



An Interview with: **Dave Linton** **May 28, 2004**

Sponsored by: Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

Interviewed by: Ginger Corson

Transcribed by: Christina Davidson: 2009

Q. ... 2004, and today we have the privilege of interviewing Dave Linton. So Dave, I want you to tell me your full name...

A. My full name is David Francis Linton.

Q: OK, and when and where were you born?

A: I was born right in West Shady Side in the home I reside in right now.

Q: When's your birthday?

A: February 26, 1936.

Q: OK, so tell me your parent's names.

A: My father's name was Calvin Jacob Linton and my mother's name was Ethel Grace Rogers.

Q: OK, well, the Rogers name has been around here a long time...

A: ... a long time.

Q: How long has the Linton name been around here?

A: Oh, over on this side of the Bay, I'd say about... I'd say around 175 years. It's just a guess. My ancestors moved over here from Deale's Island. Back then, when there was no engines or anything ... just come over in the boats they oystered in down there...

Q: Do you know why they came over here?

A: I guess they thought it was better oystering in the Upper Bay – they came from the lower Bay. And there were five families I was told came over here together: the Linton family, the Edgar family, the Whittingtons, and Marshalls, and Parks. And most of them I think, their ancestors are still living in Deale – they settled in that area. My great, great grandfather, he settled in Parker's Island Creek – up a little bit from Deale, but it kinda goes into Deale... right there. And the first house, when you go in the entrance of the creek, is where he built that. And he bought all that land around there, which was real cheap at that time... and a lot of marsh is stuck(?) with it too. And they used to trap muskrats and oyster and things like that.

Q: And do you know his name?

A: I don't know my great, great grandfather's name but I know my great grandfather's name which was John Linton. Yeah, he came over when he was eight years old, with his father, and he had polio when he was little... and he had one leg smaller than the other one. So, they tried oystering down there, he tried oystering down there, off Parker's Island Creek, and out there in the roll in the Bay all the time... where you had to work from there... it would throw him off balance and things, you know, and he was getting... So my Grandfather came up here and bought some land up here where ... on Linton Lane, where we live now. And he bought it from the family of Hallocks... they had all that land then... Capt. Harry Hallock and his grandfather and all owned that land...

Q: Didn't Harry Hallock live where Lucille Siegret(?) lived...

A: That's right, exactly...

Q: ... and they just rolled that house back ... somebody bought it...

A: Now, when they first moved there ... my grandfather first moved there it was a log cabin. And then when Mr. Hallock ... let's see... how did that go now? I know it was a log cabin because it had dirt floors, I heard my father say, and whether they were living in that or not, and the Hallocks just rented it out for a while... And then Mr. Harry Hallock, he bought it and made that, put that house around the... just built it right around that log cabin that was there. Because my grandfather rented that log cabin when he moved here from Parker's Island Creek, for \$5 a month, until he could buy that land down there... and then he sold him that land where Linton Land is now.

Q: Now how much property on that Lane did you-all own?

A: Well, my grandfather owned 2-1/2 acres... he bought it for \$25, for 2-1/2 acres. And that's where... the first house when you come in on the right was part of it. You know where my sister lived?... that was one of my dad's sisters...

Q: Trott?...

A: Yeah, Aunt Esther. And then the next one, where I live, and then where Aunt Blanch owns now, where ... right there where, next to me, on that side... and that was 2-1/2 acres.

Q: Now, didn't.... have you always owned that house that you live in now, or did that go out of your hands...

A: ... it went out of our hands – they had sold it when I was 16. And then when I came back from West Virginia... the lady that bought it from dad, had to go in a nursing home and she said, well if you want it, I'd rather for you to have it than anybody else. So I bought it back from her. A lot of memories when I walked into that house when I was a kid there.

Q: It hadn't changed much?

A: No, only the color of the painting inside and all like that. But I mean, the rooms and all were the same.

Q: And that was Eunice Austin?

A: (yes) that's right.

Q: And she was the only owner?

A: Well, her and her husband owned it together but then they separated, I think, back there at some time or another. Then he went on his way and she got the house.

Q: Okay, all right, because I remember those kids...

A: Yeah, that was Happy Barry and Carlene. ... Barry was the oldest one. His name was Carl, like his father, but they called him Happy, cuz he was always smiling.

Q: Yeah, he was friends with my brother.... So, the house where Miss Blanche Phipps(?) lives now...

A: That's where my grandfather's house was ... and grandmother.

Q: Okay, and what were their names?

A: Now my grandfather's name, let's see, he had four names... it's in this Bible here... if I can remember them, I think... [pause in filming]

Q: Okay, so tell me your grandfather's... this is your grandfather, your father's father...

A: Yes. [reading] His name was Charles Jacob Linton... Charles Thomas Jacob Linton... that's what it was.

Q: Okay, now did he have any brothers or sisters?

A: Yes he did. He had a... let me see... he had... Aunt Daisy Zangs(?) was one of his sisters and she was a Linton. She married Louie Zangs in Galesville – they had run that restaurant there... over there for years. And then he had another one, Aunt Blanch, that's who Aunt Blanch is named after, and she lived right there where Ed Walsh lives now ...

Q: Next to Gloria Shenton?

A: No, on the same lane, on Linton Lane...

Q: Oh, so up at the end?

A: It's right at the end where Ed Walsh lives there now... And I can't think of all the sisters he had right now, but he had sisters and he had brothers... Now Uncle Edgar Linton was his brother.. lived right straight across the road from where I live. Where Chris lives now... you know Chris Richmond?

Q: Is that Theresa Scott's husband [Yeah...] Okay.

A: But he kept the house real nice back then, my uncle did, but now... it's not in that shape anymore...

Q: Yeah, it looks like it's going to fall over any minute.

A: That's right [laughter]. And Uncle Jimmy Linton .. he lived on the next house where... what's his name... he rents it out to this young couple there now. I can't think of his name... he lived in Mayo...

Q: Is that the first house?

A: He owns the house now, but he rents it out. But all of those houses in there were Lintons and all people who married Lintons... at one time. And _____ ? Esther was one of dad's sisters, one of the older ones. And Aunt Lizzie Trott, she and Pat... they lived up the road... bought that little farm up the road and he worked that for years amongst other things...

Q: And that today is called Two Hollys Farm?

A: Yes, exactly. And that's all I can think of right now.... no, he had another brother, Clarence Linton, he used to have a Bug Eye... he used to... like in the summer he'd run produce and stuff to Baltimore for the farmers. In the wintertime he bought oysters with it. And the old remnant remains of it is left over... right now is over in Chester's Creek – that's where it sunk there. He used to keep it right there in Cedar Point Creek and, after he died his wife sold it to these people from Baltimore... and this is a story behind this... Well they... the old thing had laid there on the bottom so long it had mud in the seams. Well they'd come and bought it ... and they come down one day and got it and was going to take it up to Baltimore... tide was high, they were afloat when the tide was high. So they got out here and the wind was NE and they beat the mud out of the sand and it started to sink, and they couldn't keep the water out of it. So they runned it back in Chester's Creek there and grounded it, and got out of it... somebody went there and got them. And they wanted to give my Aunt... she wanted to give them the money back for it, and they told her, no, go ahead and keep it... which is unusual. I don't think people do that today too much. And they told her just keep it... I think they paid \$400 for it.

Q: Wow. That was a lot of money back then.

A: Oh yeah, yes it was. So that's the story of that. A lot of Uncle Clarence's children live in Baltimore, and the off-springs, you know.

Q: Who did he marry?

A: Well, he was married twice. His first wife left him for a man named Will Willy... and there's another story about that I could get into. Uncle Jimmy didn't like him much and they got to fighting. That was on Jimmy's brother's wife... Jimmy had a quick temper. She went off with Will Willy and so later, he married again, and I can't think of her name.

Q: And he lived on Linton Lane too?

A: Yeah, he lived right there at the time, where my great grandfather lived, where the Lewises live now, the red-roof house. You want me to tell you a story about Uncle Jimmy? [Sure...]
Well, Uncle Jimmy had took oysters over there one day, sold them, and Will Willy was standing there on the pier. He was right in the doorway as you come out on the pier. And Uncle Jimmy told him to move out of the way – he wanted to get out to his boat. He said he wasn't moving. So that's all he had to tell Uncle Jimmy... The next thing we know, Will Willy was in the creek. [laughter] Uncle Jimmy whopped him up-side the head and overboard he went. Then he got afraid that he was going to sue him, and he come home and put everything in his wife's name – Aunt Nelly ____? – in case he did try to sue him. But he never did. [laughter]

Q: Oh my goodness. And this was the ... which pier was this?

A: Oarwood Fields (?) in Galesville on Ten Acres Creek. He and Uncle Jimmy took his oysters up there to sell them. Will Willy was up there.

Q: Okay, was this before or after the wife problem?

A: This was after that... before that he and Uncle Jimmy got along all right. But when he run off with Jimmy's brother's wife, that was Uncle Clarence's wife, Uncle Jimmy was like that... he was quick tempered.

Q: Now which one was it that used to live where Miss Owen lives now? Like, two doors over from Glorious Shenton and across from Two Hollys...

A: That was Uncle Jimmy, Uncle Jimmy...that's the one I told you knocked Will Willy overboard. He got that from a slave... well a fellow that had been a slave, a colored guy, had been a slave, an African-American, and he wanted... well, the African-American had it there – the people that had let him go, give him oysters... built him an oyster boat and give him tongs so he could make a living for himself. Well he kept it... there was a little house down in the lower part of the lot. There was 2-1/2 acres there, and so Uncle Jimmy bought it from him. He wanted to sell it so Uncle Jimmy bought it from him for \$400 – that's what he was asking for it.

Q: Do you remember the guy's name who he bought it from?

A: I think he took the name of Wilson... but I ... don't hold me to that, I couldn't swear to that. I think that's what his last name was. I remember Jimmy talking about it.

Q: Did any of the Lintons marry any of the Edgars and Parks and, I mean ...

A: No, but Uncle Jimmy Linton that I know of now... My Uncle Edgar Lintons name ... that was his first name, Edgar Linton... the one who lives right where Chris Richmond lives now. And that was the only brothers that I knew that grandfather had was Uncle Clarence, Uncle Edgar and

Uncle Jimmy. And sisters was Aunt Daisy, and Aunt Blanche... I think it was five, I might be wrong. It's hard to remember all of it.

Q: Sure, sure. How about your dad, did he have brothers and sisters?

A: He had five... four sisters. He had Aunt Lizzy – was the oldest one, that was the one married Uncle Pat, Patrick Trott. Aunt Eugee [Eugenia], she married Willy Crandall. Aunt Esther – you knew her, right? – Aunt Esther, she married Crandall? Trott. So two sisters married two brothers. Then he had Aunt Blanche – was one of dad's sisters too – and Aunt Virginia, you know Virginia Darnell? – that was the youngest one. She married Francis Darnell.

Q: Now, are any of them alive now, or is it just...

A: Aunt Virginia just passed away here not long ago...

Q: In December... So we've got Miss Blanche. She's ...

A: Well, her husband died when he was about 58 years old. She married Chester Phipps. And he was from down in Churchton. And Aunt Esther, who I told you married Crandell Trott, and of course, they was ... I think the Trotts really came out of Calvert County. But of course, those were born up this way. I think they were born down around Cedarhurst or somewhere in that area probably. ...[inaudible]

Q: Now do you know why ... the reason that they came over here was simply because they needed... was is calmer...

A: Well now, the reason they came up here was cuz my grandfather, like I told you, had polio and his leg was hard for him to stand up.

Q: Now that was the John...

A: This was his father [points in book]... this is not the one. Yeah, this is the one that had the polio. And they come up here ... grandpop come up here... that was his father. My grandfather Linton's father.

Q: Can you hold that up right in front of your chest there and we'll see if we can zero in on that. Cuz that's an awesome picture. You don't look anything like him [laughter]. All right, now what's this guy's name here?

A: His name was John Linton.

Q: And was he the... John H. T. Linton? The one that's in Hartge...

A: Yeah, that's the one that's down on Hayes(?) Road... and his wife Elizabeth.

Q: Now she was an Edgar. Did you know that?

A: Was she?

Q: Yeah,

A: Okay

Q: Her name was Mary Elizabeth Edgar.

A: Okay, that's about right. So apparently they did marry the Edgars there.

Q: Okay, got it. All right, so, tell me what Linton Lane looked like. I mean, if you were walking down Linton Lane when you were growing up, what would you see?

A: Well when I was growing up on Linton Lane, it was gravel... a gravel lane... and the mailboxes weren't up the lane like they are now – they grouped boxes down at the end. And that's where you went... walked down every day and got your mail. Each one had their mail ... own mail box in a group. And of course my dad remembers when it was just a dirt road and gravel. He remembers when cars first came out. And my grandfather bought one of them... a brand new Model-T Ford. Curtains in the windows. He never learned how to drive it. [laughter] So dad would take him in ... he didn't even want to drive it, I don't think. But dad would take him anywhere he wanted to go. You had to crank it, you know. Wasn't no cars on the road. You didn't even have to have a driver's license. You passed more horse and buggies than you did cars.

Q: Now, were there a lot of trees... was there chickens, cows... what type of thing did you see?

A: Yes... almost everybody around there raised some chickens and hogs... raised a couple of hogs. Depends on how big your family was. If you had a bigger family, maybe you'd raise three or four. Now we always just raised two, because there was just the three of us. And that was plenty enough for us. I've seen Eddie Bast over there ... Bobby Bast's father... I've seen him raise as much as 8 or 10 hogs at a time.

Q: No kidding? Where did they keep them?

A: He had a big old hog pen down on one side of the garage... the old garage used to set back in there.... and he'd use one side of it for the pen... put a three-sided pen like... You had a spout there and you'd pour your slops in there to the hogs and it'd go right in the trough. And then you'd fed them middling in the summer. And then along about October or so you'd start changing them over to corn and water... just give them whole corn and water.

Q: And what's that stuff you feed them in the summer?

A: They call it "middling"... they used to it middling – hog, pig middling – hog middling.

Q: What's in it?

A: Oh, it's a combination of things... you mix it in water and just stir it. It's things that they like. I don't know exactly what you'd call it.

Q: Is it grain-based or meat-based...?

A: It wasn't meat-based... it was... grain-based, I suppose.

Q: Okay, I've never heard that term before.

A: Yeah, middling... that's what they called it. I've slopped hogs many times.

Q: Now were all the houses down there two-story houses?

A: No, now the house we had is a ... it had an attic but it's really a one-story house. Now my grandfather had a two-story house and where Mary and Esther lived – that's a two-story. And Uncle Edgar, where Chris Richmond lives now, that was a two-story. Now where Uncle Jimmy lived... I think maybe that was two-story too... yeah, that was two-story... I guess we were the only house there that didn't have a two-story.

Q: OK, because Miss Owen told me that when she first bought that house, she and her husband just scraped and scraped and scraped because there was like 17 layers of wallpaper.

A: Yeah, Aunt Nelly was a great one for wallpaper. [laughter]. You know, everybody wallpapered back in those days instead of painting, mostly. And if one wanted to wallpaper they'd all get in there and help them. And then when the next one wanted to wallpaper, they'd all come out there... and back and forth.

Q: Now do you know where Nelly was from?

A: Aunt Nelly was born up in Bristol(?) I believe, on a farm.

Q: Do you know her maiden name?

A: She was a Wayson(?)... she was Nelly Wayson. And first she married Mr. Petherbridge(?) – Edward Petherbridge... and I think that was his first name, Edward. And she had three children – she had Edward Petherbridge, and Mary and Annie – they were Petherbridges. And then when he died ... appendicitis... of course they didn't have any... they didn't know how to cure that... they cut it out. And then she married Uncle Jimmy. Well first Aunt Nelly started going with Uncle Clarence... and it was after Uncle Clarence's first wife took off. But then, later on, Uncle Clarence started going with somebody else... so Uncle Jimmy started going with Aunt Nelly. [laughter] And then later on they got married... and then they had three children. They had a son named Norman Linton, and a daughter named Louise and Ruth.

Q: Are they still around?

A: Norman died. He moved to... well, his wife came from Pennsylvania and she had lung problems, and she could only stay around here a couple of weeks... if she did, she'd die. He was an accountant – he went to college and he was an accountant – and they worked up in Washington, where he first had his job there... but then they moved to Colorado – Denver, Colorado, where the air was different. She was all right out there... and then later on I heard that his company – it was a private company he worked for, transferred him to Albuquerque, New Mexico – that's another good climate... nice and dry. And the last I'd heard, Norman had died down there. I think he was 66 years old.

Q: How about the two girls? Louise and...

A: Oh... Louise is still living and I'm not sure about Ruth... I haven't heard much about her lately. They all moved away, see, and it's kinda hard to keep track of them. And Edward, he died ... he used to oyster some too, Edward did, and then he... at last, started chauffeuring a yacht for up ... from Frumpy's Boatyard he'd run this rich fellow down... back and forth from Florida. All he'd

have to do is just be on the boat, keep it ready to go, keep it washed down, keep plenty of fuel in it...

Q: Now give me a typical day... when you were growing up. Like when you were a kid. And what would you do when you got up? Because ...

A: You mean when I was real little?...

Q: No – when you were old enough to help with the chores around the house...

A: Well, a typical day I'd probably ... maybe go down and feed the hogs, maybe feed the chickens, ... now, depends on what time of the year it was, you know... I don't know, it was a lot of different things.

Q: How about wood... did you have to bring wood in every day?

A: Yeah, that's right, we had wood... well, we had a stove that burned coal only, and my father would get a ton of hard coal from Henry B. Myers... they'd deliver down in Annapolis. The hard coal was \$20 a ton and the soft coal was \$6 a ton.

Q: Now how big is a ton?... I mean how much...

A: That's a pretty good sized pile...

Q: So did you just keep it outside the house?

A: Yeah, we just dumped it out in the backyard... we didn't have a coal bin or nothing like that. I often wondered why my dad didn't build a wood shed, I would think... because he would cover it up with canvas incase it snowed on it. And then he'd get... the soft coal – he'd use 2 tons of that to 1 ton of hard coal... so he always got the hard coal.

Q: OK, that lasted longer?

A: It would last longer – twice as long as the soft coal. See, the soft coal... that's strip-mined off the top of the ground. The hard coal is done way down in the ground – that's where you get your good coal. Then we'd get a load of wood, I remember, from Lee T. Owens.. I don't know if you've ever heard of him or not. You know Joe Miller? Well his father married Lee T. Owens... they come up here from Virginia, back when I was just a wee kid. And Mr. Miller bought all of that land up there now where Joe had... and he married Owen's sister... come up with them... I mean they all came up together. And he married his sister, and he run like gravel .. had a truck... haul gravel, haul wood, anything anybody wanted to haul.

Q: Did he live in Deale?

A: He lived right there before you get to Millers... on the left hand side of the road, on ... it's the house before you get to the house that joins on to Smiths – where Smith's Lumberyard used to be.

Q: Is that where Cordell Salisbury lives?

A: Yes, I believe it is, I believe that is the same house. That's right.

Q: It sounds familiar now. I think my dad would deal with him, you know, to get gravel for the driveway or something.

A: Yeah, he used to haul a lot of gravel for people... last time, I think he charged like... \$18 a load, but he spread it... down the lane. And we used to pay for it... Aunt Blanche and dad all went together... and he spread it all the way up to where Aunt Ester and Uncle Crandall lived... and then Uncle Crandall... they would take it all the way down to the county road, like that. And everybody up above that would pay just a little bit on it each year, when they needed to put it in there.

Q: What did your dad do for a living?

A: Well, he oystered in the winter time. He crabbed some when he was younger, with his father, but he never liked crabbing much... you'd get up too early in the morning, and he didn't like that – he'd like to sleep in a little bit later. He did it... I mean, after he got married he more or less... he worked with Uncle Pat at the railway... over there... there used to be a railway on the Island, right at the mouth of _____, it's washed away now. It used to be all a part of Wagner's Point at one time.. but it washed through, see, made an island.

Q: Right, people have asked for pictures of that island _____ Packwood and his little operation...

A: In fact, Bobby Bast and I helped him tear the building down once he stopped fooling with it. And he used to keep stones and _____ to try to keep it from washing, when he had it. But once he stopped doing that, it just washed away.

Q: Now how did your mom and dad meet, do you know?

A: Yes, my dad and his father, my grandfather, was _____ soft crabs down in Broadwater Creek. And mom and them lived right on Broadwater Creek. And dad said every time he went by there he kept seeing this nice looking girl up there, you know. So he hollered up there one day, he said, bring me a sauce pan down here and I'll fill you up with soft crabs in there for you. So she came down and that's how they met. She had been going with a couple of other different boys there at the time... but she said she knew she liked dad as soon as she seen him. And dad said he felt the same way.

Q: Now what were her parent's name? Do you remember?

A: Yes, that was my Grandfather Rogers was named John Henry Rogers. He was in the state legislature for I think four terms up here in Maryland... making laws, you know. He's the one that got the Tracy School down there and some roads in there and different places.

Q: Do you know who his parents were?

A: Indeed I don't, but I'll tell you, I knew who my Grandmother's parents was... his wife... her father was named Hezekiah Ward and he was a carpenter by trade. He had whiskers. And he'd walk... he'd take his toolbox when he had a job and walk all the way down to Deale... carry that toolbox, for a dollar a day... that is what he made. And sometimes if he would take... to ride a horse. And he always liked to carry a shotgun with him because you _____ in case you jumped up

a rabbit or some quail or something... he'd always come home with something. And things like that... but he liked to invent. Oh yeah, he invented the double-hung window. He invented elevator ... he git nothing for it. He gave the patents away... I got a story to tell you about that.

He invented that Navy anchor... that goes either way. The Navy still uses it. It swings this way and it will catch – swing this way it will catch. He owed a \$60 store bill... back in them days, quite a bit... he sold that patent for \$60 to the government. And he could have got... millions for that. He could have, I'm serious.

Q: Now do you know what his wife's name was? Hezekiah's?

A: I did know at one time, but not right now I don't.

Q: OK so what was their daughter's name?

A: His daughter married my grandfather Rogers. Her name was Laura, Laura Ward.

Q: Laura Ward, OK. So she left Broadwater and came up to...

A: No, well she came from... let's see... they were... I think they were born in ... not too far... in that area pretty close. I don't know just where. My mother, if she was living, could of told you that stuff.

Q: Now tell me about going to school.

A: Me going to school... We went to what is now called the Moose Lodge – that was the grammar school. Earlier then... it was segregated and Miss Ethel was the principal, Miss Ethel Andrews. Very strict, very strict. Let's see, we had several teachers, in fact your mother was a substitute teacher there at one time... and by the way, you look just like her.

Q: Oh thank you...

A: Let's see, there was Mrs. Whitman... was a teacher there... Ethel Whitman. They used to live down Steamboat road down there, right on the water I believe. And then there was Joan Giddings. She was a young red-headed teacher. And... Mrs. Carter.. I forget her first name, but boy she was strict...

Q: Neenah?

A: Neenah, I guess...

Q: She was my teacher too [laughter]

A: Really? Is she still living?

Q: I don't think so.

A: I don't think so either. But she lived down Steamboat road, I believe, somewhere down there. Strict!... I mean, you better not get out of line with her... she was almost as bad as Miss Ethel. [laughter]

Q: I think she probably learned from her!

A: Miss Ethel told mother one time, if she corrected me and they thought she was mad at me... next morning I'd pick out a nice big apple and bring it in and give it to her. She would laugh about that one day.

Q: So you were trying to get back on her good side... so how did you get to school and what time did you have to get there?

A: We walked out there because there wasn't no bus run down there then. The bus would bring kids in to the school from out the road, but from where we were they didn't come down, like it does now. It wasn't bad walking... it was all right, about a half a mile out there I guess.

Q: But actually it's a mile, but ... how long would it take you?

A: Depends on how fast we walked. Now on the first day of rabbit season we went off to hunt and always missed the bus. We walked a little slower that day. Mom said, I knew you were gonna ...

Q: I'll bet... Did you stay in the same classroom while you were there, or did you switch between teachers like they do now?

A: Once in a while we switched between teachers, but it was... when I first went there, it was from first grade... they didn't have kindergarten... I was seven years old before I started, because of when my birthday fell. And it would go up from first grade up to seventh when I first went there. But by the time I got up toward the 7th... I mean the 7th and 8th grade were there... by the time I got up to the 7th grade, they moved it up to Southern High School. So I took 7th and 8th up there.

[32:40]

Q: Do you remember anything exciting that happened at school? Anything like... that you got to get off of school because such-and-such happened?

A: You mean where I was... what do you call it... I think of the word, but ... expelled or something, do you mean?

Q: No, no, no. Like... somebody did something where something happened at the school.. you know... for instance, the one story I'm thinking of, somebody put pepper in the fire.

A: Oh, well... We put a snake in Miss Ethel Andrew's desk drawer one time! [laughter]

Q: Alive?

A: Yes! It wouldn't hurt you, it wasn't a poisonous snake. And I can remember that now, when she opened up that desk drawer... boy, I mean, she done some hollering.

Q: Now you said "we" put it in the drawer... who was "we?"

A: Well, it was Bobby Bast, I think, and if I'm not mistaking now, and myself. And I can't remember, there might have been one or two others in on it. And one time, Bobby brought a possum and turned it loose... a live possum. He caught it and ... running around and Miss Ethel said "Get that thing out of here."

Q: Aren't possums mean?

A: They can bite you if you put your hand down and try to grab 'em. Miss Ethel had a broom after it... [laughter]

Q: Now, when you would walk to school, who would be walking with you? Who were...

A: Usually the kids that lived down there, like Bobby... Audrey, Audrey Trott... she married Jimmy Sovert(?). And... I can't remember all the kids now. But it would be maybe three, four or five in a group.

Q: So were there a lot of kids that grew up down in... in West Shady Side that you would... play with in the summertimes?

A: Yeah. And then, of course, you had some summer homes down in there, and some of those kids would come down... we'd play with them.

Q: Do you remember and of the summer people's names?

A: Yeah, right there where Uncle Jimmy and them used to live, there was a family had that place and ... the name of Dawlins(?). And he was a doctor. And they used to come down after school let out and stay all summer.

Q: Wow, yeah it's too bad people can't do that much anymore... Did you all ever take any trips when you were growing up?

A: You mean school trips?

Q: Well either, family or school trips... where did you go?

A: Yeah we took school trips... we went up to Baltimore, up to the Harbor. Went in on a yacht. They drove the school bus right up on the pier. Norman Schultz was driving the bus then... and we got on the yacht, went around Ft. McHenry, had a tour of Baltimore right there. And we'd been to Washington... I've been up top of the Washington Monument... walked up... 550 feet high [laughter]

Q: Did you take the elevator back down?

A: No, walked down. Coming down wasn't bad ... going up was the hardest.

Q: How about... do you remember any stories that you were told as a child, about things that happened in Shady Side, by the old-timers?

A: Oh God, yes... all kinds of things. Some things I don't really want to repeat [laughter]

Q: Well, that just peaks my curiosity...

A: I know it does... well, I don't want to repeat it for the simple reason that some of these people are my friends or ancestors, you know... yeah, it was a lot of things.

Q: Okay, well I'll ask you again off-camera later. [laughter]

A: Yeah, do that and I'll be glad to tell you.

[36:46 – break in filming]

Q: Okay, can you tell me how you made your living?

A: Well, I crabbed and oystered. I have done other things in between, a little bit once in a while, but mainly that's what I did.

Q: Did you have your own oyster boat?

A: Well my father had a boat, it wasn't ... after he died, I worked it a few years, and by that time the oysters were playing out, so I just sold it.

Q: Did that boat have a name?

A: "White Wing" – my grandfather had a sailboat at one time and named it "White Wing" ... so my dad... we had to get it documented by the Coast Guard, so my dad said well, we'll just name it White Wing.

Q: Now, what kind of boat was it?

A: It was a dead-rise(?) similar to the one over here that Capt. Avery built... only it was bigger than that. The one we had was 42-feet long and 10-feet wide. We carry 135 bushels of oysters, and if you put collar(?) boards up a little higher... 150.

Q: So you started out hand-tonging? [...yes] ... so tell me a little bit about that.

A: Well what do you want to know...

Q: Well like how you would do the hand-tong and would you be moving when you did it, or would you be anchored...

A: You'd be anchored... and then you could... you'd slack off, slack the rope off and let the tide cut back or wind, and move around that way. And you had cleats where you can shear from one side to the other... move it around.

Q: And how many men would be actually oystering?

A: Well my dad... he's had at times... he went out before I got old enough to oyster and he probably had three or four men in the boat... maybe ... tongin' ... counting yourself. But normally it was... well, after I got old enough to oyster... we've never had over three in the boat or four... no three.

Q: So is one person culling the oysters?

A: Well, yes if you are on oysters. It's all one can do to keep two tongers off and sometimes they can't even keep one off... depends on how many you on...

Q: Okay, so tell me how you would go out looking for oysters, I mean, you go out on the Bay...

A: You know where the oyster bars are, so you just figure in the morning, what bar you might want to go on and try your luck.

Q: Now are these bars that you actually owned or did the state own them or how did that work?

A: No, they were public bars, they were public in the Bay there. Now in the river here was private. But they used to be public years ago, until they let the people have planting grounds and stuff like that. But all them bars, up West River and Rhodes River ... just like the South River is now... see, they're public bars. There is planting grounds in South River, but not on the natural bars... where the natural oyster bars were. In other words, oysters will grow if you plant them there, but they won't catch there... you know what I mean...

Q: Now, did you ... were you ever involved in planting oysters?

A: Yes, we planted some oysters at times and ...

Q: So, how do you go about doing that? Where do you get the stuff from and what's it called and what's it look like and ...

A: Well, we used to get the oysters from Capt. Bernard Hallock... used to go down in Virginia.. they used to have these big oysters catches down there, like on the James River. And he'd go down and buy them and these little spat would be all over these oyster shells ...

Q: So a "spat" is a baby oyster....

A: Yes.... that's the baby oyster's name and then we'd buy them from him ... so many bushels... and just scatter them around on the planting grounds then wait until they get big enough, then we'd tong them up or dredge them up, whatever...

Q: So how many spat would be on one oyster shell?

A: Oh God... it varies... I've seen as many as 15 or 20 little spat on one big oyster shell.

Q: So once the oyster grows to a certain length, it drops off that ...

A: Well, if they crowd each other sometimes they will, one will drop off. But most of the time they will pretty much stick to the surface they catch on. See, the spat floats around ... when the oyster shoots the spat, it will drift around and float around until it hits something solid. And wherever it hits, it sticks... and where it sticks, that's where it will spend it's life, unless somebody moves it or something moves it.

[41:18]

Q: How do we get baby oysters? [laughter]

A: How do we get them? Well, they just spawn ...

Q: Now, are oysters male and female?

A: They are... but they are not warm blooded... it's not physical contact like warm-blooded animals will, or like people..

Q: It's more like the salmon thing?

A: Yeah, sorta like that, yeah...

Q: ... Where they lay eggs somewhere and then somebody does something to them... [... exactly]... Okay, [laughter]... it just suddenly dawned on me I had no clue.... [laughter]

OK, so you've planted this and you've thrown it in the water as spat... so how long is it before they're grown up big enough that you can catch them again?

A: Well, if you're on good growing bottom, it's about three years... was about average... before they get market size.

Q: And what would you constitute as a good growing bottom?

A: Well, it varies. Now some mud bottoms will grow oysters a little quicker than on a natural bar. I don't know what it is, but it seems that that's the way it works.

Q: The oysters like mud better than sand?

A: Yes. Now we had one part of a natural bar up here in West River... my dad had that, and that... it took a little longer... it grew a pretty oyster, but we had some ground on mud bottom in Chester's Creek and you could take them up in two years because they were big enough. But over here it would take three years or more.

Q: Now does the depth have anything to do with that?

A: No. It could be the tides are running pretty strong around that point right there, that could have helped them. The oysters would get real fat there too.

Q: Now you said something earlier about somebody doing something with soft crabs in Broadwater Creek. What were they doing there?

A: Oh, we were hauling... my dad and grandfather were hauling crab seines and catching soft crabs.

Q: Right... what is that? I've never heard of that.

A: Never? Never heard about hauling a crab seine. It's just like a seine... you drag it. It's got like chain on the bottom and the corks up on the top, and you just drag it along the shore like that [shows with arms] and it will catch anything around there that's on the bottom. But they'll come in, it's not like you clean them up forever, they come in again.

Q: So how wide was this on the bottom?

A: You mean how long was the seine? It could vary... some of them go to 20 feet, some of them maybe would be 18 feet.

Q: So how would you work that... do you have two people in boats or are they walking?

A: No, you get in and wade, and you got a line here that you grab hold of ... with a stick on it to hold in your hand... and you just hold it like that and drag it along... just keep walking with it. Til you go so far and think you've got something in it, and you pick it up like this and shake everything down in the middle and get everything out.

[44:14]

Q: Now when did they stop doing that, because I haven't....

A: Yeah, they haven't done that for a long time... I haven't seen anyone haul a crab seine for years.

Q: I was going to say, I haven't heard that there have been that many soft crabs where somebody could get....

A: Yeah, well see in them days they had plenty of soft crabs. You didn't have the Bay full of crab traps, and all, and the only way you crabbed was either like that or trot line. My grandfather and them, they used a trot line.

Q: What did they use for bait?

A: They used always... if they could get them... salt eels. Which is really your best bait you can get. Of course, now days, if eels are expensive, a lot of people will buy chicken or something like that they use for bait. It's pretty good. But bull nose.... they used to use that sometime. It was all right if you could get off to yourself, but if you got around somebody that was using eels – they'd catch all the crabs. They'd rather have the eels than the bull nose.... and stink!... My dad said he used to hate that grandpop would buy a barrel of them things once in a while, and he said he would almost gag every time he'd reach down getting that stuff and trying to get it on the line. That's one reason he worked at the boatyard... I think he didn't care much for that crabbing.

Q: So, when he did go crabbing with a trot line, where would he set up his line?

A: Oh, anywhere in the West River. They used to set out there... of course, in them days, they pulled them by hand... set up on the bow of the boat. And they sold crabs by the barrel then, not the bushel. I mean ... a crab barrel would hold 2-1/2 bushels. And him and grandpop would go out there sometimes, and they would catch 6 or 7 ... no, sometimes they would catch 21 barrels... no, not 21... wait a minute, what did he tell me. I think he said it was 7 or 8 barrels by 11:00, and then they'd come in. My grandfather had a crab house down there and he used to have the crab picked out, you know...

Q: Well that's where we know Miss Esther because she was the best crab picker ...

A: She was... well, a lot of grandpop's daughters did pick there for him, and he had some cousins... that used to pick for him. And back in those days they used to pay them 10-cents a pound to pick out. Well they could make a little something doing that. And they was good picking... a good crab picker can roll the meat out of them...

Q: I was sent as a child, to go to Miss Esther's with money, and you may as well have been sending me to Washington DC, because Lent(?) Lane, next door to the lane I grew up on, was like a foreign country to me. But I definitely remember that.

A: My mother used to pick them too... she sold crabmeat there for a long time.

Q: Now what did people call your mother?

A: Either Ethel or Aunt Ethel or somebody like like.

Q: I don't remember that.

A: You don't remember mom?

Q: I don't think so.

A: I guess... she's been dead probably a little while. You remember my father?... You don't remember him either?

Q: No. I've heard their names growing up... but I don't remember them at all. All right, so ... you oystered and crabbed... Did you ever clam?

A: Only a few times with Lee Hallock. He had a clammer(?) and when he couldn't get help on the boat then I was in between crabbing and oystering... and I got the boats all painted up... then I'd go out... he'd ask me to go out with him until the crabs come on... I told him I'd go with him until the crabs come on and then I want to crab.

Q: Sure. Now what kind of a rig did he have?

A: A clam rig? They have them things that goes down in the water and comes up on a conveyor belt... and have an engine... and they blow the clams out of the bottom. But they have done a lot of damage around here... I think so. They've dug on oyster bars, they've done different things like that, that they shouldn't have... places where they shouldn't have been, really. And you really don't have to be on the oyster bar... Say the tides coming in – that's when oysters feed – and you're down clamming on that side... you stir all that sand up and it drifts through in the tide and fills these oysters up while they're feeding... it fills the shells up, and the oysters will die... yes they will.

Q: Does anyone at the Department of Natural Resources know that?

A: I think.... but they let them do it anyway. Don't make much sense does it?

Q: Now, if you were King... what would you do to help bring the bay back the way it was when you were growing up?

A: Well if I was to do it, I would run it like they always did... used to run it. You know, I'd do it that way. But I'm not running it today, and I guess it's up to the one running it today to do it the way they want it ... what they see fit. But I would have done it the way they always used to do it ... we always had plenty of stuff.

Q: Well do you think holding off, like how they laid off rockfish for a couple of years, and then the rockfish came back... do you think they should say, OK, just forget it, you're not taking anything out of the Bay for the next five years...

A: That's fine to say that, but you got a job. But a lot of these watermen today, you say layoff five years, a lot of them can't do it. That's where the heartache is in this. Now over here, some of them are pretty lucky and they can get a job pretty good, but on the other parts of the Eastern Shore, down on the Eastern Shores, that's it for them... they make it on the water or they don't make it.

Q: Exactly. So did you do anything other than working on the water? Did things get hard enough for you?

A: No, I've pretty much done that all my life.... until I retired.

Q: So you are totally retired now?

A: Yes.

Q: Tell me how you met your wife.

A: How I met Marie... well, I was living in Cedarhurst, my mother and I, and they bought a house right next to us.... well, we weren't really interested in each other at that time... and later on, her and Chuck split up ... her second husband... split up... and they moved across the street. And after that, I mean after that, her and I started seeing each other and fell in love and we got married in West Virginia. Over here... my cousin was a lawyer in Annapolis... and he said... of course, she wanted to get a divorce, and he did too, but the thing of it was, he didn't have any money to pay for the divorce. I said, well I'll pay for the divorce... don't worry about that... but it was \$850... and that was my cousin doing it. So, we were just living together when we went into West Virginia, and over there it's \$50 for a divorce... yeah!... so she sent back and got the papers and everything for her second husband to sign the papers. Of course, it's kind of a personal thing, but he sent them back... I think we had to wait two or three days, and we gave it to the judge to end it over there in the courthouse. And then we went on down to the parsonage and got married.

Q: Do you have children?

A: Her and I don't. She had four children. But her oldest boy was killed.... automobile accident.

Q: Oh my goodness... Was she brought up around here?

A: No, she was raised and went to school and all in Philadelphia.

Q: OK. Now, tell me about.... I'm going to name a couple of nouns here ... these were things that were in Shady Side... and you tell me what you remember about it.
The Andrew's Hotel...

A: Well, I remember it used to sit right across from _____ Store, which used to be there, but it's not there anymore either. Years ago that was a booming business.... when you had the steamboats running... because you had the ... people had to stay somewhere when they come

down here. Like they'd come from Baltimore, Washington, wherever... and that was pretty good. Later on it tapered off, when people got cars... but they still had some that would come down and stay, but it wasn't as good a business then as it was in the beginning.

Q: Did you ever go there?

A: Oh I've been there but not to stay. We'd been there on school trips and things. We'd have Halloween parties or something there.

Q: Did they ever buy any oysters or crabs or anything from you?

A: No, I don't believe so... not that I know of. I sold most of my stuff to Woodfields in Galesville... I have sold to other people at times, but I never could get away from Woodfield for some reason. It was so handy... he'd buy everything that was legal. Well, a lot of them would only want the #1 crabs and the other crabs they ... I'd have to run around trying to find a way to get rid of them or throw them all back... but he'd take all of those.

Q: Which Woodfield is this?

A: That would have been William Woodfield, Hermie Woodfield... Little Al Woodfield, when I first started was over there. And Charlie Woodfields... that's the one I mainly went to when I was crabbing.

Q: Do you remember any other boarding houses?... Somebody said there was one down Borman's(?) Lane... but we just can't quite place it and who that was... How about down Steamboat Road where Leatherburys...

A: It could have been... I really don't know...

Q: Do you remember the Emma Giles at all?

A: No, only hear the older folks talk about it. I've seen pictures of her.

Q: Do you remember any stories...

A: I remember things older people told me... that's all... I've only seen pictures of it. They'd say it would come in... when it came in the mouth of the West River and blow the horn ... and everybody knew that the Emma Giles was coming in.

Q: How about the Showboat?

A: I don't remember any of that...

Q: Post Office?

A: What post office... we've had so many here.

Q: Probably ... the earliest one you remember.

A: The earliest one I remember was right across from Andrew's Hotel. And there's nothing there now... I remember that... and then it moved to ... up to where... across from the ... almost when you get up to the Baptist Church... on the other side of the road...

Q: By the fire department?

A: Well down just a little way from the fire department..

Q: Where Guard(?) Environmental is right now... it's for sale..

A: Where's that at?

Q: Across from the Baptist Church...

A: Yes, but a little bit this way though... well, that's where the next post office... And then I remember... where it's at now... and they moved it from there to there.

Q: Any stories about the post office... did they try to change your name or spelling or anything like that? I've heard stories that they did that... where ...

A: It could have been, I just don't recall it.

[56:20]

Q: Movie theater.

A: Now they used to have a movie theater there, right across from Shady Side market one time...

Q: Do remember ever going there?

A: I don't remember going there but I've had friends tell me you have been there, but I can't remember it [laughter]... I mean it goes back so far...

Q: Wasn't a very good movie?...

A: Well I guess it was but I just don't remember it.

Q: Do you remember a car sales lot? I think it was Bill Nell(?)

A: Well it probably was because he was into all that stuff... it could have been.

Q: Because Stanley Trott says that Shady Sides going down hill because ... we used to have a movie theater, car lot and all that stuff, and now we don't have any of that...

A: I remember my mother talking about going to the movies at that theater and things, but I can't recall it. But Bobby Bast says he can remember...

Q: How about... if you needed something at the grocery store, where would you go?

A: Well we dealt a lot with Mr. Swinburn (?), Miss Swinburn there. They were a nice couple, they came from Wales. And they bought a store in Baltimore City and the store they bought was called Swinburns... there was a man named G. C. Hopkins owned that... he had it for years and then he sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Swinburn and they moved down here from Baltimore.

Q: How about... did you ever hear... do you know where Miss Liddy Owens used to live?

A: Yeah, right at the end of that lane down there.

Q: Do you ever remember that being a store?

A: I don't remember it being a store... I hear them talking about it... my dad and all. I remember the old building where they used to keep the feed and stuff... because they had to put everything up off the floor when the tide come up... it's built almost down on the marsh. The last... Isabelle... you saw that.

Q: That's right, it came clear up to the middle of the window...

A: Well it's done that several times. When they were living there, when Miss Liddy Owens was living there...

Q: Sure... How about Crandall's store?

A: Crandall... that would be Herb? [Right...] Yeah, that was up right as you come into Dent Road. They had a store there, him and his two sisters runned it.

Q: Do you remember the sister's names?

A: I should...

Q: That's OK. How about down West River Road? Do you remember a store down there? I want to say it's a German name...

A: ...You talking about down Weem's Road?

Q: ... where the post office is now...

A: That's what they call Weems Road... the Weems owned all that farmland and on both sides of that... Yeah, that was called Henry's... Mr. Gus Henry's... I remember them well. I bought feed down there from them and different things. And they used to have an oyster house down there too... and they'd shuck some oysters... and they had that store... the guys would come in from oystering and they would come in and sell the oysters to him and take the money and go in the store and buy groceries...[laughter] Well, they had to go somewhere... Well, he did a lot of that on the Eastern Shore like that... one fellow down there owned 99 dredge boats at one time. And every time he'd try to get 100, something would happen to one of the boats... so he was stuck at 99. And he owned the grocery stores ... they'd come in and split their catch with him and then take what their part was and go to the store and deal. He had it made, didn't he?

Q: Now, do you remember any other oyster houses around here?

A: Yes, little ones... [PART 1 ends...]

[PART 2]

A:... next one down from Woodfields was Benning Brothers... ____ and Frank Benning.

Q: Is this in Galesville?

A: Yes... and then over in Rhodes River there was Capt. Johnny _____... right as you go in on the right there... he had a little oyster house right there. And then Leatherburys had one down there for a while...Parrish Creek.

Q: Right. Do you know anything about an oyster kiln that was down what we called Smith Road? ... where they would burn the oysters to get...

A: Oh... killin... yeah, they'd make lime ... I don't remember one in my time but I remember them talking about old Capt. Henry Bast and Mike Hartge had a little oyster house too, down there by Hayes old place ... right where Smith lives now.... Smiths... yeah, right in there, they used to have an oyster house... they had a lime kiln.

Q: OK, that's the one I'm talking about. I don't what the name of that road really is but we always called it Smith Road.

A: Well it's... an old couple used to live back there... Mr. & Mrs. Arnold... and he was almost blind. They'd walk in the road every day and she'd have hold of his arm and guiding him along. And I remember when I was a kid, I delivered the Grit(?) paper... I used to carry it all the way back down that road just for that one paper for them... it goes back in there a pretty good ways... almost down to Steamboat Road.

[DVD interrupted...]

A: ...It was called "the Grit"... it was just an old paper, cost about a nickel.

Q: Who put that out?

A: ... I don't know, but I know I used to deliver them... I didn't have that many to deliver, but thought maybe I could pick up a little pocket change... riding around on my bike delivering them... it was called "the Old Grit." Had Lil' Abner in there.. that was like a cartoon... like an old couple down in Arkansas... not a couple, but a couple of men down in Arkansas... that was one of things in there. The one that had the store was Lumm(?) ... his name was Lumm. And they'd even been on the radio... but they had the cartoon character of them in the Grit paper. And old Abner would come into ... like an old country store in Arkansas... he'd say "Lumm... you got any sweet tatter slips..." and he'd say "...yeah, I got em' out back... all you want."

Q: How about any boat builders?

A: Capt. Perry Rodgers... well, I knew of him. He didn't build boats since I come along. I might have been just a kid, I don't remember that much about him. But I've heard my father and them talking about him. Capt. Will Lee... Capt. Will Lee built the boat we had.

Q: Where'd he live?

A: Right down there on ... you know where Clarence Rodgers and them live there now?

Q: Woods Wharf Road (?) ??

A: Yeah, and he built them back in there... and I remember that shed back in there and everything... and then after he'd build them, he'd wet the bottom... put feed sacks on the bottom and wet them down so that when he put them in the water they'd be all swelled up. And he'd haul them down to where the oyster house is... with a horse pulling a cart... the boat would be setting on wheels...and the horse would pull it down there. Then he'd back the horse up and let it go down right in the water... just like a railway. And the boat that dad had built there ... put it in the water and it never leaked a drop. Not a drop of water came in when they dropped it in there. He had that boat built, brand new, for \$550... back in 1936, the year I was born. 42-feet long and 10-foot wide... and good lumber in it.

Q: Do you know what happened to that boat?

A: Yes, I sold it down in _____? I went down there when I stopped oystering... I sold it to a guy down there, he wanted it... Dad paid \$550... we used it all them years, and I sold it to him for \$3000. Of course we had to keep it up all them years too. And that was cheap then, because boats were pretty expensive...

Q: How about the doctor? What would happen if you were a kid and were sick?

A: There were several doctors around... we had Dr. Wilson, she's the one who brought me into the world... Do you know if she's still living? I think she's about 100 years old now. Because she was old when she brought me into the world and I'm 68...

Q: I'm pretty sure she is... here she is...[pointing to picture?]

A: No, that's miss Ethel...

Q: No, right here... Emily Wilson...

A: Well, she come up here from North Carolina... that's where she grew up at... and she married a fellow named Wilson – her name was Hammond.. maiden name...and she come here and married this Wilson, he was a farmer up there... and I think she had two sons. And she told me later, when I was talking to her... I was about 25-years-old the last time I seen her... and she said one of her sons liked it on the farm, stayed there and the other one didn't... he done something else. But she had one son who really liked farming and he worked the farm. And then when her husband died, somebody told me she went back to North Carolina and married an old boyfriend she had down there when she was younger... his wife had died... so that's the last I heard of that.

Q: Any other doctors that you remember from when you were younger?

A: Yes, there was doctor... in fact he saved my life and I'm trying to think of his name... because I almost died when I was 8-years old ... I had rheumatic fever and scarlet fever, all at the same time... but I'm trying to think of that old doctors name... West(?), Dr. West. He tended me and got me back.

Q: What did he do?

A: I can't remember everything he did... he got my fever down, that's one thing. And mom would want to pay him and he said no, your husband's over there fighting... dad was in WWII then... Mom never even told dad I was that sick. She didn't want to worry him. She said he's got enough worry about staying alive over there... no sense worrying about that. So she called, and he said, no, I can get the money from the government... you don't owe me nothing. Mom wanted to pay him... but he got me out of it.

Q: Do you remember any interesting or colorful characters from your early memories?

A: There's been a lot of them... but I don't like to mention them too much because of their ancestors are around here...[laughter] I don't want to stir up something...

Q: Tell me about the Bay freezing over.

A: Well, the year I was born, the whole Chesapeake Bay froze over. And ice was about 4-foot thick right out in the Bay... and even the Coast Guard boats couldn't get through. And you could start walking here and walk right over on the Eastern Shore and walk up in a corn field up there on the Eastern Shore. I went over to Kent Island and I know the boats was all froze in solid... and the ones that had the planting grounds out in the river... my dad and them and Uncle Pat and all them.. they had horses out there and rough-shod them so they wouldn't slip... and had spikes like in the shoes... so they would dig down in the ice. They'd take these two men with crosscut saws and take the handle off one end of it... and saw it like this, and saw a piece off and then tong hoist it... and then saw another chunk like that, and then carry them up to Woodfields... and they had an old Model-T Ford for trucks, with chains on them... had them loaded... also pulled sleighs.... that was a rough winter, a bad one.

Q: Have there been any rough winters like that since?

A: Not that bad, no. ... that was the greatest one in my lifetime.

Q: And what year...

A: The year I was born... 1936.

Q: How about... and these are just things to jog your memory to see if you've ever heard any stories about pirates in the Bay...

A: I've heard stories about it... people talking about it. When ships would come up the Bay, they'd come out and board them and steal the stuff they had on the ships... and they had had some awful battles out there with pirates...this was years ago, now. It wasn't in my time by any means. That's how Bloody Point gets its name over there... they cornered a bunch of pirates over there. And they shot so many pirates and killed them til the Point was running red with blood. They had to kill them... they were just ... you couldn't get nothing up the Bay...

Q: Now what year do you think this would have been?

A: Oh I have no idea... it was way back.

Q: 1700s?

A: Probably. And one pirate of the Bay was the governor of Virginia... they found out later... Black Beard the Pirate?... he used to come in the Bay and raid... and come to find out, he was the governor of Virginia. [laughter]

Q: How about Indians?

A: I don't remember too much talk about Indians around here. People talk about where they might have been... settled around... because most of the Indians around here lived mainly on seafood. There was so much seafood... probably all up in these creeks... oysters and all.

Q: They were on the Atkins diet and didn't know it...

A: That's right... living high on the hog.

Q: How about any artists when you were growing up? Anybody that was really good at artwork.

A: Artists... well, I guess it was... I never paid any attention to artwork myself...wasn't interested in it.

Q: How about people that were really good storytellers?

A: You mean telling the truth or just telling a story? [laughter] Because I know plenty of them that would just tell a story... I don't know how true it was..

Q: You know how somebody would... they could just tell a good story about something that had happened to them.... just kind of keep your attention. Like down at the store...

A: Not really...

Q: How about old watermen that you remember...when you were little.

A: Oh, I remember a lot of old watermen...not when I was so little, I mean ... you mean that I actually knew that worked on the water or just somebody told me they had been before that?

Q: Either...doesn't matter...

A: I knew some that were real old when I started working around the water... like Capt. Neallie Turner(?) ... Grant Bast... where Charlie and them used to live... I remember him crabbing, that's all he did mostly... until he got up there to 30-years old... him and his father and brothers used to start crabbing down on the Mississippi River and they'd follow the crabs all the way up the Bay here.. as the crabs moved up. And they'd camp right over in that woods over there where the Smithsonian owns... used to be the Murrays (?) owned it. That's how he met his wife... he was camped up this way and met Miss Seller there.

Q: Did you know Miss Seller's maiden name...

A: Grinder... she was a Grinder. Some relation to Johnny Grinder.

[13:00] See DVD for rest of interview -- continues for another 58 minutes.