

Evelyn Colman Rawicz

Interviewee: Evelyn Colman Rawicz
Date of Interview: December 11, 2006
Interviewed by: Barry Kessler
Transcribed by: Donna Williams, February 10, 2007
Edited 3/2012

Qt: “This is Barry Kessler for the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. Today is Monday, December 11, 2006. I am at the home of Evelyn Colman Rawicz in Potomac, Maryland, and we’re doing an interview about Shady Side. Evelyn, in your opinion, what was the Shady Side experience all about? What was it like down there?”

ER: “Uh! Let’s see. It was fun. It was family and good friends, and people living and working together, and fishing and eating the good fish that we caught, and it was just a wonderful atmosphere for children as well as the adults. And everybody just loved it.”

Qt: “How did your family first get involved?”

ER: “Well, then we have to go back to my grandfather, Harry Colman, and I guess he was a member of the Masons, the Samuel Gompers Lodge of the Masons, and my uncle and my father followed and joined the Masons, and I don’t know. When I was little, the Fishing Club was just always there. So that’s about all I know is how they ... I don’t know if the building was there and they just took it over or ... I really have no knowledge of any of that.”

Qt: “Can you tell me what it would be like to go down to the Fishing Club?”

ER: “We would pack up the car, and we would go down on a Friday so we always took dinner down with us. And we had someone living at our home on Kansas Avenue, who made the best fried chicken and potato salad, and that was our Friday night dinner every Friday night for many, many, many years. And we would pack up the car and drive down to Shady Side. We would stop first in Galesville to pick up our chunk of ice to put into the icebox, ‘cause that what it was, it was just a box that you put the ice in to keep your food cold. And then we would unload the car and it was fun to watch. Because my father would get out of the car and go up to the ice house, and they would come back with these huge chunks of ice with these big tongs and they’d put it on the bumper of your car. That’s how you transported the ice. And so we were so close to Galesville, it didn’t have much time to melt. So as soon as we got down to Shady Side to the clubhouse, everybody had their own huge tongs to carry the block of ice in and put it in the box. And then we would unload the car and sit down for dinner. And that’s how our weekend started.”

Qt: “Can you tell me about the full course of the weekend now?”

ER: “OK. If it wasn’t too late, we would, depending on the time we left, we would – I always wanted to get down to the water - so I would put on my bathing suit and jump in the water even if it was just for ten minutes; but I loved the water, still like the water. That’s why we have a place at the beach now because we just love the water. And then people would start coming in and in the big open room we would play cards. Every body had their set card games, and it was usually my cousin, Bette-Claire, Eddie Goldberg, and we would always find one adult and myself to play cards. And we would play Canasta, and sometimes, if we couldn’t find an adult to play with us, we would play Monopoly. Then we would go to bed.

And we would get up in the morning. Most of the time, our fathers were gone because they left to go fishing, so we would get up, get dressed, go outside to the outhouse to go to the bathroom, and brush your teeth, wash your face and come in. We would always then put the kettle on to do the dishes because we didn't have any hot water. So you would have to make your hot water while you were having breakfast so that you could do the dishes because then somebody else needed to use the table, too. In the kitchen were long, long tables. And the Colmans and the Greenbaums had one end of the table, and the Sacks and the Kamerows and the Diamonds had the other end of the table. So you were always considerate of the time you would eat 'cause other people needed to use the space, too.

So we would have breakfast and go out on the pier and go fishing or swimming and just be outside all day long. And the men would come back from the fishing trips with lots of fish and lots of eels; and when we were old enough, they showed us how to skin the eels. And Bette-Claire and I would take a pair of pliers and she would stand on one end of the eel and I on the other, and you would just peel the skin right off the eel. And that was really good eating. We used to fry the eels the same way you fry the fish. We would always watch the men as they cleaned the fish and looked forward to dinner that night 'cause we knew we were going to have fresh fish. And then we would just play badminton, played horseshoes, we would swim and have lunch. And sometimes we would have lunch on the pier or in the swings. And then we would just go out in the water, just continually be outside all day long.

Come in for dinner, and then play cards at night 'cause it was no television in those days. We had a big radio in the big room ...in the Great Room, and we would sometimes listen to the radio although it really distracted the older people playing cards, so we would just have to turn it down. And played cards and go to bed. And get up the next morning and do the same thing.

Now when Bette-Claire and I were a little older, we bought a rowboat and we called it the '*Bet-Ev*'. So when the men went out fishing early in the day, Bette-Claire and I would go out at our leisure and we would go out to the duck blind...I don't remember if the duck blind is there any more or not ... but there was a duck blind out in the water, and we were only allowed to take the row boat out as far as the duck blind, and we would sit there and do crabbing. And we would catch enough crabs to bring them back and cook them, and we would have them at night. A lot of times if we didn't feel like going out or even before we had the boat, we would just go crabbing off the pier, and we always caught enough crabs to have crabs that night. And that was our weekends. It just never got boring. It was always fun and exciting and it was just a wonderful, wonderful summer, and we loved it."

Qt: "How did you go crabbing in those days?"

ER: "Most of the time we would take the fish heads from the men, and we would keep them in the water. And we would put a line...just a regular old line, and the top part would be tied around a piece of wood so you could roll it up. And we would put a sinker and tie the fish head on, and have a big net and we would put the line into the water. And then when the crab would attach itself to the fish head to eat, we would slowly bring up the line, and then somebody would ... either Bette-Claire or I ... whoever wasn't doing the line at the time, would scoop up the crab. And then we would have a great big pot of water and we would put the crabs in that till we caught enough or we got bored doing it, whichever came first.

And then we would take it to the ... the outside of the shower, there was a great big table out there and that's where the men would clean the fish. And we would take the crabs. I think we had to bring them in in these big pots and cook them inside. I can't remember how we cooked the crabs then. I don't know if we had a burner outside or not. Can't quite remember that, but we would cook the crabs. And we would have dinner, and this would be like a snack after we dinner before we went to bed. They were delicious, just delicious. They were better than any crabs today because we caught them. And that was the crabbing story."

Qt: “Naturally. That’s great. What about the card games? You said sometimes you played Canasta. Anything else? Any other sort of games?”

ER: “The adults played Canasta; I think some of the men played poker. And there were lots of card tables. That was basically what the furniture was in the Great Room at that time... were tables and chairs. I can’t remember any real sofas because you really didn’t spend any time inside until the evening when it got dark, and you couldn’t do anything outside because the mosquitoes were pretty bad. So there was no reason to be inside. And if it was raining, we would all sit on the porch in these wonderful old rockers that we had. And just about anybody who wanted a rocker, had a rocker. But sometimes people went, you know, different places during the day. But most people stayed around and were either fishing or just lounging around enjoying each other’s company. A lot of the women did knitting. They sat outside and knitted, and it was just a great way to be...it was like communal living, it really was. Every body got along. I don’t ever remember hearing people fight or disagree, it was just a wonderful atmosphere. It was a great childhood experience, it really was.”

Qt: “Super. You mentioned some of the families who were there. Let me come back and just ask you about your family. If you could just tell me, for example, just something about your parents since I can’t interview them, they’re long gone. What were they like as people? Do you know how they met? What kind of a family did they create?”

ER: “Ah! That’s interesting...my family. Meaning my father? My uncle? My father and my uncle had always been very close because they were in business together, and we always lived near each other. And it was just like one family. I guess the closeness was always there and it was just passed on from Shirley, Bette-Claire, myself and, eventually, Harry and we still remain very close. Bette-Claire and I are extremely close now.”

Qt: “What was your father like as a person?”

ER: “My father was an interesting man. He was very disciplined with himself and with me, but very loving in his way. He never actually said ‘I love you’, but I knew he loved me, and we had a closeness that was quite remarkable. And a funny story is that when my step-mother died, Lenny and I went over to my father and said, ‘What do you want to do now?’ And he looked at us like we were crazy. He said, ‘well, I’m coming to live with you and Lenny’. And Lenny and I had never talked about this. I mean he was welcome, but he just ... he was just ‘in your face’ but in a very, very soft way. He and I had many, many discussions, loud discussions, arguments; but it wasn’t that we didn’t love each other, it’s just that we had very different opinions. We were both very strong people. And he wanted his way and I wanted my way. But it was wonderful. It really was wonderful.”

Qt: “What about your grandfather?”

ER: “My grandfather, Harry Colman, I vaguely remember. I know that when his wife, my grandmother, died, I don’t remember her but I remember then my grandfather came to live with us and me in our house on Kansas Avenue. And I remember that he had the master bedroom, and I don’t remember too much because I was quite young then. But I know that he lived with us, and he was a very warm person. And of course he owned the business. It was Harry Colman and Sons, so my father and my uncle were in business with their father. And then when he died, they just continued the business. There was always a very strong bond in our family.”

Qt: “Can you tell me something about the business and did it have anything to do with Shady Side?”

ER: “No, it was a hardware store on 7th Street and they worked very hard, and we loved to go down there and just play with the cash register, and pretend that we were sales people in the store. But it had nothing to do with Shady Side at all.”

Qt: “Someone told me that they brought some maybe tools or paint or something else out there. That’s why I asked the question. But it seems like an odd question, ‘what would be the relationship’. Let’s talk about your mother. What did she think about Shady Side?”

ER: “My step-mother.”

Qt: “Well, either one. Did your birth mother or ...?”

ER: “I was two years old. I don’t ... I have no recollection of her whatsoever. My stepmother really didn’t like it, but she saw that my father got so much enjoyment that she went along with it; but it really wasn’t her forté. She really did not care for it that much, but she was a good sport.”

Qt: “Why don’t you think she enjoyed it?”

ER: “Well I think ... unless you were exposed to this kind of living... very little privacy. The bedrooms were separated but had open ceilings. It was not very private. And I think it was a little overwhelming to her, and it took her a while to get used to it. As I said, she was really a good sport, but she did not enjoy it that much down there. I think once she got there, you know...but the anticipation of packing every weekend, you know, going down was more of a challenge for her than it was for my father and I. I mean we would just get in the car. We didn’t care what we wore. It was just getting to Shady Side and being there in that atmosphere.”

Qt: “What do you think she had to do to get ready for Shady Side?”

ER: “Well, she probably had to pack and think of the food that had to be taken down especially for that night, because when we got there, we were all hungry, and by the time we got the ice and then unpacked and all. I think she had to work probably much harder than anybody else to get ready to go down by just being organized and getting everything together. And then my father and I would always load up the car. But she was a good sport – she went. But she didn’t spend any extra time there, like if my father took the week off, they would like to go away some place whereas, rather than go to Shady Side for the week. I would’ve preferred to go to Shady Side for the week, but she preferred not to.”

Qt: “Where would they then go?”

ER: “In the early days they went to Atlantic City because her mother always went to Atlantic City for the summer so that’s what they used to do a lot. But they were down most of the weekends at Shady Side.”

Qt: “Now many of the Fishing Club members were Jewish and your family was Jewish can tell me something about what connection your family had to Jewish observance or Jewish community things. How did your family participate in Jewish traditions?”

ER: “Nothing to do with Shady Side?”

Qt: “No, just in general.”

ER: “We were brought up Reformed – extremely Reformed. And we went to services, the High Holidays, and we belonged to Washington Hebrew Congregation, and they always held their high holy day services at Constitution Hall, and we did go. And I was not Bat Mitzvahed, and my brother was not Bar Mitzvahed, and we celebrated Chanukah. We celebrated the Jewish holidays; but as far as Friday night services, did not partake in any way. Did not light the Shabbat candles. Not until I got married and had children did we do that.”

Qt: “And at Shady Side, what percentage of the group would you say was Jewish? Was there any way in which it was a Jewish experience?”

ER: “No, definitely not. I would say that the majority of the people were Jewish. There were a couple of families that were not Jewish. But it didn’t seem to matter what you were, as far as religion was concerned, but every body had the same feelings about Shady Side, and that’s why we were there. It was just a wonderful experience that everybody enjoyed. Religion had nothing to do with it at all. And it was only a summer facility, I mean. We never went down in the winter time because I don’t think it was winterized at all. There was not even any air conditioning in the summer. You’d just open the windows and whatever air came in, you were lucky to be cool.”

Qt: “While we’re back on the air conditioning, tell me about the sleeping arrangements; where did you sleep? Where did your family sleep? Give me a whole sense was going on.”

ER: “OK. There were two dorms. The girls’ dorm on the second floor, and the boys’ dorm on the first floor; and all the adults had their own rooms. As I said, the rooms were very small and the ceilings were open, but the walls were divided. The boys’ dorm was downstairs, and it was usually Eddie Goldberg and, occasionally, his older brother, Louis, I think his name was, came down. And sometimes if people had a guest, the guest would sleep down there. Upstairs was the girls’ dorm. Bette-Claire had her bed, I had my bed, and when Doris [Gazin, nee Goldberg] was down she had exactly where her bed was as did her cousin, Beverly. I can’t remember other people sleeping in the girls dorm. Occasionally, I would bring a friend down, and she would sleep there; but in those days, when you brought somebody down, you paid for them. It wasn’t completely free. I think it was just a couple dollars for the weekend, but you paid a nominal fee to bring a guest in for the weekend. It was interesting.”

Qt: [Slight pause]. “That is interesting. Do you remember ever bringing any guests of your own?”

ER: “Yes. I always had a girlfriend that lived in my neighborhood. Her name was Martha Quarry and she lived behind us on Kansas Avenue, and she loved the beach ... not the beach...she loved Shady Side, and she would come down with us a lot. And then another friend of mine, Sandy Pyle, when we were in junior high school she loved it at Shady Side, so she came down a lot, too. Both of them now are gone, and ...”

Qt: “[Long pause.] “Did you ever go out into the town of Shady Side or off of the Fishing Club property?”

ER: “First of all there was no town! We would go visit my aunt and uncle [Cora and Sylvan Powdermaker] who were up the road a little bit, and then we would go up the road a little further and around the bend and we would go visit Capt. [Ennis] Bast. And then to go to the grocery store you would go down the opposite way to the main street and there was a grocery store, and that was it. That was the town. There wasn’t anything really there. I think there was one restaurant there that, occasionally, we would go on Sunday for dinner. I vaguely remember a restaurant being across the street from the grocery store. And I remember that the owners of the grocery store knew us by name. Everybody in the grocery store knew everybody else because it was very small ...you got to know everybody. And then I remember, on the way to the grocery store, there was a house on the right hand side of the road and it belonged to an old black woman named ‘Florence’, and she used to bake pies. You would put your order on like a Sunday for the next weekend, and she would bake you the best pies you ever tasted. And she would charge, I don’t know, a few dollars for the pie, but she was a wonderful old lady; I have very fond memories of her.”

Qt: “Do you remember any of the types of pies that she made?”

ER: “She made the best blueberry pie I’ve ever tasted in my life. She made apple pie, she made peach pie and she did it with all the berries that she could get her hands on that were fresh. And she used to have her own little garden, so she could grow some vegetables and fruits and all but ... Oh! Any pie she made was delicious.”

Qt: “And did you or your mother shop at the little grocery store?”

ER: “Well, we always had to go with my father because my mother didn’t drive. But, yes, we used to go to the grocery store. They used to have a ping-pong table ...not a ping-pong, a pinball machine. And they used to have wonderful ice cream and we used to go in there and do our grocery shopping and then come back up with the groceries, back to the icebox until we got a refrigerator. I think we were the first ones of Shady Side to actually get a refrigerator, and then everybody else followed after that.”

Qt: “When would you guess that was?” .

ER: “I have no idea. I just remember always going to Galesville for years and years and years and picking up that block of ice; and I guess then when refrigerators were more available ... and I don’t even remember when we bought our first refrigerator, but we were the first ones of the clubhouse to have one and then everybody followed there after.”

Qt: “Were there any other neighbors of the Fishing Club property that you remember?”

ER: “I remember the Dunns. I remember Wilbur Dunn and his mother, and I remember the Banks that lived ...I think it was the Banks... that lived on the other side of us. And then there were cottages, summer cottages, in front of the water. And I remember that Martha and her husband came down every summer for a couple of weeks or maybe a because they had no children and they just loved us. And they had a motor boat...or they rented a motor boat. And so they would take us out in the motor boat a lot. But other than that, as I said, just my aunt and uncle and the Powdermakers lived up the road and then Capt Bast, and that’s the only neighbors I really knew.”

Qt: “What was the deal with Capt. Bast? How did you know him?”

ER: “He used to take some of the men out fishing, and he had the oyster boats and the fishing boats. And I guess my grandfather met him first and then, sort of, the rest of us got to know him and his wife; I think it was his second wife. And it was always fun to go over there to see the boats, and we’d always walk on the boats. He was just a nice man and it was something, you know, different to do, just a little different from the average day. And it was always fun to go visiting people.”

Qt: “Do you remember your father having a boat to take out fishing?”

ER: “No. I don’t remember that. I don’t remember my father ever having a boat. I think the first one that had a boat that I can remember was Sam Goldberg. He had a motor boat and he would take the men out in the morning to go fishing. No, my father never had a boat.” [Slight pause] “I wish he did – it would’ve been fun!”

Qt: “But YOU had a little boat of your own?”

ER: “We had a little boat. Bette-Claire and I had a little boat. It was a row boat.”

Qt: “How did you get it?”

ER: “I think we finally wore our parents down, and saying that we wanted a boat. And we just decided we weren’t going to give up. We were very stubborn and so finally they said, ‘Well, what harm can it be?’ I think

we even bought it with our own money, and I think we got it from Capt. Bast, and we went over and we picked it up and we rowed around to our place, in the boat, rowing. She with one oar and I with the other, and it was great and we used to take it up at the end of the summer and clean the bottom and, you know, leave it out on the grass, upside down, for the winter and then put it back in the water in the summer. But we took care of it, painted it ... I remember painting it several years in a row we'd paint the boat. We'd take care of it and it was fun. And I have no idea what happened to the boat. None."

Qt: "How old were you, would you say, when you got that boat?"

ER: "I knew you were 'gonna ask me that...ummm...I don't know, maybe 12 or it could have been 11. I'm just guessing. I'm really not sure of the age."

Qt: "Can you offer me a contrast of what your life was like at your home in the city versus life in Shady Side?"

ER: "Well, home was school, friends ... family. Shady Side was just fun, relaxation, not having to worry about anything. In those days, you never got homework over the weekend in school. So, you know, you were footloose and fancy free once you went down to Shady Side on the weekends. And it was just...I don't know. It was just like being home. It was like your second home but it was a summer home. So I really didn't see any difference because that's just the way I was in the city and that was just the way I was at Shady Side. So they were both home. I felt very comfortable in both places."

Qt: "I just mean like the physical plant there. What was the ... in terms of the difference between the house that you lived in in the city and the kinds of amenities that were there versus what was out at Shady Side."

ER: "Well, we didn't have air conditioning at home either, so that didn't phase me at all. And, I don't know. It was just like I had two homes and I never really thought of them as being different. One was just in a different place. I mean, sure, it was very different. I shared a room with, you know, other people; but that was just my home there, and that's the way it was. My home at home was I had my own bedroom. And it just ... I never thought of it as a comparison because they were both my home, and it was just like, it was one or the other and that's just the way it was."

Qt: "How did your period at Shady Side end? When did your family stop?"

ER: "You know, I wish I could remember more about that. I guess I was a teenager, and I guess more things were going on in my life. I was probably starting to go out in the evenings, and more things were going on socially in my life. And, of course, there was no social life with boys and girls other than Eddie and Bette-Claire at Shady Side. And I guess the best way you can explain it is you kind of outgrew it, and you wanted to be with your friends more. And I can see that now. We own a place at the beach, and I have three teenage granddaughters, almost a fourth, and they're not as anxious to come down, you know, unless they can bring a friend; and, of course, we're fifteen people when we're all there together. So it's difficult to bring a friend. But I can understand because I remember that's the way I was with Shady Side, that I didn't want to go down any more because I wanted to be with my friends at home to do things with them, which is the natural progression of your life. So I guess when my father decided that we weren't using it, and then I think my uncle was the first one who decided it was time just to drop out, and then my father did the same thing because I wasn't as interested any more in doing it."

Qt: "And by that time, you had a younger brother?"

ER: "I did. And Harry came down to Shady Side as an infant. And I guess because I wasn't as interested...and then my parents got older, too. It was not as easy to get there and do all the things that you do. And maybe the, you know, the possibility of less privacy...as you get older, you want more. You know, I think

all these things maybe contributed to the reason we stopped going. I think basically it was me. And I didn't want to go because I wanted to be home with my friends. My social life was changing then."

Qt: "What was the group at Shady Side though? It sounds as though that was changing as well?"

ER: "Yes, there were some newer people coming in with younger children and that had the enthusiasm that we had when we were younger when we were that age. And I think then it started. The younger people that came in...the Sacks and the Kamerows ...they became boat people. They wanted boats, so they had a beautiful, lovely boat, and they spent a lot of time out on the boat during the day. And so things like that were changing. I think some of the older people were ...like the Danheisers...you know, they were getting up in age. Their daughter, Florence Jean, didn't really come down that much; so I think they sort of stopped coming as much. It was more difficult for them to get down, but the dynamics of the place, you know, they were changing yes, definitely."

Qt: "It sounds as though, for a long time, your... it was a very cohesive group. A lot of your family...your father came with two brothers originally.."

ER: "My father had one brother."

Qt: "Oh, I'm sorry...your...brother and his sister."

ER: "Right. I don't remember the Powdermakers being at Shady Side. I remember them having their own home just up the road a little bit. I don't remember ever. I really don't remember ever them being in the club house ... living in the club house the way the rest of us lived in the club house. They always had their own house. So they either bought their house when I was very young, or they bought their house maybe before I was born."

Qt: "What were they like, since there really doesn't seem to be any one left from their family that we can talk to?"

ER: "My aunt and uncle...my Aunt Cora was wonderful. She was the oldest of the three children. It was Aunt Cora, Uncle Lou and my Dad. And I remember my Uncle Sylvan and he died when Lenny and I got engaged, and I remember it was very hard for me to be happy to be engaged, but yet I'd lost an uncle. And I really... I was too young when my grandfather passed away to have, you know, feelings or express feelings. But I didn't know if I should be happy or sad, but I just remember that he really passed away at a time when Lenny and I had just gotten engaged. I had very mixed feelings then, but they were lovely, lovely people and very caring, and always happy to see us when we walked down the road to see them at Shady Side and their children, Alvin and Shirley. I remember my Uncle Sylvan and Alvin bought a boat. And I remember one time going out on the boat with them. It was just a fun experience. It was just, you know, it's wonderful when families can spend quality time together and have fun together. And this is what Shady Side was. It was our families together."

Qt: "And did they go fishing as well?"

ER: "I think so. I don't remember my uncle going fishing when my father did like with the Goldbergs you know and Sam's boat. But I guess earlier, before I was born or when I was very young and don't remember, I'm sure they had all gone fishing together 'cause I look at all the pictures and my Uncle Sylvan was in those pictures, too, with all the fish."

Qt: "Do you have any idea why or how your father got interested in fishing?"

ER: “I think it was in his genes from my grandfather! I think that, you know, he just enjoyed it. It was relaxing for him. He worked very hard during the week in the hardware store, and I think fishing was just a wonderful outlet for him on the weekends.”

Qt: “When you say it was in his genes...”

ER: “It’s in my genes, too, ‘cause I love to go fishing; however, I don’t have a husband who likes to go fishing, but sometimes he will.”

Qt: “Did you know about your grandfather fishing? How did he get interested?”

ER: “I have no idea. I guess he joined the Fishing Club because he did enjoy it.”

Qt: “Sometimes people have told me about making crab soup out at Shady Side.”

ER: “That was my Aunt Eva’s and my father’s job. They used to make the best crab soup. They would put...I just remember you got a big bowl of this crab soup, and in it were claws, and they used to put the whole crab in. They’d clean the crab and put the whole crab in. Then you would take the crab out and eat it just like you would a hard shell crab because they would leave the soft skin on there, and you would have to pick at it, but the crab soup was wonderful. Had a lot of crab soup because we caught a lot of crabs.”

Qt: “Do you know what they put in...what was the recipe?”

ER: “I don’t know. I make crab soup now for my family, ‘cause they love it. And I will go to ‘Magruders’ and I’ll buy a pound of crab meat and I’ll get the vegetarian vegetable soup, about 3 or 4 cans of that, and another couple of cans of the... large cans of vegetarian. Don’t want to put any meat in it. And then put some ‘Old Bay’ seasoning in and then put the crab meat in and let it cook for a few hours, and it’s really good. Sometimes when we eat crabs in the summer, we’ll save the claws and do the same thing. We’ll put the claws in.”

Qt: “But at Shady Side, you don’t know how Aunt Eva and your father flavored the soup or...”

ER: “Maybe they used the Campbell’s Vegetarian Soup, too. I have no idea. I just know that it was always good. I do remember, though, they used to put fresh vegetables in it. If I have fresh vegetables in the refrigerator, I’ll put them in, like string beans and peas...and things like that. I’ll put them in, too. But they used to make big pots of the crab soup.”

Qt: “Can you tell me something about the Goldbergs. Some of the people have mentioned them as being very interesting characters. And they were one of the significant families you mentioned that you knew there?”

ER: “Are you talking about Sam and his wife...I can’t even remember her name..”

Qt: “or both.”

ER: “OK. Sam I remember first, and then he brought his brother in, and his name was...” [slight pause].

Qt: “Bill”

ER: “Right. Bill Goldberg. Sam and his wife had one daughter, Beverly. Beverly didn’t come down to the clubhouse that much because she was a bit older than me. And then Bill Goldberg and his wife that I remember...her name was Esther, and it was Doris and Eddie, and then there was an older brother, Louis. Now Doris and Eddie and Louis were not Esther’s biological children. I don’t know if his first wife died or if they

were divorced. I really don't know. And I know that Bill was a warm and cuddly man. Sam wasn't quite as warm. But Bill was really ...I guess because he had more children and spent more time with the kids, but he was just a lot of fun to be with. They were very wonderful people. I don't know...I don't think any of them are alive any longer, but I'm not sure. When we were in Shady Side for the reunion and I saw Doris...first of all, I didn't recognize her! But when I saw her, I just... so many good memories came pouring back into my mind, and it was wonderful to see her."

Qt: "Any you could tell us about?"

ER: "Well, I just remember a lot of experiences that Eddie and Bette-Claire and I had. I remember one summer we tried to teach Bette-Claire how to ride a bike, and she ended up in a fence 'cause she just had no balance whatsoever. I remember the three of us tried smoking. We were the three that were really close in the summertime. We really had a lot of fun together, we enjoyed each other and got into a little trouble at times, too, like smoking and all. But I guess it's all a part of growing up, and it was a lot of fun. There were a lot of good memories,

Qt: "Any other adventures that you went out on?"

ER: "I remember one time Bette-Claire and I decided we were going to go pick blueberries or blackberries, I'm not sure what they were. So we took our containers and we went down the road because we knew exactly where the patches were for the fruit that we wanted to pick. And we were just picking away, I think they were blueberries but they may have been blackberries, and all of a sudden we got into a yellow jacket nest, and we were stung from head to toe, and we went screaming down the road crying that we were ...Oh, we had so many stingers in us. Yes, that was not an experience that was enjoyable, but we always will remember that 'cause it really was an experience. And I don't remember if we ended up with any of the berries or not. I think we just dropped them all and ran to get away from those bees. Yeah!"

Qt: "That's happened to me actually so I'm with you... not that bad. [Laughing] "What about swimming? How did you learn to swim?"

ER: "I always loved the water, and when I was a little bit older, my parents decided that they would send me to camp for a month in the summer, and so I went to a camp in Solomon's Island called 'Matawocca', and I guess I must've learned to swim there, but I became a very good swimmer. And I always loved the water so it didn't matter. But I think my instructional swimming came from going to camp. I think I went to camp when Harry was born because maybe it was too difficult for my parents to take care of both of us...to watch both of us, so they thought maybe camp would be a good experience for me. I have to say I was very happy when I got back to Shady Side. I had fun at camp but I missed being at Shady Side."

ER: "The Freedmans used to have a yearly picnic at Shady Side, and I think it was the Freedmans who were involved with the paper company...who owned the paper company. And once a year they would have these HUGE, HUMONGOUS parties at Shady Side, where they would bring in food, and they would invite, I guess, his employees and their friends and all. And of course we, being members of the Shady Side lodge at the time, were also included in the invitation 'cause we were there...we were physically there. And he was using our facility for his party, so of course we were included. Those were always a lot of fun. He used to bring in all kinds of food and entertainment, and it was just a lot of fun. And that was once a year, and we always looked forward to that 'cause it was always something special and different."

Qt: "What kinds of food was there and entertainment?"

ER: "There was always...well, he would bring in tons and tons of crabs, it and I remember there were all kinds of horseshoes and badminton, and you know, you played to win a prize. There were always prizes for all the

different things, and badminton galore. We always loved to play badminton. We kept a badminton net up all the time at Shady Side, and of course horseshoe pits were always open. And I learned to throw horseshoes at a very young age and was very good! Some of the men came down for these picnics, we, you know, being that we were there and always playing with the horseshoes actually beat them and we won the prizes. So that was always fun.”

Qt: “And when would that have been during the summer?”

ER: “I remember it was in August. And I guess he did it as a fun thing for his employees ‘cause it was on a weekend, and I remember the parking lot where we pulled up and the cars just filled. And sometimes we would have to go over to the Dunns and we’d park some of the cars there. Of course, then he would invite them to come, too, being that we were using their land to park his friends' cars, so... But it was fun. It was a lot of fun. And a ‘lotta ‘lotta people! I remember having to wait in line to go outside to the bathroom because the bathrooms are outside and when a lot of people were there and there were only one, two, three, four commodes ... and you have to go, you have to wait your turn.”

Qt: “Any other sort of special occasions during the summer?”

ER: “I was trying to think if we had any other special events, and I really can’t remember any. I just remember the Freedmans' picnic every year and, no, I don’t remember anything else.”

Qt: “How did you celebrate July 4th?”

ER: “I remember there were fireworks, firecrackers, but I don’t think there was any big presentation of any kind. Our fathers would just, you know, buy some stuff and we would just set it off on the 4th of July.”

Qt: “What about the flag pole? You showed me some pictures where people are gathered round the flag pole. Do you have many memories of that?”

ER: “I just remember putting up the flag in the morning. For us, as kids, it was a chore, you know, to ‘ugh’ you would have to be there to take the flag down and put it up, but I don’t remember anything other than putting it up and taking it down. There was no significance at that time with the flagpole. It’s just that the flag had to be raised every day and lowered every night. “

Qt: “It wasn’t a ceremony of any kind?”

ER: “No, not at all.”

Qt: “How about the Brandeis Club? Were you familiar with that? ‘Cause some of the men were, later ... some of the later members – the men were involved in the Brandeis Club, and they had some picnics there. That may have been after the time you were involved.”

ER: “No. I don’t remember any Brandeis Club.”

QT: “And you mentioned the Freedmans. Do you have any memory of them as people, or who they were, their children or anything like that?”

ER: “I think her name was Muriel, and I don’t remember his name. They did not come down on a regular basis. They were infrequent.. And you know something? I don’t remember their children. I know they had...I think they had two, a boy and a girl, but I’m not 100% sure. And they were also at our end of the table. You know the tables were extremely long in the kitchen, and I’m trying to think if the Freedmans were there before

the Kamerows and Sacks came. I know the Diamonds were there. But I think the Freedmans were there before the Kamerows and Sacks, too. So it used to be the Diamonds, and the Freedmans and us; and then as the Kamerows and Sacks came, the Diamonds left, and I think even the Freedmans were very seldom there at that time.”

Qt: “But the Freedmans stayed long after your family departed, and I think they were there to some extent while you were there and sharing the same side of the table.”

ER: “Right. They were, but they weren’t there as frequently. I think when we left, they became maybe more frequent down there, but I’m not sure about that because we were gone. I don’t know. But they weren’t there a lot. Not as much as the rest of us...as the Danheisers, and the Goldbergs and all.”

Qt: “I’d love to have a picture of that kitchen with all of the activity going on there.”

ER: “Oh my goodness!”

Qt: “I’m wondering if you can describe the scene in that kitchen for me so I can imagine it better.”

ER: “Well the only thing I really remember...I never did any cooking because I was too young; but I know we had to do dishes. I remember there was this one sink that had two faucets, of course, you had no hot water, so cold water came out of both faucets. The other sink had a pump. So whoever...and you did your dishes in a big pan, and then you would put them in the sink ‘cause the sinks were pretty big. You would put them in a dish rack after you did the soapy part, and then you would take that hot water that you were boiling and then run that over to rinse them good, too. But you would use that hot water with that cold water to wash them in.

And you know everybody was very congenial in that there weren’t people backing” [Noise in background causes a slight distraction] “backing up. You know, everybody seemed to know when you ate so that you would do your dishes and then get out of the way for the next. But cooking, everybody was ... there were one, two, maybe four burners. I can’t remember ‘cause I didn’t do any of the cooking. But it just seemed to work out. It just was like you were the only one there but everybody was very congenial and everybody knew when everybody else was eating, so they worked around and it just worked out well. It was really communal eating, but everybody sort of respected everybody else and gave them their turn cooking or eating or whatever.”

Qt:: “So you can’t remember a single dispute or disagreement among the people that were there?”

ER: “Well, I just remember saying that , ‘I don’t want to do the dishes’, but you’d do the dishes! No, I don’t remember any disputes or anything, I mean, just between me and my family that, you know, I didn’t want to do dishes. It wasn’t my turn. Somebody else could do it.”

Qt: “But between families, no friction of any kind with all the close rubbing against each other that you must have been doing all the time?”

ER: “None whatsoever. No. It just was a natural thing to do and it just went off very smoothly.”

Qt: “That’s really remarkable.”

ER: “Um, hum. It is, considering all those people, ‘cause you’d eat approximately at the same time but you just scattered yourself so that you were not in somebody else’s way.”

Qt: “Well, we’re about done, but I just wanted to ask if you had any kind of final thought about what Shady Side meant to your father.”

ER: “It was a big part of his life and he loved it. And I think Shady Side and the water was very instilled in me because when we had children I wanted them to be near water because it’s a wonderful experience and ...”[The sound of an airplane in the background causes a slight pause in the interview] “But my father really loved Shady Side. It was a big part of his happy life, and he always used to talk about the days at Shady Side.”

Qt: “Shady Side had a big effect on you as a child. How did it affect the way you became?”

ER: “Well, I think it’s so nice to get out of the city and have a place that you could go and just relax and not worry about things that are going on in the city. And we bought a place in Ocean City with my cousin, who already had it, and we bought in with her. And as our families grew, we decided that we were too many people for our three-bedroom apartment, so she decided she was going to sell, and we decided we were going to sell. And so she bought a place in Bethany Beach, and we bought a place in Bethany Beach, and it’s just been wonderful when the grandchildren were little. They just loved being down there; but now, as I said, three of the girls are teenagers and they’re not quite as anxious to come as frequently as they used to, because they’re afraid they’re going to miss something at home. But they know they can bring a friend down when not everybody’s down at the same time. I don’t know, there’s just something about the water and the relaxation that I passed on, I know, to my children because they love it. Our girls love it.”

Qt: “But is there some way that Shady Side changed how you are as a person, changed your personality or made you who you are?”

ER: “I don’t think so. I love people, and I loved the relationship we had with people at Shady Side. And I love people now. I don’t know if that had anything to do with it or not. No, I just have good memories.”

Qt: “Wonderful. Thank you so much, Evelyn. I really enjoyed hearing your stories and on behalf of the Shady Side Heritage Society, thank you so much for spending this time with me.”

ER: “You’re most welcome.”

[Although the interview appears to have ended, Mrs. R. continues speaking]:

ER: “If during the night you had to go to the bathroom, in each room there was a pot with a lid. And you would make in this pot, and when we were little and made in the pot, our parents would empty the pot in the morning. But as we got older, if we made in the pot, you had to empty the pot yourself. So Bette-Claire and I always made sure that, before we went to bed, we would go outside and go to the bathroom and, hopefully, would not have to use the pot because we hated to empty those pots in the morning.”

TAPE ENDS.