, which were hand tongs in them days, here at the Shady Side, my grandfather's place at the blacksmith shop, to have repaired or maybe to have a place. . . have repair made, all the way from Annapolis.

Q: Did you ever know your grandfather?

A: Oh yes, yes, my grandfather passed away in '42, I was born in '21.

Q: Okay Were you did he have do you recall him having a blacksmith shop?

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A: Oh yes, I was in there. . .I been in that shop many a days, just. . .just watching him...

Q: Well, can you tell me exactly what he did. . .we'd be interested in hearing it.

A: Well, he'd. . .he made the horseshoes, he shoed the horses and not like. . .I was saying, maybe oyster tongs, uh, people from all the way up as far as Lothian came down here to Shady Side by horse and wagon to bring a wheel down off of another wagon to have a new rim put on that wheel. Oh, yes, he repaired all the parts of the, uh, anything of metal that had to be repaired, he could do he could do he even had hinges for barns. He made the hinges for barns.

Q: For heaven's sake.

A: Yes.

Q: And did he have.. .what did he have this big fire in...?

A: Oh, just like you see back in the western days in a movie. . . that they have, uh, a blacksmith there and they have the hand pump to give it air to get the coals going and make real hot and all and then they had a anvil there, where they beat on it with a hammer and shape it to what he wanted to make or how he wanted to make it.

Q: And did you ever help him?

A: Oh, no.. .no, I just had to get out of his way. No, no, no.. that was the.. .all I.. .when the place burned down, .. .I called it the barn but it wasn't a barn because we had another place over there which was a barn but this was built like a barn or like a big double car garage. It had... .and he did his work in there but that burned down one night. .uh. . .oh, that was probably in, uh, in late '39 or the early... .I guess it's late '39, maybe in '37, something like that it burned down.

Q: Well, what a shame.

A: Aw, that finished him of that and, of course, he was getting up in years, too. So, uh...

Q: Would you. . .would you have here on your property any of the tools that he used?

A: Yes, I still have a few tools out in the shed he used.

Q: Well, that's nice that they.. .that you...

A: That was a. . . .one tool I have is two man saws. . .I have a some drills and, uh, one old tool where he made himself, it's like, um, they call it a plane, it had two little handles on it and you just dragged it back and forth, for a. . . .like a plane.

Q: Uh, so how many years would you say he operated the blacksmith shop?

A: Oh, I imagine... .well, I'd say from 1900, or maybe it was from, uh, 18... .say 1890... .from 1890 probably up to 1935.

[Type text]

Q: For heaven's sake, that's great. . .that's great. Now, if you were down there watching him from time to time, would you take a guess and would you know how much sometimes he would charge somebody.

A: Oh, no, no. . . .far as price is concerned, I wouldn't know anything about that.

Q: Okay, I was just curious as to what a blacksmith would charge.

A: See, it wasn't blacksmith or like I say, then he had his oysters. Then he had his gill nets and then, uh, the fish. I still have the crocks for where he'd take the fish and salt them down and catch them. . . . catch them during the summer and salt them down and he'd have fish for all that winter which would be their food. Because he grew his own garden, where he had his vegetables, potatoes and, of course, the fish.

Q: And. . . and, uh, which house did they live on. . .on this property. Was it in this line or.

A: Oh, no.. .it's the house in back of us, right here, back in the middle of the property right now, this property here is six hundred foot deep. But the old house is back out there.

Q: But it's still standing?

A: Yes.

Q: Does someone live in it?

A: No, no, nobody lives in it but, uh, my nephew when he comes down and his wife and he brings others down with them during the summer when they go crabbing, they... .uh, that's where they stay.

Q: Well, it's nice that its still used.

A: Oh yes, it's still useful, oh yes.

Q: Okay. Did you go to school in Shady Side?

A: No, uh. . .my mother moved to Annapolis when I was at the age of school times. I went to school in Germantown, they call it Germantown Schoolhouse.

Q: And did you come back to Shady Side from time—to—time then, like on weekends or something.

A: Every weekend, all my life, I been here and every summer I stayed here all summer, from time school let out to time school started, I was back here for the whole summer, yes.

Q: Uh, was. . .could you tell me maybe some of the things you did in the summertime for entertainment?

A: Well, uh, they had a pier in front of the house and I was, uh, fishing, I would call it but it was actually for minnows and then, uh, crabbing, yes, I went crabbing and even for soft crabs because the bay water was very clear at that time, you could go around the boat and you could see the bottom.. . you stand

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in back of the boat and you could see the bottom, you could dip down there and just pick the crabs right off the bottom.

Q: Wait. . . just sitting there waiting for you?

A: Well, no, you. . . you shove around, yes, the crabs be sitting there waiting for me, but I'd be shoving around the boat but the water was just as clear as what you get out of your spigot today, it was very clear.

Q: Uh, do you recall any of the boarding houses that they had in Shady Side at the time?

A: Oh yes, they had Andrews Hotel and then right across the road from it, they had Nowell's. Nowell's is where they had the post office, after a period of time, that was the last place that the post office until they built a new one up on the road further but Nowell's had a big, uh, big store. It was like a. . . general store and the post office was in there. And Andrews was right across the road. It was a narrow road there and the road is still narrow; of course, the automobiles were smaller back in, uh, 1930, and they parked on both side of the road and you still had cars could get between them to maneuver around. And then right down from the post office, they had, uh, like a garage there but actually it was the movie house. And they had that. . . I remember going to the movies there, it was silent movies..

Q: Solid movies...

A: Yeah, yeah, it silent.

Q: Oh, oh, silent...

A: And then, uh, it was good. . . it was every Saturday night they had that, was just one night a week.

Q: Did you ever go to any of the dances or any of the functions that they had?

A: Well, yes Nowell's had dances there every Saturday night during the summer and they had music out there and people'd be dancing because the place had, uh, like a big screened in porch on two sides, they had it in the front and on the one side, there, had all screened in. And they had music out there and people. . . where, that's where they parked the cars, right on the road, like I was saying, and they'd be stamping their feet and listening to the music and all.

Q: But they. . . they encouraged people from the community to come down there where they had entertainment.

A: Oh, people came from everywhere when they had. . . yes, and they knew entertainment was going on with dances and music. People knew that. They. . . they were there every Saturday, they waited for that. And like I say, right across the road was Andrews Hotel and then, uh, after Saturday night dancing and all, Sunday, they would all come to the hotel and have their Sunday dinner which they had, uh, just about everything imagine.. . it was, uh, like they call it, country style, family dinner, on the table. . . you took as much as you want and it was very good. It was every Sunday, yes.

Q: Oh, my goodness. Could you tell me a little bit. . . what the store. . . you said that there was a store there. Could you tell me a little bit what it looked like?

[Type text]

A: Well, like I say, inside the store, there was a few things in there you could buy, your groceries and all and the post office was right inside and, of course, you stood there and you asked for your mail, or else they knew who you were because the mail was kept in, like, ah, little pigeon holes. There was no such things as, uh, your box number or anything like that, then, it was just Shady Side, Anne Arundel County, that was the post office.

Q: Uh, when you went to school in Annapolis, did your brothers and sisters also go to school there?

A: Yes, yes. . .they went to school there also. From there, we went to Baltimore and from there, we all went to work and from there, all come... .well, they all got married, they... different areas right in Baltimore and myself, I came right back down here on the same property.

Q: And you said that you have never married?

A: No, no, I've never married.

Q: Okay. Uh. . .can you tell me something about your home life growing up? Particularly, when you would come here, uh, uh, on the weekends.

A: Well, like I said, I come down here and go in there. . .maybe during the winter times and helped my grandfather to, uh, cut the wood out.. .he had these big woods out in back of here, he'd be cutting wood and they getting that ready for the winter and, uh, I'd help him cut wood and haul it back down to the house and be storing it up.

Q: And how did you bring it to the house. . . in a wagon?

A: Oh, you carried it.. .you carried that log on your shoulder, oh, yes. And then when they got down, then we'd take and cut it, maybe cut some up out in the woods and, uh, maybe you'd bring it down in a wheel barrel. But, uh, oh no, I mean, you hauled that and that's the old story today. The wood you cut warms you twice...

Q: That's right...

A: Once you cut it, you get warm and then you burn it, you get warm.

Q: Uh, did you ever do any ice skating?

A: Oh yes, I've ice skated many a time right in front of the house, right here, yes.

Q: Uh, and who were some of the people you used to skate with... did you used to skate.. .not your...

A: Well, no, I'd say more or less like friends.. .there wasn't many people down here then. No, uh, like I said, it's just a big farm all down through here and, uh, the houses you see here today, no, they weren't here then.

Q: Well, a lot of people were telling me that there were skating parties during the day and night and a whole bunch of.

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A: Oh, yeah, you'd have. . . . they'd have, like maybe a fire out there on the ice.

Q: And did you ever go...

A: Oh, no, no, I was. . . never at night time, no. But, uh, I could see them out there and, uh, they were, like I say, they come from different areas here to skate.

Q: And were you a good skate. . . were you a good skater?

A: Well, I mean, that's something you never know. . . somebody else has to tell you if you are or not.

Q: Uh, did your brothers and sisters skate with you, too.

A: Yeah, yes. . . they, they. . . once in a while, like I say, I was mostly here in the summertime by myself. In the winter, I would come down, once in a great while, yes. But. . . in the winter, at. . . you get the old farmhouse, there is something that is mighty cold. The air just blows right through the house. . . they're not that insulated or anything like you have modern today or a furnace that just takes care of the whole house. You only had one little room heated in that house and when it's time to go to bed at night, you took a iron or a brick that was heated and put it at the foot of the bed to keep your feet warm.

Q: Your grandmother or somebody would wrap it all up.

A: Oh, yeah, they. . . the brick would be wrapped up, yeah, and then you get the heat off that to keep your feet warm when you was in that bed.

Q: If you skated, and your grandfather was a blacksmith, did he make your skates?

A: Oh, no. . . no, they were all bought.

Q: Oh, okay, I was just curious. . . . [inaudible/sound disappearing on tape) Anything else. . . who were some of your friends . . .

A: Didn't have so many friends. . . you didn't really live year around, you don't get to know your, uh, neighbors and besides your neighbors would be so far away that, uh, it's not like today, you got a neighbor, your house is maybe. . . maybe a hundred foot from you or something like that, then you knew your neighbor and all that. . . no, it, uh, today it's all together different. Back then, I mean, if you saw somebody, you wave, and that's about it but, uh, as far as like, uh, you'd say, your friends that you played with and all that because I didn't go to school here I did not really know anybody around.

Q: Uh, then when you went over to the hotel and so forth, in those days, then you walked.

A: Oh yes, yes, unless, uh, your family was fortunate enough to have a car but, uh, yes, we have always had cars. . . old touring cars, they called them, no windows, they had curtains in them for the winter or bad weather. . . but. . .

Q: Was that your grandfather's car or your father's?

[Type text]

A: That. . .my father's, yes.

Q: A big touring car.

A: Big touring car, yeah. Yeah, it's a four—door but, uh, no windows. For the windows, they had curtains. Course, I was still and I still remember all that, like even, uh, here on the farm, we had, like I said, goats. We even had, uh, a goat cart. . . sit in that goat cart and run around the farm and goats pull you around in that cart. Like I said, I just enjoyed myself all summer, later, m' two brothers and myself and the three of us, we just right here on the farm all the time.

Q: You entertained yourself?

A: Oh, yes, that's.. .that's about the size of it, yeah.

Q: Uh, could you tell me what you might remember, uh, something about the Shady Side Beverage Company?

A: No. . .no, but I can say one thing about Shady Side and the booze part when that booze was brought and Shady Side had beer, it was nice, but when they brought in alcohol, Shady Side was no longer Shady Side.

Q: Who. . .who brought in alcohol. . .the stores or....

A: Well, yeah, because they voted on it and, uh....

Q: Who voted on it?

A: The people that lived around, I guess, I don't.. .I guess.. .uh, I guess. . . it was, it was passed, you can put it that way. I guess some of the stores thought they could sell it and, uh, that changed things in Shady Side a big way, yes.

Q: It changed in a big way?

A: Yeah, because when alcohol was brought in, of course, that brought in, ah, all the your federal people and, ah, it brought in everything, when alcohol comes in, everything comes, even your firearms, it brings in everything, when they have. . .when just beer was here, I mean, uh, people would buy it their self. They wanted to hunt, they'd go out and hunt and all that but soon as the alcohol brought in, that changed Shady Side all together. It's a big change.. .I noticed a big change in Shady Side. And now. . .and now, here it is back in '86; now they're bringing in sewerage. Shady Side isn't like it was just five years ago.. . it's the same thing, big change. They're building up houses everywhere now because you have sewerage. No, it's not like the old days, no, uh. The old days, I tell you, they were nice.

Q: Now, something curious I would like to add, if they didn't have booze down here, or whiskey, then some people down here must have had stills.

A: Oh, yes. . .yes.

[Type text]

Q: Now, I don't want you to tell me who...

A: No, no.. I wouldn't, no.

Q: But some people had stills....

A: It was, see, it wasn't that much.. .sure, they'd have just a little bit here to drink, a little bit there to drink, but it isn't likely we'd go out today and drive an automobile and all that. . .oh no.

Q: But, I'll say, some people did have stills....

A: Oh, yeah.. .yes, there were stills here, oh yes.

Q: That's interesting.

A: I knew of people that had them, yes.

Q: Oh, okay. Uh, could you tell me a little bit about the barber. Was there a barber in Shady Side for the men to have their hair cut or.

A: No. . .I believe they. . .uh, probably their wives cut their hair for them or they cut their wives or their friends cut each others... .I don't have... .but I.. .no, I would say it was a barber shop. Maybe they'd go to. . .all the way up to Annapolis, uh, maybe, uh, once a week or something like that to, uh, get their hair fixed or cut because I knew my grandfather, he took a lot of his vegetables up to Annapolis, he'd go up there once a week, even during the winter. I remember in the winter, when the, uh, river was frozen over so hard that he left here, took _____ beach, team of horses and a wagon and went all the way to Annapolis on the ice.

Q: And would he go to the city dock in Annapolis or just.

A: Well, just where he pulled in in Annapolis, I doubt it because the dock. . .where they pulled into Annapolis, I do not know.

Q: And I bet he sold everything he had....

A: Oh yes, yes...

Q: Well, that's neat.. .that's nice to know, that he would go like once a week, you'd say...

A: Yeah. . . that was during the summer, he'd take the vegetables up and then during the winter, they'd be going up there and he'd take a team of horses up there, I mean, uh, maybe he was taking oysters up there or what he was doing, I don't know.

Q: Did you ever go with him?

A: Oh, no. . .oh, no, huh, huh, no, I never went up there with him, no.

[Type text]

Q: That's interesting, yes, indeed it is. Uh, could you tell me, uh, did you know any of the men down here who were boat builders?

A: Oh yes, there was, uh, the Neimans, Rogers, yeah, they built boats right here in, uh, back of us. My grandfather, he's even built, uh, a few boats of his own. Yes, he had like big backtow and then he had another, uh, sailing boat and, uh, then had another motor launch. I know the biggest boat I know of was built down here, uh... the people bought the property from my mother when the year I was born, in 1921. Their name was, uh, Park, they were from Washington. He built a boat down here and was approximately 42 foot long and slept six people. It was a big yacht, beautiful job. But most of your boats out here that were built were, uh, what they call deadrise. They were oyster boats.

Q: Did you ever go down in the boatyards and see some of the men working on the boats?

A: Well, yeah, yeah. ...why even today, there was, uh, Lees, they're uh. ...they were famous boat builders. It's, uh. ...it's something that's like, you might call it, passed down through the family and, uh, they all have the know—how and they can just do it with, uh, I don't know... it's. ...just had the know—how.

Q: It's... they just have a knack for it.

A: They do, yes, they're very good at it.

Q: Uh, so how many boat builders would you say was down here in your youth that you can recall?

A: I recall three right now but, uh, I guess. ...well, there's Hartge's boatyard, there's. ...uh...

Q: Where was Hartge's boatyard down here?

A: That was right around Galesville, right around the port, right here. And then, uh, there was Sammy Lee's, right here at Parrish Creek, Neiman was right here in Parrish Creek...

Q: But you would say most of the people who lived down in Shady Side at that time, just lived and worked right in Shady Side, not too many people went away?

A: Oh, yeah, yeah. ...yeah, they lived right here, yes, that was their... that was their livelihood, just building boats, yes.

Q: And working on the water.

A: Yeah.

Q: When did you... at what age did you come back to Shady Side to live permanently?

A: I was, uh, 42. ...had a home built here, which we're sitting in right now... had that built in 194... 19, uh, 1965 I had it built.

Q: And you lived here with your sister?

[Type text]

A: Yeah, my mom and my sister, yes.

Q: Oh, your mother and your sister?

A: My mother and sister came here _____. Well, my mother, she was born right here on this property.

Q: Oh, she was?

A: Yes, oh yes. And I was born right here on this property, too, because it was all one piece of property.

Q: And you were born at home?

A: Yeah, and then, uh. . .my brothers and sisters, they were born in Baltimore, yeah.

Q: Oh, that's interesting. When you were growing up in Shady. . .when you were little, teeny and living down here in Shady Side and coming here on the weekends, who do you recall as the oldest person living in Shady Side?

A: Oh, that's... .uh... .I guess Ethel Nowell. . .I guess Ethel Nowell being the oldest person I ever remember.

Q: Are you talking about Mrs. Andrews?

A: Andrews, yes..

Q: Mrs. Andrews. Okay, because I like to ask people that on the tape because, you know, that tells who.

A: I... .I mean, uh, because she's still living today. I guess she'd been the oldest then, too, but then again, now, it's hard to say. I mean, I knew a lot of elderly people that lived here then.

Q: Could you think of who might have been the oldest man living in Shady Side at the time?

A: Oh, no, that's hard to say because when I'm young like that, or when anybody's young, everybody's old. Yeah, it's hard to say, then. Yeah.. .I.. .that's a question I couldn't say who was the oldest because to me, everybody was up in the years, then.

[end of Side 1 of tape]

Q: Paul, uh, what can you tell me about the church down here in Shady Side? The one you were talking about earlier.

A: Well, of course, they have two churches but one church that. . .I go to, or it was a. . . little wooden church, Episcopal Church, it's a little wooden, it's where the big brick one is now. Uh, that's, uh, what they call founded by my grandfather and two other fellows. . .I really do not know who they were. I do

[Type text]

believe one of them was Neiman, I'm not sure, but they was, uh, three of them that was the founder of that church.

Q: And, your grandfather was the one that was the blacksmith?

A: Yes.

Q: Uh, huh... and you don't know when the church started down here?

A: No, no.. I don't know what, uh, what year that was in. No, I don't have any idea. Had.. had to be back in, uh, oh, maybe, uh, I was christened there. . . that would. . I know it had to be there in 1921 so, uh, it probably 1900, I guess that church was built or maybe even before then.

Q: And if it was a wooden church then, when did it become a brick church?

A: Oh, they tore that one down, then brick church I guess was built probably in, uh...late 30's...possibly in the late 30's, I guess or maybe 40's.

Q: Now.. now if you belong to that church, I have interviewed some ladies who said that they used to have magnificent dinners there.

A: Oh, yes, yes.

Q: Remember those?

A: Oh yes, yes, well, I really didn't go to the dinners but, uh, I would go out and get what they call like the carryout where they had the fish fries, oh yea, yes, they had dinners all the time out there, everybody worked there at the church.

Q: Was that to raise money to build the new church?

A: Yeah, yes... to raise money for the, uh, for the new church.

Q: Uh, could you tell me, do you recall any sawmills in Shady Side?

A: No, not any sawmills but I know, uh, for as one, uh, one lumber company, it was called Thomas' lumber company and that was, uh, down, uh, right at the. . . that'd be at the head of the, uh, West River.. . sailboats would come in from Baltimore and would bring the lumber in to the lumber company there. And then later on, as it is now, you have your lumber company, well, Smith's lumber company... that's the only lumber company right here now.

Q: Well, I had heard that there was a sawmill down here so I didn't know....

A: No, not that I know of, no.

Q: Okay. Could you tell me what you know about some of the doctors who serviced the area here at Shady Side?

[Type text]

A: Doctor Dent. . . that was, uh, the one that brought me here.

Q: Okay, what's your recollection...

A: Doctor Dent, he lived upon Dent Road then he, uh, had house service and then he had his little old horse and wagon and he went around in because the roads, uh, that's all the wider there was, just for a horse and wagon to run up and down.

Q: And what do you recall about Doctor Dent?

A: Well, I don't recall anything because I didn't know him.

Q: Oh, you didn't know him?

A: No. . . I say, he was the one that brought me in and then, uh, maybe a couple of years later, he probably passed away or something. . . I never. . . I never knew of him, no.

Q: Okay. . . . then, what doctor took his place down here? Was there another...

A: Oh, I wouldn't have any idea.

Q: You wouldn't have any idea?

A: No, yeah.. .they had another doctor, sure, but I don't know who it was, no.

Q: Could you tell me some stories that maybe your grandfather or your father told you about Shady Side. . . maybe some unusual thing that happened here or something?

A: No, no, huh huh.

Q: Can't think of anything...

A: No, I can't think of anything off—hand now.

Q: Okay. Uh, in showing me through your very nice house here, you showed me some things on the wall. . . could you tell me about them?

A: Oh, there was a deer. . . yeah, I got them deer but they weren't here. I got them down in Calvert County.

Q: And tell me about the one that has the thing hanging around his neck.

A: Oh that's.. .that's just part of a... .the arrow that I shot him with, that was the bow and arrow I got him with. . . . that was a long bow.

Q: And. . . and do you like to hunt?

[Type text]

A: Oh yeah, yeah. . . .that was, uh, one of the things in my younger days but today, I... .I don't walk that much anymore now.

Q: Did you ever hunt down here in Shady Side?

A: Oh yes. . . .they're rabbit, the squirrel, quail, yes. . . .my grandfather, he raised quail. He actually was the first one to bring quail down this area. He. . .he actually raised them. There's still quail around today.

Q: Because of that?

A: Yeah.

Q: Well, that's nice.

A: But he _____ three years ago, I had quail be running right here on the property. You could say, come here baby, eleven or twelve of them running across the yard but not now. . . .all you see today is cats. They finished the quail up. . .rabbits all gone, yeah, even had ducks, the mallard ducks they'd be walking around the lawn here all the time but they're all.. .they don't come around no more either. Nothing but cats. . .cats kill everything. They don't need hunters no more, cats kill everything.

Q: Well, when you used to go out hunting for. . . for rabbits and squirrels and birds, you did it with a gun?

A: Oh, yeah, yeah... .a shotgun, yes.

Q: Can you tell me about one of the horns that are hanging in one of your rooms.

A: Oh, they were. . . they were the horns off the last cow on this farm. Yeah, they. . . they were. . . .my grandfather had them mounted and, of course, I still have that today.

Q: Now, what was the poor cow's name?

A: Oh, that was Betsy.

Q: Betsy.

A: the last cow on the farm, yeah.

Q: Betsy, my goodness. Anything else you could tell me about Shady Side?

A: No, I think. . . .I think we covered pretty well everything. All I can say is I'm sorry sewerage is coming in. Because that is the end of Shady Side, as far as country is concerned.

Q: Uh, could you tell me what you think, maybe, are some of your. . . since you've lived down here in Shady Side in your younger days, except during weekends and summers, what are some of your best memories down here?

[Type text]

A: Oh, I guess.. .guess I.. .taking a seine. You're going across the river and you haul a seine over there, it's a minnow seine and you catch all the grass.

Q: Now, what is a minnow seine?

A: A minnow seine, that's.. .well, that's because it's got a very small mesh, maybe just a quarter of an inch. And then, uh, you can catch minnows in it and you catch, uh, grass shrimp. And we'd get, maybe, oh, six, seven, uh, coffee cans full of grass shrimp, go in the morning and then maybe around noon or three o'clock, whenever the tide changed, we'd be out by time it was light to set and wait for the tide to change which would be tide going out, we called that a ebb tide and that's when we start throwing the minnows over. . .already grass shrimp over, just a little at a time, by your hand, and then, uh, you put them on your hook and we'd be catching a. rock fish. And we could catch all the rock fish you want but today, that's all gone, the water's gone and.. .the, uh, the grass shrimp, there are no more grass shrimp because the grass is all gone...

Q: Grass shrimp was not edible?

A: Oh no, no, they were, uh.. .grass shrimp was, uh, no more than maybe a half an inch long.. .I guess they're edible but time you cut the head off, you took the shell off, there's nothing there.

Q: Why do you think the bay is polluted? You want to give me your opinion? I'd like to know.

A: I would say churning up the bottom. Because the water can be clear, the first thing in the morning and the wind comes up and the wind.. . and the water starts to get rough, the water gets muddy, just that quick. I think there's been too much dredging because there are areas where it's dredged, its muddy, you can go in another area where it hasn't been dredged where your oysters are and the water is clear, even though it is rough but.. .I'd. . . I'd say that, others say no, it's something you never know. I.. .I don't think its run—off from my land and all that, I really don't, because, uh, it's been that way for years. But this is only been coming about, I would say, ever since there's been mannows and that's when dredging first started. That was tearing up the river bottom, tearing the bottoms up, even out in the bay. And, uh, the bottom used to be hard but today it's ground up, it's soft.

Q: Uh, speaking of the bay, you say you have oyster beds out front. Do you get oysters from them?

A: Not now.

Q: No.

A: No, the water's got too polluted. Oysters all died.

Q: Oh, that's a shame.. . that's a real shame. That's terrible. Uh, could you tell me what you did when you first started to work, what did you do as an.. .what was your occupation?

A: Uh, first one I started with, the first job I ever had, I worked for a bookbinding company.

Q: And where was that?

[Type text]

A: That was in Baltimore. . . then there right after the bookbinding job, I went in the Navy. When I got out of the Navy, I came out and went into refrigeration and air conditioning.

Q: How long were you in the Navy?

A: Two years, nine months and twenty days.

Q: And would you mind telling me where you served?

A: Pacific.

Q: In the Pacific. Okay, uh, and then you went in refrigeration..

A: Refrigeration, air condition, for five years and from there, I went to work in heavy construction, that was. . . .started that on the first Bay Bridge in 1949. And I.

Q: What did. . .what did you do on the Bay Bridge?

A: Tending the diver. . .my brother was a diver. I was his tender. Deep see diver. He was a diver in the Navy, too. Well, then we built the Bay Bridge and then from there, did the foundation for buildings in Washington and worked on the Jonesport Bridge or Woodrow Wilson Bridge, whatever you want to call it.. . .and built that one and then from there, went on, uh, Foggy Bottom, that's the Roosevelt Island Bridge. . .and then, uh, different bridges and different foundations and then, of course, the subway came in Washington. . .went the subway and then I worked at that stuff, all together, was 33 years. . . just that heavy construction and then I just retired. I retired just four years ago.

Q: And now you're just enjoying living on the bay, now.

A: Oh yeah, yeah, just doing ,what I want to do...

Q: Doing what you want to do...

A: Go where I want to go.

Q: Well, that's good.

A: Yes, I. . . .I been down to Epcot and going down to the Keys. . .uh, maybe this year, I'll get up to Canada. I want to go up to the World's Fair up there. Uh. . .we'll see how things go.

Q: Thank you, Paul.

A: Okay. Nice talking to you.

Q: We really appreciate it.

A: All right, bye.