

Interview of Mr. Charles J. Coates, Sr.

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Shadyside Road, Shady Side, Maryland

Q: Mr. Coates, could you please tell me if you were born in Shady Side?

A: I was born in Shady Side June 6, 1916.

Q: Where were you born in Shady Side?

A: I was born in a family house in Shady Side, but not this family house.

Q: What particular house was this, what area of Shady Side?

A: It was, it was back in the field, they called it, back in the field.

Q: Is it West Shady Side here, what part of Shady Side was this?

A: No, it's right in Shady Side, right in the middle of Shady Side off Shady Rest Road.

Q: OK, Could you tell us who your parents were?

A: My parents were Rachel Etta Coates and Chas. . .Chesterfield Coates.

Q: Were there other children in your family?

A: Four, four children.

Q: Four children...

A: Kathl , Everett Coates, the oldest; Kathleen Coates, next; Alverta, next; and then Charles Coates.

Q: Did you go to school down here in Shady Side? And if so, where did you go to school?

A: I went to Shady Side Elementary School.

Q: And where was it located?

A: On Shady Side Road, just off of St. Mary Methodist, United Methodist Church.

Q: Could you remember who some of your classmates were?

A: No, well. . .I remember Ellen Biggs, I don't remember too much of my elementary education.

Q: Could you tell us how many years you went to school in Shady Side?

A: I went to school in Shady Side seven, seven years. First grade through seventh.

Q: You told me earlier that you've lived here only 12 years, did your parents move away or did you go to live with someone else?

A: No, there was, the closest high school to Shady Side was in Annapolis.

Q: Ok, Mr. Coates, you were telling me that you went to school down here and then you went to Annapolis and went to school.

A: I went to, Stanton High- School on Washington Street in Annapolis, Maryland for two years and then I went and moved to Eastport, with a cousin and stayed there one year and the last year I stayed with Mrs. Jackson on Carroll Street in Annapolis.

Q: Could you tell us a little about your childhood in Shady Side, what you did and, and what it was like down here then was it, ...

A: It was very lonesome, just as it is now.

Q: Was it dirt roads then?,...

A: They were dirt roads from here to Annapolis, sometime water would come up so high that they, you'd get stuck going to Annapolis, I have known it to take Papa two whole days to go to Annapolis and come back.

Q: Was that when he had a car or horse and wagon?

A: No, he had a horse and buggy.

Q: He had a horse and buggy?

A: A horse and buggy. The horse was named Peggy and the horse had a colt, and the colt was named Alberta.

Q: When he used to go to Annapolis, did you used to go with him?

A: No, very seldom I ever went with him when he went to Annapolis in the horse and buggy. He and Mother used to go together.

Q: Do you, Mr. Coates, do you recall the Emma Giles, used to come in here or was that long before your time?

A: No, it wasn't before my time, I remember the Emma Giles

Q: Tell me about it, would you please?

A: Well, it was nothing, but we would go over to Galesville, we'd walk over to Galesville, which was four and a half miles, to see Emma Giles when she would come in Galesville Port in Galesville, Maryland. And then we would turn around and walk back home. We would walk eight miles.

Q: How long would it How long would it take you to walk that far?

A: Oh, it would take us about two hours to go over and two hours to come back. We wasn't in any hurry. We left, had plenty of time to go and we had plenty of time to come back.

Q: Could you tell us, maybe some stories that perhaps your parents

A: Some what?

Q: Some stories that perhaps your parents told you about Shady Side, some of the things that might have gone on in their time down here that they related to you?

A: No, un huh, was a great lawn hen...

Q: A lawn hen?

A: He cut grass, he cut grass very often during the summer time and they say he would cut the grass so low that you couldn't see one piece sticking up. And he was awarded, Good Housekeeping award from the Kwanis Club in Shady Side for having the best kept lawn and the best kept house in Shady Side.

Q: That's great.. . when he would cut grass, what did he use to, did he have horses or what?

A: He, he had a lawn mower that you push and after he had pushed the lawnmower he would get down on his knees with a pair of scissors and trim up and until today, I do the same thing, not with scissors, but with a hedger, thing that you trim hedges with, after I've cut grass, my wife usually cut the grass with a riding mower, I do the trimming with a hand mower and hand trimmer.

Q: Well, we're sure you do that because your property always looks so well kept. It always looks very groomed.

A: Well, I leave, give all the credit to the cutting grass to my father, that's one thing he taught me how to do and taught me how to do it well.

Q: What did you father do for a living?

A: My father, he was in the Navy, for twenty years, and then he came out of the Navy and

Q: Did he retire or did he just get out after twenty years?

A: No, he came out, tired of the Navy... and he came home, and then he went oystering.

Q: Then he went oystering. . .did you used to go oystering with him...

A: I went oystering one day. And...

Q: Tell me about it please.

A: My mother always told me that when I finish elementary school no matter how far high school was, she would see that I got to high school if I wanted to go. And I thought in terms of finishing elementary school and going oystering with my father, and he took me out oystering Christmas Eve and I got so sick that was my last day oystering. I came home and told my mother I was ready to go to high school. I oystered one day and that was Christmas Eve.

Q: Could you tell us how much you think your father got for oysters, a bushel?

A: Well, he got 25 cents a bushel. That was what he got, that was top pay, 25 cent a bushel of oysters, and he used to catch anywhere from twenty to twenty five bushel of oysters a day.

Q: Could you tell us where he kept his boat down here in Shady Side?

A: He kept his boats at, a boy named, Walter Matthews.

Q: I've heard his name. . . where was this down here?

A: It was right on Parrish Creek, a little creek right off Chesapeake Bay.

Q: Would you happen to remember the name of your father's boat?

A: Alverettaleen. It was named after Alverta, Kathleen and momma Etta. Alverettaleen. Alverta, Kathleen and Etta.

Q: Could you think of some, maybe some other type of things that your parents told you about Shady Side?

A: Well, I know my mother and father, both came from Churchton, and that's four miles up the road from Shady Side and the reason why they settled in Shady Side is my father came out of the Navy and he was looking for a house, we found a house in Shady Side and that's when we moved to Shady Side.

Q: Could you tell us what year your wife and you were married?

A: 1941.

Q: 1941? And is that when...

A: December, 1941.

Q: Is that when you bought this house?

A: No,

Q: Where did you live in Shady Side when you were first married?

A: I lived back in the field off of Shadyrest Road and the house on Shady. . . . back in the field burned

down. And then Papa bought a acre of land from Mrs. Alton who also sold the school the property that the school is sitting (inaudible) and Uncle Zeke built the house that we're living in now.

Q: What year did he build this house? Do you recall?

A: Well, it's maybe been about fifty, fifty—six years ago.

Q: Did you help him build it?

A: No I didn't, I wasn't even home.

Q: But, it was built for you?

A: No, I wouldn't say it was built for me, it was built for son, my brother; Kathleen and Alverta, my two sisters, and me, it was built for all four of us. Kathleen left home and resided in New York, Son went into the Merchant Marines, and Alverta died. And the house has been in my hands for twelve years, fifteen years.

Q: That's how long you and your wife have lived here.

A: We. . . we've lived in this house twelve years.

Q: Do you and your wife have children?

A: We have one son, Charles Coates, Jr.

Q: Do you have any grandchildren?

A: No grandchildren.

Q: No grandchildren.

A: I have a nephew named Bernard Powell, another nephew named Robert Powell, and another nephew named Charles Preston. I have three grown nephews.

Q: When you lived down here in Shady Side with your parents was there a particular church that you attended down here in Shady Side?

A: I attended St. Matthew's AME Church, United Methodist

Q: Is that the church right that's right over here.

A: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

Q: Is that the church that's right over there?

A: The church is still there.

Q: Is it the same building or have they improved it?

A: It's the same building, but it's been renovated. They bricked it up.

Q: Could you tell us what it looked like before it was bricked, please?

A: It was ordinary

Q: Was it a wooden structure?

A: Ordinary wooden structure... and later on they bricked it up on the outside.

Q: Would you be able to tell me when they bricked it up?

A: No, I don't remember when they bricked it up, but it's a, it's been in the past twenty years, been bricked up.. it's been bricked up over twenty years.

Q: Would you happen to remember who some of the pastors were, cause this will be good for Shady Side history, some of the pastors when you were a young child here? You don't recall?

A: No,.. I remember a, no I don't remember the pastors.

Q: Well, that's .

A: I do remember Middleton, Reverend Middleton. He pastored, but I wasn't living in Shady Side then.

Q: Would you happen to remember a gentleman who lived in Shady Side called Doctor Dent?

A: Dr. Dent was our family doctor.

Q: Now, could you tell me about him please?

A: He rode a horse and buggy, and he came when you called him, sometime it took him an hour, a hour and a half to get here, but most of the time he could get to you, he could get to us in 15 minutes because he lived midway between St. Matthew's and Churchton, he lived about two miles away from us. And he could get here in 15 or 20 minutes.

Q: Could you happen to remember how many years he practiced medicine down here?

A: Lord, I would never be able to remember! He was here when I cam here and he stayed here many a year after I finished college, because when I used to come home from teaching in Salisbury, he was still here.

Q: We're gonna get you to tell us more about your college later on. What you did with your college. Urn, is there anything else you can tell us about Shady Side or perhaps what your parents told you or something that particular sticks in your mind or what it looked like then and

A: Well, it hasn't changed very much in looks..., it's the same road, main road, running down into Shady Side that was here when I left and it's still here and it has been named Shady Side Road now...

Q: What was it called then?

A: Well, it....

Q: It was just a road...

A: It was still called Shady Side Road.

Q: I see, uh huh

A: But, now we have house numbers for each house on the road has a number and mine was number 4269.. .6249 Shady Side Road.

Q: When you were a youngster down here I'm sure that they did not have a fire department, or did they?

A: No, they didn't have a fire department here until the white settlement on the on the Parris Creek was built up. And it was named Avalon Shores and after a number of homes were constructed in Avalon Shores they built a fire department out on Shady Side Road leading into Avalon Shores. The fire department is still here.

Q: Well, what did you do when there was no fire department, did you, what would happen if a house caught on fire?

A: You'd run out and take water and bail out the well and throw it on the house and try to save it.

Q: In other words, you all had to help one another out?

A: We had a well.. .it was 16 or 18 feet dug down into the ground and until you hit a spring and that's where we draw our water from, from a well and whenever a fire would occur, they would bail water out of those wells and throw them on the house.

Q: Like a bucket brigade then?

A: Huh?

Q: You would have like a bucket brigade...

A: Yeah, a bucket brigade, is right...

Q: Um, Kathleen, you are Mr. Coates wife, could you please tell us about his, his, mother, what you were just telling me a few moments ago?

A: Well, I can recall that his mother was known as the midwife of Shady Side, every, practically every

one around here was due in that time, this was their early marriage in the early 40's, 41. We would come home and, from vacation or from, at that time my husband was stationed at Ft. Leonardwood Missouri and I remember one night in particular, we came home and I asked his father where his mother was and, he stated that Myrtle Thompson's tumor had come to life that night and we went over to see her and she had a daughter who is now Darleen Washington and, a lovely young lady works actively in the church and so forth. But, whenever any illnesses would, came up at Shady Side, Momma would go and stay for days in the home to give her assistance, and help them out whenever she could.

Q: How many babies would you say she had delivered in Shady Side?

A: Well really, I can't say because I wasn't, we weren't here then, as I say the early 40's but there were a lot that she helped and assisted in.

Q: You mean she didn't keep count?

A: I don't think so (laughter)... no.

Q: Well, could you take a wild guess?

A: No, and at that time she had no transportation and she would walk the highways because I remember very well there was a lady in Churchton, Maryland, that had gotten ill and my husband came home, at that time he was stationed at Ft. Meade, and he was chauffeur for his... the Post Commander, and he was coming home and he met his mother in a jeep and he told the Post Commander that that was his mother and he stopped and talked with her and she was on her way then to assist somebody who was in labor, deliver a baby. And this, his commanding officer, told him that, to take her where she wanted to go and, I remember that very vividly. But, there are so many things that I, I guess if I had really thought about them, they would come back to memory, but just right at this time I just, they come spasmodically, so, I don't know, I just, I can remember that when we came here the roads were practically dirt. We, this very front porch, we would sleep on all night long and a car, no cars would pass during the night, we had blinds, similar to these that we would pull down at night and it, nothing got passed here, maybe two or three cars a day and now there are two or three cars a minute that pass here and, it was very lonely and uh, you just didn't have to worry about anything.

Q: Well, you didn't have to lock your doors then either, did you?

A: Oh no, well I don't lock mine now....

Q: Well, I don't lock mine either, so....

A: But, no it was at that time as I said it was very quiet and serene and I fell in love with Shady Side when I came here during our year before, before my marriage, when I came home to meet my husband's parents and I, we always said that when we, he finished work and came, we found a retirement home that this would be it, so we've been here and we have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Q: And I think it's just quiet now...

A: It is, it's lovely, it is quiet now...

Q: Except for them cars.

A: too much traffic.

Q: Well, there's too much cars.

A: That's right. But, Oh I don't know, there's just so many things that I just can't at this moment they don't come to mind.

Q: When your mother would go and deliver all these babies and she would stay at some peoples houses sometime if they were sick, who took care of the family that was still at home.

A: Daddy. Daddy was a cook while he was in the Naval Yard and he did quite a bit of cooking at home. The only thing that Daddy couldn't bake was bread. He never learned to make bread. Anything else you need, Daddy would cook it. So, when Ma was gone for two or three days at a time, it wasn't anyone left here to feed, because I was a, my sister had died, Alverta had died and everybody else was away.

Q: Uh huh...

A: So there was nobody left over.., well, my nephew, my sister's son, was here and so that only meant Papa had to provide for two people.

Q: Uh huh...

A: Himself and

Q: You wouldn't have any idea how many children your mother

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

Q: Well, it's very interesting to know that she was the midwife around here. Do you know any of the people now that she, I'm sure that there are people in the community now that she delivered.

A: I don't know but one person now living in Shady Side that Mama delivered and that's Darleen, the girl that Kay was talking about.

Q: Do you remember a gentleman who lived in Shady Side here named Sylvester Brent?

A: Yeah, I know Sylvester Brent.

Q: Could you tell us about him, we would like to know about him.

A: The only thing I know about Sylvester Brent was that he was big and very awkward looking. And he walked the road most of the time, other than that, I don't know anything about him.

Q: Well, he must have been quite a gentleman, because marked on his tombstone it says a legend in his own time.

A: Say what?

Q: His tombstone, there is an inscription below his name that says a legend in his own time.

A: Well, I think that was more or less because of his size, he was.... you didn't see people as tall as Mr. Brent everyday.

Q: How tall was he?

A: Well, he was over six foot. (talking in background)

Q: Yes, because also on his tombstone it says Bess, now if his name was Sylvester Brent why was it written Bess, was that his nickname?

A: Nickname.

Q: That was his nickname?

A: Bess Brent.. and he had a brother named James Brent and his brother is now in old folks home in a little further.. ..living in Glen Burnie. Yeah, it's a wonder somebody hasn't given you her name.

Q: Mr. Brent has a sister who lives down here?

A: She lives in Shady Side.

Q: I see. Could you

A: Have you talked with her?

Q: So you did not know Mr. Brent very well?

A: No, I don't.

Q Well, in researching the cemeteries around here, his name is on the tombstone and since it was written, a legend in his own time, we just wondered what type of man he was and did you know him and what you did know about him.

A: No, I don't know nothing much about the man. I would see him when I came home, I'd see him sometimes walking to town to the post office and walk back.

Q: When you were youngsters, speaking of post offices, you had to go to the post office to get your mail.

A: Yeah.

Q: Where in Shady Side.

A: Post office is about half, about a quarter of a mile down the road.

Q: Uh huh, uh huh.

A: Down toward the fire house and it's still there.

Q: Uh huh, it's, it wasn't in the hotel then, it was just down the road here?

A: Oh, yeah, it was, yeah, post office run by Nowell ——— N O W E L L——— and then it was taken over by, moved out on Shady Side Road where it is now.

Q: Uh huh, you wouldn't know when it was moved out on Shadyside Road

A: Huh?

Q: You wouldn't know remember when the post office was moved out on Shadyside Road?

A: I don't remember the exact year, but it's been in the last twenty years.

Q: I see. is there anything else you can tell us about your childhood down here, think of something really, something really funny that happened in your childhood down here. I see you're smiling, there must have been something really funny.

A: I, my mother had a very loud voice and we would (end of first side)

(End of Side 1 of Tape)

Q: . . . and that's where Mr. Brent is?

A: I don't know if that's where Mr. Brent is, but I do know that there is an old cemetery because the St. Paul ABE Church was located right behind the present post office and there are a few graves back there right now.

Q: I believe they say that's where he's buried, they said St. Paul's AME cemetery.

A: St. Paul's AME Cemetery, well it's right behind the present post office right now.

Q: OK. Mr. Coates, you started to tell me about your mother, I asked you if something funny, something you could recall something funny and you started to tell me about your mother, she had a loud voice...

A: And we would leave here and go over in the field and whenever Mother wanted us, she'd call us, and she had a whooping voice and she called so loud everybody in the neighborhood would, if we didn't hear her, they heard her, and they would tell us, your mother is calling you, go home. (laughter)

Q: Are there some other things you could recall for us?

A: Huh?

Q: Are there some other things you could recall for us about your childhood down here or something that perhaps maybe your parents

A: Well, my mother and father were both very strict and there were certain things we could do and certain things we couldn't do and there were certain things that all children, most children did and whenever we did those things, we were punished, and Mother and Father found out, we were punished and we were punished by both of them. Papa would talk you till you get sick and Mama would beat you till you got sick. So we were very well taken care of.

Q: You were very well disciplined, then?

A: Very well disciplined.

Q: Uh huh.

A: I was the first negro to leave Shady Side, go to college.

Q: Could you tell me about that please?

A: And St. Matthew's gave me a twenty—five dollar scholarship and twenty five dollars then was as much as five thousand is now, because I went to school, went to Morgan, that whole year with that twenty five dollars plus work.

Q: What did you do?

A: I worked, worked in the cafeteria. I washed dishes. And the second year, I went to college the Masonic Lodge that my father was in gave me a scholarship. I don't know how much they gave me cause that saw me through plus my work ship, this is the second year.

Q: You said that the first year the church gave you twenty—five dollars

A: Yeah, uh huh.

Q: Did they choose you because you were such a good student?

A: Say that again?

Q: Did they choose you because you were such a good student or did they think you had a lot of promise?

A: I had a lot of pride because I didn't do oystering. Everybody around here prayed to have a son and when the son got 16 years old he took him out of school if he hadn't finished school then, they took him out of school and he cull oysters for his father. And all the money that his father made his father kept, with the exception of a little bit that he would give to him every now and then.

Q: And you

A: And I was the exception because I didn't take to go oystering. I went to college four years, the first two years — the first year the St. Matthew's took care of me with a scholarship and second year the Masonics took care of me with a scholarship and the third and the fourth year I worked full time.

Q: What type of jobs did you have to...

A: Washing dishes, morning at the breakfast and lunch and dinner, I would never schedule classes at the time I was supposed to wash dishes, that's when I was free from classes.

Q: Could you tell us, what your major was in college or what type of courses

A: My major was mathematics and science.

Q: And I'm sure when you graduated from college your parents were the proudest people in Shady Side.

A: They sure were.

Q: Could you tell us what year you graduated?

A: I graduated in 1938, with honors, from Morgan College and Mr. J. Walter Hubbard the state supervisor of education, state superintendent of education, took me in his car and took me to Salisbury and gave me, and took me to Mr. Chipman, who was a personal friend of his and was a principal of a high school in Salisbury and Mr. Chipman gave me a job and in 19—and—39 I started, 39, I started teaching——'38 I started teaching in Salisbury High School located on Lake Street in Salisbury, Maryland.

Q: And how many years....

A: And I taught there for two years and then the Army grabbed me. And I stayed in the Army for six years and I went from a Private First Class to Major, and I came out of the Army in '46, I think, 1946, I was discharged from the Army, I served in the European theater of operation and also South Pacific.

Q: Excuse me a moment, were the services, were the black and white people segregated then or were they then still separate? Cause I know at one time they were separate.

A: They were separate.

Q: They were separate?

A: All negroes had negro unit and all white people had a white people unit.

Q: Now I didn't know whether they had changed it by that time or not. And, what did you do in the Army?

A: I was an engineer. Built bridges and

Q; You were in the European theater you said...

A: I was in the European theater for three years, four years and then came back to the states and I could have gotten out of the Army on points, I had enough points to get out of the Army, I elected to stay in and serve on troop ships that transferred units to the theater of operation in the South Pacific. I stayed in the South Pacific for two years, came back to the states and came out of the Army. Went back to teaching in Salisbury, no — went to college, NYU and

Q: Sounds like you like college, you was back again.

A: I did, I went and got my Master's Degree in Vocational Guidance. And went back to Salisbury and taught. I went back to Salisbury as a Guidance Counselor in the Salisbury High School and in 1955 I was singled out by, I'm trying to think of the man's name — he was a state supervisor of education — state, no he wasn't the superintendent —he was the state supervisor, what was his name? Mr. Crawford and he took me, he recommended me to T. C. Martin, who was superintendent of schools in Charles County, he recommended me to Mr. T. C. Martin to serve as principal of the monkey high school...

Q: At which high school I'm sorry.

A: Pomonokee——P O M O N K E Y. It had an Indian name.

Q: Oh, I see...

A: And it was located in Indianhead, Maryland and I went to Salisbury, I went to Pomonkey in '55 and stayed until '59... '69 stayed until '69 as principal of Pomonkey High School and then in 1969 they transferred me from the senior high school to the middle school and that was when Maryland first started serving middle schools. And they were integrated, high schools, integrated. I went from 600 colored children, negro children, to 400 white children and 200 black. And I stayed there until 1972, when I retired.

Q: When you retired from the school system then.

A: Retired from the school system and moved to Shady Side.

Q: Ok, now, you moved back to Shady Side, after you got back to Shady Side what did you think of all the changes that had gone on while you were gone all these years?

A: Well, it was very few changes...

Q: Very few changes?

A: Very few changes. Shady Side had not changed very much in the past 50 years, they do have, settlement of negroes from Washington and they bought up Bay Shore, which was right on the Chesapeake Bay and they built a number of homes on Bay Shore and they named it Columbia Beach. They have a whites settlement called Felicity Cove where white people moved into on the Chesapeake

Beach and another settlement which was about the last white settlement, Avalon Shores. And, those are the only big changes that have taken place in Shady Side in the past 50 years.

Q: Except...

A: To my knowledge.

Q: Except for automobiles?

A: Oh yeah, we have more automobiles.., we used to sleep on the front porch when we came home in the summer time, my mother had a screened in front porch and we used to sleep on it when we came home in the summer time when we'd sleep on the front porch, but now so many cars pass up and down the road until there's no sleeping on the porch.

Q: Would there be anything else that your father might have told you about Shady Side? Well, your parents grew up in Shady Side.

A: My parents grew up in Shady Side and Churchton, Papa grew up in Churchton and Mama grew up in Shady Side.

Q: OK. Could you remember some of the things that they told you about the area that we think might be of importance to, this tape or that people should know?

A: Well, Papa always taught us,. Papa. and Mama always taught us that it pays to be honest and you only got out of life what you put into it. If you didn't put anything into it, you'd get nothing out of it, and those are two things that have stuck with us, me, my sisters and brother for a number of years My sister celebrated her 75th anniversary last year in, she lives in New York, but her son is married and lives in Beipre, Ohio, and she had a reunion of the family in Beipre, Ohio, and. celebrated her .75th anniversary., birthday.. .75th birthday. . .

Q: You tell me that you were the first negro out of Shady Side to go to college, what did the other people think, did you try to encourage them to go to college as well?

A: What did I think?

Q: What, did you try encourage other young people to go to college?

A: Yeah, I tried, I tried to encourage I, I talked to a number of kids... I knew I was going to college, because if I selected to go to high school, I mean if I selected to finish high school, I knew my next move was college and

Q: Well, you knew that in your mind before you

A: I had made that up in my mind that if I finished high school, I was going to college and I finished high school and went to college, there was one person who went to college from the colored race before I did....

Q: From Shady Side?

A: From Shady Side and that were... her name was Rachel Francis...

Q: Does she still live down here?

A: No. Rachel used to come down, she, was a teacher in Baltimore and she used to come down in the summer and visit Matteel Carter, who ran Shadyrest Boarding House.

Q: Could you tell us about that please, Shadyrest Boarding House, I haven't heard anyone talk about that, could you tell us about that please?

A: Well, Matteel's husband was named James Carter, Jimmy Carter, they called Jimmy Carter, and he and Matteel opened up a boarding house for negroes and they took people on boat rides. The boarding house was not on the Bay, the boarding house was on Shadyrest Road, but they had Matteel's father lived on the water in Shady side and everyday the people left the boarding house and went down and got in Matteel's father's boat and he took them out for a boat ride. They... He took them out all times... he took them out fishing.

Q: Now I had not heard about this boarding house, could you tell me what years maybe you think it ran? What years it was in operation, the boarding house? Could you remember?

A: The boarding house ran...

Q: What years it ran?

A: (woman's voice) It was years?

Q: Yes mam.

A: (woman's voice) It was like in, oh, in the middle thirties...

Q: In the middle thirties?

A: (woman's voice) Yes, it was during the middle thirties because I can, I know when we first met we came here and we would go to the place... where she had her rooming house, her boarding house at that time, and it is now in a place that Elsworth Brown, my husband's cousin, owns the property on the water down there right now that she used at that time. She also, the boarding house was right here. It was a large house right here joining our property, she had 'em, she moved from there and moved up here, or did she own this place. . . . (man's voice) No she moved from here down to the wharf. . . she moved, she built up the house down there and used the, she gave up the one house out here on Shadyside Road and moved to another boarding house down on the water.

Q: So you wouldn't know how many years she really ran it?

A: She ran the boarding house for thirty or forty years.

Q: Oh my goodness and could

A: She ran the boarding house while I was in college.

Q: Could you remember how much it would used to cost people to stay in the boarding house?

A: Yeah,

Q: This I would like to know.

A: I, I think she charged \$12 a week.

Q: That was room and board?

A: Room and board.. \$12 a week.

Q: And did they have any entertainment down there of any kind?

A: Yeah, ____ at the boarding house on Shadyrest, Shadyside Road she had a dancing pavilion and she used to have dances every Saturday night. And she had music and the music was supplied by Aaron Ballard, the Ballard Brothers. They had a piano player Aaron Ballard played the piano, John Fountain played the urn, guitar, banjo they called it then, they called it the banjo, and somebody else played saxophone. It was three pieces of music and they'd start playing at eight o'clock Saturday night and play up until twelve o'clock and people would come in and pay 25 cent to go to the dance and I spent a many a night over there at the dance, cause I loved to dance.

Q: Was there any other entertainment there beside dances? That you'd recall?

A: Not for negroes. They had a moving picture parlor and in, way down in Shady Side right across from the store they had a moving picture parlor, it was for white, so we would go upstairs and look out, peep out the window.

Q: And you could see it anyway?

A: We could see it anyway, without paying for it.

Q: Well, what I was going to ask you was, in the hotel, the boarding house was there any other type of entertainment? That she would provide for her boarders, other than just dances?

A: Just dances, that's all, that's all I remember her providing. And the boat ride every day.

Q: Could you remember the name of the gentleman who used to take them out for the boat ride?

A: Yeah, ____, Alec Dennis. He used to take them out for a boat ride. Al, I don't know how you spell his name, but his name was Alec Dennis. He ran the boat and would take them out for a boat ride or sometime they would hire the boat and he would take them fishing.

Q: Uh huh, uh huh. Where would they go out to go swimming?

A: Huh?

Q: What area down here did they go out to go swimming? Could you tell me that, do you recall?

A: No...

Q: He'd just take them everywhere?

A: He'd just take them out and they wouldn't go wading, they'd just go out in the boat for the boat ride.

Q: Oh, I see...

A: Because the boat, he kept the boat in Parrish Creek and Parrish Creek was muddy and you couldn't go swimming out in the mud.

Q: I see.

A: There was no sand, sand beaches on Parrish Creek. Now later on when, another section of Chesapeake Bay opened up, they hauled sand in and white folks had a beach down there, they had a sand beach.

Q: Where was that? Of f Parrish Creek you said.

A: At the end of Shady Side.

Q: I see.

A: Go straight down.

Q: Well, that's very interesting because I had not heard about that. Well, that will be, that will add a lot to our history of Shady Side.

A: Yeah, if you go straight down this road until you can't go any further, you run right into the park that used to be, but it's now private homes.

Q: Uh huh.

A: Rich white people bought up the, bought up the beach and built those homes there and it no longer serves as a public beach, it serves as a private beach to those people, their homes on the beach.

Q: Could you recall for us, uh, what stores existed in Shady Side, uh, when you were down here as a young child?

A: Yeah, they had a, a store run by Andrews, Ethel Andrews. (talking in background) no right down here by the post office.... what's her name, Reynolds Market. Oh, I know what you talking about, you're talking about, Goose Heinrich's, off, ...

Q: Could you tell me about that?

A: All I know it was a store and it operated a deli.

Q: Where was it located?

A: His name was Gustave Heinrich.

Q: And where was it down here?

A: Talking in background All I can remember was the way, there was a store in Shady Side very seldom, it served the people at the end of, the first road up here to your right.

Q: Uh huh

A: And down that road it leads to the water....

Q: Oh, is that on West River, is that called West River Road.

A: (woman's voice) That's it, it's West River Road.

Q: Was the store down there?

A: (woman's voice) Yeah, right up here on that inaudible on tape——

Q: Could you describe it, what the little store looked like, to me?

A: (woman's voice) Well, I can only remember that we would turn at this little store and that has been, that was in, like as I said, the late '30's, we would turn at that, at West River Road and go way back and I recall this barn being there and this store sitting back there and they only sold canned goods, that was all he ever sold. And, I know that he would have cans of peanuts and he sold them to the children by the handful. I remember that very well.

Q: How much did he charge you for a handful?

A: I don't recall what they paid for a handful.

Q: No, that's interesting to know.

A: (man's voice) A nickel for a handful.

Q: A nickel for a handful.

A: Yeah, I, you'd, you'd go in the store with a nickel and come out with a bag of candy and now you go in with a nickel and come out with no candy.

Q: Mr. Coates, we thank you very much for this interview, we really do appreciate all the information that you've given us and your great, great, great grandchildren will be able to hear this tape.

A: Well,

Q: We thank you very kindly for remembering all the dates and the information for us.

A: Alright, I'm glad I was able to help out a little bit. You're a dear, thank you very much.

A: Would you have a drink of water or something?