

Interview of **Mr. Lerch Crandell**

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Idlewilde Road - Shady Side, Maryland

Q: Mr. Crandell, were you born down here in Shady Side?

A: I was.

Q: Could you tell me exactly where?

A: Well, it's Snug Harbor now, used to be called just Bayshore. In the old big house in Snug Harbor.

Q: Would you mind telling us what year you were born?

A: Born 1908, February 26th.

Q: OK. Do you have brothers and sisters?

A: Yeah, I have two sisters living and two brothers gone.

Q: Would you mind telling us their names?

A: No, my sisters, one named Iva. . . Iva Siegert, it is now. And, she's lost her husband. And the other's Nellie Proctor. And my two brothers was William Crandell and Warren Crandell.

Q: When you lived at home, could you tell us what occupation your father had?

A: My father was a waterman. He oystered, he taken care of a duck blind, a gunning shore down there for Mr. Tom Lerch, the one who all Avalon Shores, now it's called, and of course, he oystered some, too.

Q: Did you ever go out and oyster with your father?

A: No, I was a little too young for that, I've been out in a boat with him oystering, but that was a little, a little before.

Q: Would you know when you father did oystering, just how much he used to get for his oysters a bushel?

A: No, I don't remember that, but I know what I used to get when I first started.

Q: Ok. Would you like to tell us?

A: 40 cents a bushel, we started at. And then we would plant oysters. When we couldn't sell

them, we would plant them, which in September, October, you couldn't sell any oysters, the weather was just too warm and there was no market for it at all. When, Thanksgiving would come and Christmas would come and we'd take them up at 60 cents a bushel. But they'd have to stay there, you'd have to do just double work and then when you got them up, you took them up at 60 cents, that's was a real good price then.

Q: If you were born in Shady Side, then you went to school in Shady Side.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Could you tell us where the school was in Shady Side?

A: Well it was where the Eastern Star is now, but it was an old school sat in back of it, that's where I started school in there.

Q: Would you remember some of your classmates names?

A: Oh my lands, yeah I guess I would. What do you mean, the girls, the boys?

Q: No, any of them that just comes to mind.

A: Well, there was Margaret Nowell, Gertrude Fox, Mary Petherbridge. . . and, oh well, the boys, good golly, I couldn't think of a name. . . Clarence Rogers, Thalbert Wilde and, oh, just a bunch of them.

Q: Would you remember who some of your teacher were?

A: My teachers?

Q: Yes sir.

A: Well, Miss Ethel Andrews was one. And, Miss Helen Dawson was teaching there, but she wasn't my teacher, she never was my teacher. And Miss Welch, Miss Mary Welch, from. . . she was from Friendship. And then we had a Mr. Hopkins from Annapolis, Jonathan Hopkins, he taught, he taught me in high school. We had the high school where the Eastern Star is now, we had two years of high, first and second year of high school in that school.

Q: Well, when you finished your school and you started to work, what age, say you worked on the water, what age did you start to work on the water?

A: Oh, I started, well I worked long before I . . . finished school. But. . .

Q: Was you first job working on the water?

A: I think, I don't know just when I did quit school. I guess I was about 17 or 18, something like that.

Q: Was your first job working on the water, then?

A: Yeah. . .

Q: Did you work alone or did you work for someone?

A: Oh no, another boy and I started out together. Thalbert Wilde. We started out, we got, we started out in a boat together, we worked for quite a while.

Q: Could you tell me, in your teenage years in Shady Side what you all did for entertainment?

A: Oh, we'd have dances and, and we'd go different places. . . it wasn't every night, but . . .

Q: Where did you used to have the dances? Where did the dances used to be held?

A: Well, we used to go out of Shady Side if we could. We used to go down Surrattsville, Clinton, that was a great place for every Saturday night and we'd go down there and the girls would ride in one car and the boys would in the other car, it would be different cars. And they wouldn't ride together, they'd go down there and dance all evening and get in their cars and come on home.

Q: Would you recall who some of the young men or the young women were? What their names were?

A: Some of the young men?

Q: Young men and women who used to go to these dances.

A: Oh well, there was Jack Nowell and Thalbert Wilde and Sam O'Connor and Archey Rogers, and, oh, I don't know, whole bunch of them.

Q: Well, may I ask you a question. Why did the girls go in one car and the men in another?

A: I can't answer. (Laughter)

Q: OK. Did you ever go to any dances down in Shady Side?

A: Oh, they used have dances as you enter on the corner in there, but Miss Mary used to have the dancing pavilion out there. They had dances there. . . Miss Mary Nowell's.

Q: Someone told me. . .

A: I never was much of a dancer.

Q: You just went to watch.

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: OK. There was supposedly a place in Shady Side called Shimmy Hall. Have you ever heard it called that?

A: Oh yeah, yeah.

Q: Why was it called Shimmy Hall?

A: I don't know. I guess it was because they had the dances there. But . . . I never, I never remember going to Shimmy Hall myself. But, that was a little before my time, I think.

Q: OK. Do you remember the movie theater down in Shady Side?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: Could you tell me a little about it?

A: (Laughter) Well, we used to go out there and sit there and look at the movie and eat salted peanuts and things like that.

Q: Do you remember how much it used to cost you to go to the movies?

A: No, I don't, no I don't remember now.

Q: Well, I also heard that sometimes they got the picture upside down.

A: Oh yeah, yeah, they'd do that.

Q: Who was the projectionist? Who was it that..

A: Who operated it?

Q: Yes sir.

A: Gilbert Leatherbury.

Q: OK. Could you tell us a little about your home life, what your home life was like in growing up in Shady Side?

A: Well, it wasn't too exciting. . . we had horses and cows and. . . well we, one horse and a couple cows. And I'd get on the horse sometime and ride out to Shady Side and get a bucket of ice cream. Get ice cream in a bucket. . . used to be, come down from Washington when they started bringing it down. All packed in ice, wasn't any electricity down there. And, I'd ride on back home. Of course, it was half melted by the time I got back.

Q: I'm curious, what would they charge you for a bucket of ice cream?

A: I think they charged about 50 cents then. Whole bucket. Gallon bucket now, I don't know how much was in there, I know everybody got some ice cream.

Q: What else did you used to do for entertainment or do at home for entertainment?

A: Well, my main entertainment was shooting the gun. That was .I loved to hunt.

Q: Oh, well tell me about it, I'd love to hear it.

A: Well, we hunted in duck blinds, that was the main hunt.

Q: What was the first gun you ever had if you liked to hunt?

A: First gun I ever had. . .

Q: Yes sir.

A: Was a pump gun, it was a Western Field and I went to Baltimore and went to work in Sun office, down in the press room, I worked three weeks and I had enough money to get that gun and I went down to Montgomery Wards and bought myself a gun, and oh my God,

Q: Now, how much would a gun like that cost?

A: How much did that gun cost?

Q: Yes sir.

A: \$29.95. At Montgomery Wards, Montgomery Wards still on Monroe Street in Baltimore now.

Q: And did you have that gun for a number of years?

A: I got it hanging in the rack out there.

Q: Now you have your gun. Could you tell us about your hunting, we'd like to hear it. What did you like to hunt?

A: Well, ducks, that's mainly, you'd go out in the duck blind. . . you could go out but you could go out and sit up there and shoot, that was it. Any there wasn't any law against baiting and you could bait and you killed, you killed all the ducks you wanted, most of the time. There was times they were scare, too.

Q: Did you ever go squirrel hunting or deer hunting?

A: Well, I have, but I never got too much kick out of squirrel hunting.

Q: But you like duck hunting better.

A: Oh yes, they were flying, see, they were something fast.

Q: OK. Can you think of anything else you did for entertainment or recreation.

A: No, but we did a lot of fishing. We fished and I've carried fishing parties.

Q: I heard a lot of people went ice skating, too.

A: Oh, we did, I loved to ice skating.

Q: Well, would you tell me about it please?

A: We'd skated down here on the pond down here, well there's not much to tell you, only we skated, we used to play prisoner's base.

Q: You used to play what?

A: Prisoner's base.

Q: Well, could you, I don't know what that is. . .

A: It's.. well, was just two sides to competing against each other and they'd choose sides and then we'd get over and skate around and one would get caught and he'd get put back in the, what you call the Lice House. That was back of the other base, then somebody would have to come around and get down and touch him to get him back to his home base.

Q: I see. Did you also used to skate at night time? Did you used to build a fire out on the

A: Oh yeah, we built fires on the ice and skated at night.

Q: Could you tell me the names of some of the people that used to skate with you?

A: Oh, my golly, there were so many of them. . . just all the boys from around here, Thalbert Wilde and Clarence Rogers and it was young and old. It wouldn't be just the young people. It would be all mixed up. Girls and boys and everything.

Q: Now you just said old people, now I'm going to ask you a very strange question. When you were a young, very young person in Shady Side, who was the oldest person you knew in Shady Side?

A: Oh, that's kind of hard to say.

Q: That you remember.

A: Well, I guess old Mr. Franklin, we used to call him Marse Doc Franklin. I guess he was about the oldest one I that I knew.

Q: Where did he live down in Shady Side?

A: He lived up there where Charley Ferris lives now.

Q: Do you remember what he did for an occupation?

A: No I don't. When I can remember him he was retired.

Q: He was retired.

A: He wasn't able to work.

Q: I see. Do you remember about how old he was?

A: When he died or. . .

Q: Well, when he died. . .

A: He's been dead for quite a while and well I'd say he was in 80', 90's.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit more about your home life and your family?

A: Well, there's not too much to tell, I don't guess.

Q: Well, we'll find, I'm sure people would be interested in it and how you grew up and what your family was like, your home life.

A: Well, we lived down where Snug Harbor is now in that old big house till I was 19 years old. And I went to school from down there and walked out that road everyday, in fact, that's a mile.

Q: There were no paved roads then?

A: Oh no, no, they didn't even have gravel on them. They were mud in the winter time, mud.

Q: I heard it was wet in the winter.

A: You couldn't walk in the road with shoes on walking, you had to walk out on the edge of the field.

Q: I heard it was mud in the winter and dust in the summer.

A: Yeah, yes it was. There was plenty of it and I know when we lived down there, when we drove to Cedarhurst there was nothing there but the brick house. And we went down to Avalon Shores, or we went down to the steamboat landing, and it was nothing down there but Captain Charley Hartge and Captain Beanie Hartge, and they liked the place around there.

Q: Were these gentlemen you just mentioned, were they boat builders?

A: Were they what?

Q: Were they boat builders?

A: No, no, un huh.

Q: Do you recall any of the men who lived in the area who were boat builders?

A: Oh yeah, Captain Perry Rogers, Captain Will Lee, Captain Ed Leatherbury, and George Proctor, old man George Proctor. The reason I say old man George Proctor is cause his son was named George, George Proctor.

Q: So you had gone several times yourself down into the boat yard. Did you see how they, how they built their boats?

A: Oh yeah. . .

Q: Could you tell me a little bit about it?

A: No, I couldn't, I wasn't much of a carpenter. I couldn't do much with wood.

Q: I also, speaking of wood, I also heard that at one time there was a sawmill in Shady Side. Do you recall that or was that before your time?

A: No, no, I recall it very well.

Q: You do recall it?

A: Yeah.

Q: Could you tell me about it., please?

A: Well, it was Uncle Dick Trott's and his . . . he was my uncle. He married my father's sister. And he was, his place where he had his saw mill joined our place out there. We wasn't living out there then, we were living down Snug Harbor. that's where the saw mill was, down there. I been down there many times seen him sawing. He used to grind corn too, for corn meal. Make corn bread out of.

Q: The lumber that he cut up at the sawmill, was that lumber from around Shady Side or was it brought in from some other place?

A: Well, I. . . most of it from right around Shady Side, I'm sure, but I don't remember just where it came from or anything.

Q: Would you happen to know some of the men who worked down there with your uncle? If your uncle owned it, do you remember some of the men who would work for him?

A: Well, there wasn't nobody but his stepson and himself, Charley Dwyer. And, Uncle Dickie, they run the sawmill, they's the onliest ones I ever saw run it.

Q: And when the wood was all cut up where did it go?

A: I don't remember.

Q: You don't recall.

A: Cause they used to haul the lumber down there in a horse and wagon and haul the lumber away in a horse and wagon.

Q: I see. Do you also remember the Shady Side Beverage Company?

A: Yeah, I helped them make soda.

Q: Oh, well I'd like to hear about that.

A: Well, I don't hardly remember about it now and my son's living there now, where the old Leatherbury place is. And it was right there where that uh. . . where the gate is where the place used to be, where they used to make the soft drinks. I used to go around and help to straighten the bottles up and the caps and stuff.

Q: What type of soft drinks did they used to make there?

A: Well, I remember their cream soda and I guess they made ginger ale and sarsaparilla and I guess all kinds, I really don't remember now. There used to be an ice cream parlor over there too.

Q: Could you tell us how long the beverage company was in existence?

A: No. I don't remember.

Q: Ok. You mentioned ice cream parlor, could you tell me a little about it?

A: That was Mr. Leatherbury, Mr. Murray Leatherbury that ran that. Cause I used to go out there, cause I was fascinated by those slot machines. They used to have a couple slot machines in there. Way back in they had a couple nickel slot machines in there.

Q: If they were nickel slot machines then what was the payoff if you hit?

A: It paid off money.

Q: Yea I know, but how much?

A: Oh, you'd get a jackpot or you'd get 20 for, if you got 3 bars you'd get 20 and the jackpot, whatever happened to be in it.

Q: I also hear that they had a bakery down in that same area.

A: They did. They did.

Q: Could you tell me a little bit what you recall about that?

A: Yeah. I can tell you Gilbert Leatherbury fooled me one day and got me to ride, said he was just going up the road a little ways, come on ride with him. And he had a whole wagon full of bread and I got in there with him, we went all the way down Churchton, all around down there. When we got back it was dark. Delivering bread to all the stores and everything.

Q: He sure did trick you then didn't he? (Laughter) When he used to, when he went down there that day then, how much would he sell the bread for?

A: I don't know.

Q: Don't remember that?

A: No, no.

Q: OK. Ok. Did you, did your mother also have a bake shop, your wife just said.

A: Yeah, she had a bake shop. . . a restaurant.

Q: Down in Shady Side?

A: Yeah, right across from the school here now, that school. Right across, isn't that where they just cleaned that lot up there?

Q: Yes sir. And. . .

A: Is that what's it's called, Chillum Road? Right there at Chillum Road.

Q: How long did your mother have her bake shop?

A: Honey, how long would you say? I don't know, I guess 10 years.

Q: And what type of things did she used to make, besides bread, I'm sure she made bread.

A: I expect my wife can tell you better than I can about that because she, I think she liked the crab cakes and the pie and stuff, that was before we were married. She used to make crab cakes, 10 cents a sandwich. Crab cake sandwich, 10 cents. Home made rolls, yeah. On homemade rolls, on homemade buns. How much was a pie, dime? (woman's voice) No, pies about \$.30. (man's voice) I mean a slice. (woman's voice) Oh, a slice, yeah 10 cents. (man's voice) 10 cents a slice I think it was the price of pie. (woman's voice) Crab sandwiches for 15 cents. I don't know how much her dinners was. She served dinners, too. Chicken dinners or whatever and I don't remember what they were cause I didn't have to pay for them. (Laughter) Inaudible conversation on tape. Oh, she could cook. [* Editor's Note: The woman's voice is Fredricka Crandell, Lerch's wife.]

Q: You were just saying your mother had a cottage down here.

A: (woman's voice) Where Owens' is now. And we would often go to Lerch's mother's restaurant for crabcakes or soft crab sandwiches. And they were so, oh just so good.

Q: And I imagine that the crabs and everything were quite plentiful then.

A: (woman's voice) Yes, I guess so. (man's voice) Couldn't cost too much, not if you could get a crabcake sandwich for 10 cents a piece. (woman's voice) You could get, you could buy a pound of crab meat for 35 cents. (man's voice) 35 cents, yes.

Q: Do you think things are as plentiful in the Bay now as they were then?

A: No, indeed, no.

Q: Would you like to tell me why you think they aren't?

A: Well, it looks like to me one thing is very poor conservation and when they allow people to go out, they're fussing about the rockfish, no rockfish. Is that thing working now?

Q: Yes sir.

A: When they allow have tournaments in the spring of the year to catch these great big, what we call cowrock that spawn millions of eggs and they have a big to do about it. Oh, it's a great festival, to see who can catch the biggest rockfish.

And they're out there fussing about why it's no fish. It don't make sense. And just last year, now, they had this right down here at the Rod and Reel about who could catch the biggest rockfish with millions and millions of eggs if she had already spawned that year, she would never spawn again. Cause she was gone. And they allow one to each person on the boat for, well, if you had six people on there you could go out and catch six of these great big old rock a day, and do it every day. And they wonder why they don't have any rockfish.

Q: I've heard some gentlemen say that the oysters have also declined in the Bay.

A: Oh yeah, well that's, that's over work, one thing and pollution, pollution is a great thing. It's taken the toll, I think, because it also don't, if it spawns, the spawn don't catch, it doesn't produce.

Q: Well, I talked to Mister Captain George Proctor and he says that he thinks they have ruined the Bay.

A: Yeah.

Q: He says he thinks they ruined the bay.

A: Well, they, they, I'm sure of that, they've ruined it, but uh I don't know whether they're going to get it back or not. It's so many sewage pipes that are dumping into the Bay. And you know, with all that, if it wasn't anything but just the chlorine, it, it. . . the chemical, it's going to hurt and hurt a lot. So, whether they can correct it or not, I don't know. I don't know, but I know they did some things that shouldn't be done. And the sports fisherman, they always think that, they blame it on the commercial fishermen, that he's throwing all the harm and that's not true at all. Cause I know there's a lot of commercial fishermen, they don't do just a they should do, but it's a lot of sport fishermen the same way.

Q: When you were a young man I imagine a lot of men in Shady Side made their living from the water.

A: Oh yeah, yeah, well that's just about the only way they had to make a living was on the water. We oystered, crabbed, everything it was to do out there.

Q: If you caught a bushel of crabs in those days and you sold them, how much would you get for a bushel of crabs?

A: Probably \$2, 2 and a half, something like that a bushel. Maybe a dollar, nah, you talking about my brother-in-law, George Proctor, he married my sister down here at Snug Harbor when we was living down there and that year he told me he didn't have anything to do and he went down to see Captain Jakey Linton and wanted to know if Captain Jakey would take his crabs on. Did he tell you about that? And he told him yes, he said George, I'll take your crabs for a dollar a barrel, that's two bushel and a half of crabs. But you got to be up here 9:00 in the morning. So he row or scull his boat, it was calm from down there up to Captain Jake Linton which is half to Galesville, and be there by 9:00 and then he could come back and crab the rest of the day, see. Keep them overnight and carry them up the next morning.

Q: Were there any farms that you know of in Shady Side?

A: Well, yeah, Wilde farm over here. It's a hundred acres in it altogether, there was a lot of

woodland in it, they farmed. And then there was the Mr. Guss Crandell, Bennett Crandell and them down the other way farm. Wasn't too many in Shady Side.

Q: Would you remember anything about the canning house that was down on West Shady Side Road?

A: Yeah.

Q: Could you tell me a little bit about it?

A: Well, it belonged to Mike Hartge and Henry Bast, what I knew about it. They had it and they contracted tomatoes around to different farmers, contracted tomatoes and harvest tomatoes down there. I think he got about 10 cents a basket or something like that.

Q: It was only tomatoes that they canned down there?

A: As far as I can remember, yeah. Yeah.

Q: Mr. Crandell, you were telling me who your Godfather was. Would you like to tell me who he is?

A: Yeah, it was Mr. Tom Lerch who owned Snug Harbor, we was living in Snug Harbor then. That's where I was born. And he owned Snug Harbor and he owned all of Avalon Shores, all on the left hand side of the road going down to Steamboat Landing.

Q: So you were named for him?

A: I was named for him, he was my Godfather.

Q: You had also told me earlier when I was turning the tape over, something about you carrying chickens and turkeys somewhere. Would you like to tell me about it?

A: Oh, yeah, we used to, we was down, that's when we lived in Snug Harbor and my mother used to raise turkeys and chickens and my father would take them to Annapolis. Well, they'd get up in the morning and hook your horse up in the little spring wagon and I'd take him on down to where the old canning house was. . . where Captain Edward Leatherbury landed his boat. And we would take them out on the wharf and take them aboard the boat and he'd carry them to Annapolis. And right there at the Annapolis dock he'd set everything up on the dock and display so people could come around and see them, everything, and he'd sell all his, everything he carried up and very seldom. He never brought anything home, he sold everything, all the time.

Q: Do you remember when the Emma Giles used to come into Shady Side?

A: Oh yeah. I rode home on Emma Giles.

Q: Could you tell me a little bit about your recollection of the Emma Giles? What she looked like and what you thought of it.

A: Well, we got a picture of her right in the other room there. Oh, it was really fixed up, I tell you, it was really fixed up. It had carpets on the floors and everything and then those saloons was really nice.

Q: I've never asked anyone but how many people did the Emma Giles carry? How many passengers.

A: I really don't know, I really don't know what the capacity was, but it carried quite a few people, I know that.

Q: And you used to go to Baltimore on it?

A: Yeah, yeah. I rode to Baltimore on it.

Q: How much would it cost you to go to Baltimore on the Emma Giles?

A: I don't remember that, tell you the truth, but I know it wasn't too much. But, one time Thalbert Wilde and I were down off Snug Harbor where I lived at then crabbing, crabbing trot line and we all at once we decided well today is the day that the Emma Giles goes to Tolchester so let's go home and get dressed and go. Well we did. We got our line out and we got a shore and did everything we had to and got dressed and I guess we ran best part of the way down there to the steam boat landing and the old Emma Giles was just gone over to Galesville. So we *was* left behind. Sowe came on back and when we got back up where the Episcopal Hall is now, where they got the rummage sale held up there. And Delores Leatherberry had a bake shop there and we went in and got a lemon pie. And that was hot enough to burn you up, but we ate it. (Laughter) And that was our big trip to Toichester, we didn't make it.

Q: Could you tell us what you remember of some of the stores in Shady Side?

A: Well, it wasn't really but one store here when I was a little fellow and that was Mr. Will Owings.

Q: And where was it in Shady Side?

A: It's right where Eddy Brevnik is now. Right next to the community center. And he had a whole bunch of girls, one boy, _____ and I went to school with the girls. And he sold and G.C. Hopkins bought it then, I guess. Yeah, I'm sure he did.

Q: Could you tell us if you met your wife in Shady Side?

A: Oh yeah, I met her right down at the cottage down there, well I knew her from going seen her around Shady Side, but I used to go down to her mother's house and work for them down there, so.

Q: Mrs. Crandell, when did you first start coming to Shady Side?

A: When I was about 7. My folks bought a place down on the bay front. And we knew all the Crandell's and liked them very much.

Q: How old would you say you were when you met Mr. Crandell?

A: I feel like I grew up with him. He was always around.

Q: Would you mind telling us when you and Mrs. Crandell were married?

A: You better let my wife tell you that.

A: You know when we were married (woman's voice).

A: Yeah, I know, but. . . (man's voice)

A: We were married November 22, 1939 (woman's voice).

Q: Would you mind telling us your name, Mrs. Crandell, your first name and your maiden name.

A: I'm Fredricka Owen Crandell.

Q: Do you and Mrs. Crandell have children?

A: Yeah, oh yeah.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: We have two girls and a boy.

Q: Would you mind telling us what their names are?

A: Well, their maiden names or their married names?

Q: Their first given names.

A: Gwen Crandell, is down to the library now, she's the librarian, not the librarian, she was. That's my oldest daughter. And Jimmy Lerch Crandell lives right across from the Eastern Star in that old big Leatherbury's house and Sarah, Sarah Fredricka Crandell, she's over in Kettering. Right?

Q: Do you have any grandchildren?

A: Yeah, we got two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Q: Do you have any great grandchildren?

A: No. (woman's voice -- not yet).

Q: When you were growing up in Shady Side, can you think of any stories that perhaps your parents may have told you about people who lived in Shady Side or something in particular that went on in Shady Side that your parents told you about?

A: No. Not off hand I don't guess. No.

Q: Did they uh.

A: (woman's voice) I was thinking maybe of some of the Crandell's your father and Uncle Tom and Aunt Mame. (man's voice) Yeah, that's all the Crandell family.

Q: When you and your wife were first married, where did you first live in Shady Side?

A: We live out to the, well at the old homeplace, where, I wasn't born there, I was born down Snug Harbor, we moved down there to take care of that ducking shore down there, that hunting shore and my home was right out, right opposite the school is, where the school is now right down that road, there's 13 acres of land out there, that's where my father gave me the place out there and that's where my wife and I moved in.

Q: And how many years did you live there?

A: How long we live there before we sold and come down here? (woman's voice) Well, we've been here 30 years. So we were out there (man's voice) about 15 years? No, wasn't that long was it . . . (woman's voice) More like 10, I guess.

Q: Then you moved from there to this property here? And you were telling me something earlier something that your grandmother had owned this property?

A: Yeah, that was before my time, but I know my grandmother was here, she married. . . now it wasn't my grandfather, she married old Captain Bob Rogers. But, she was my grandmother.

Q: What was her name?

A: Her name was Sarah Priscilla, Sarah Priscilla Evans was her name before she married old Captain Bob Rogers. And my mother was a Evans.

Q: And how did you find out that your grandmother had owned this property? Did you just find it out or it was just known in the family?

A: No, I hear it from my mother, well, from people just talking about it, see. Old Captain Bob Rogers married Sadie, we call her Madam Sadie. She was a fine old lady, a fine old lady. That's who one of my daughters was named after, Sarah and it was my mother's half sisters, I guess you call them, Ruth and Rachel, they were born here in this house. They were born in this house and that swing, right there where that swing is now, I've heard them talking about swinging and swinging over the bank and they, you can, you can do it right now, you'd swing, you'd look like you were going out into the creek.

Q: You told me that your main occupation was working on the water. Oystering, fishing, and crabbing.

A: And clamming.

Q: And clamming.

A: Yeah, soft shell clams.

Q: And did you used to sell these things to the buy houses, the buy boats or to the houses down here in Shady Side?

A: We sold all kinds of ways, we sold them to buy boats, and sold them to trucks, hauled the clams over the Eastern Shore in trucks, every bit, just about every way.

Q: Would you mind telling me the name of your boat?

A: No, the first boat that I ever owned I named it "I'm Alone." That was before I got married. And the other boat, it didn't have any name. It just had a number on it.

Q: Were these purchased boats, or did someone build these boats for you?

A: NO, the first boat I ever had I bought from Lawrence Wilde. It was just a year and a half old and and Captain Perry Rogers built it. It had a new motor in it and just a single cylinder motor, Kaley. And the next one I had I got from my brother, I bought it from my brother. And she was built by Captain Will Lee. And she is still laying down, I sold it, when I retired, I sold it, and she's still laying down there at the county wharf now. She was built in '29. Well when they want to turn a boat over out there they would just be a few people around and they would get the word we was going to. . . Captain Will, he wants to turn his boat over this evening. And about five or six o'clock in there you know, that's summer time we got plenty of daylight. There would be at least 50 people there to turn this boat over.

Q: This was down where Mr. Lee built his boat?

A: He built it right there in his yard where Sam Lee lives at now. And they would just pick the boat up and turn her over just as, wouldn't crack an egg shell. And now, you couldn't get anybody to turn anything over. Everybody's too busy. But them people, if they didn't have time, they took time to help one another out and they did that.

Q: Well, I hear everybody helped.

A: They did that. People helped people. Which is not too much of it now.

Q: No sir, no sir. When you worked on the water, how many years did you work on the water? Are you retired now?

A: Yeah, I'm retired now, yeah.

Q: How many years did you work on the Water?

A: Oh, I worked from, I was 19 till, how old was I when I stopped? About 62, 62, 63 something like that.

Q: Would you mind telling me your age now?

A: Now I'm 76, I'll be 77 the 26th of February, but that's not old.

Q: Of course it's not old. You're just starting.

A: Ok, I don't understand why you're down here asking me about ancient times.

Q: Well, see we want to have all this on tape because this is your, this is what you remember

of Shady Side. See, and in years and years and years to come people will be able to listen to this and say what good things this man remembered of Shady Side.

A: Yeah, yeah, it's a whole lot. It's a whole lot of things that changed in my times.

Q: Would you like to tell me about it?

A: I can tell you that. Well once it used to be a big island over here on Thomas Point. Thomas Island, had a house on it. I can remember that very well. Right on Thomas Point, of f Thomas Point, you remember Thomas Island, and erosion has just taken it right away. It's gone. Been gone for years.

Q: How big of an island was it?

A: Well, when I can remember, it was well, I'd say 5 or 6 acres. When I can remember. But, that's just guessing, I don't know, that's just guessing at it.

Q: What other changes have you seen?

A: I know one thing I was, one time when I was just a youngster had quit school and got my own boat and was up on _____ working, you couldn't sell any oysters. This was on a Saturday, and I wanted to go out Saturday night and I didn't have a dollar in my pocket. And coming on down I said well I'll go down and throw my oysters overboard and I'll go home and take a bath and eat and just walk out to the store, I reckon, I won't go far tonight. And I looked and there was a little speed boat, he was hung up in the man's net over there, and he was waving, and I went over there and got him out, but he had rope wound around his wheel, and he said can you tow me up South River? I said well how far up there are you? He said I'm up to the bridge. I said no, I can't tow you all the way up there, I don't have enough gas. I said I tell you what I'll do, I'll take you over Thomas Isle there and I'll see if I can't get that rope off of you.

So I took him over to Thomas Island there where I could get overboard and I got overboard and I said, I just remembered, I don't have any knife, and I said do you have a knife? And he pulled out a little old thing like fingernail file, wasn't much bigger than that and he said this is all I have, I said well give me that then. And he had, cause then it was grass rope, not the nylon, manila, so I went down underneath the turn of the boat ant I'd saw and saw and sawed, get a way through there and I'd come back out and get air, then I'd go back down there again and I saw and saw and saw and finally I got it. When I got it one fan cut in half, well, I got it right off. I got that rope off. And I told him how to get back to keep from hitting a stone on, well it used to be the first light house was over on Thomas Point was a stone to the left there so you had to go out around them and then go on up South River. And I told him how to get around and he said well how much do I owe you? I said Oh, I don't know and he pulled a pocketbook out and my eyes lightened up cause there was nothing in there but those gold bills and they were about that big. Great big old blankets they used call them. He handed me a ten dollar bill and he says will this, will this satisfy you? I said yes sir. And boy when I got in that boat and I got out there and come around Thomas Point, I was singing all the was coming down the bay. Says I'm going out tonight. And I bet you I was the richest boy in Shady Side.

Q: You probably were. Are there any other stories you can tell us like that?

A: Laughter. I'm afraid you might not get no supper if I keep on.

Q: No, no, well got about 10 minutes left here on the tape, so you have any more stories you can tell us like that?

A: No, I guess not. Not like that I can't. Recalled that right away cause the pop up every now and then. I can tell you I remember when I was going to school and we lived in Sung Harbor there and I came home from school that evening and this awful explosion went off and the ground trembled and I looked from where it came and it came from over Cedarhurst and they were blowing that canal out in there, had dynamited it, run rows of dynamite along there and set it off and was great big chunks of marsh going up in the air big as a, oh I don't know how big they were and I didn't know what the world was going on, was coming off. And that's how they got that canal in over to Cedarhurst, they blew it in there with dynamite, blew the earth up. Cause you could start walking from our place at Snug Harbor and walk right on around to Franklin Manor, where deep creek goes up into Franklin Manor that's always been there.

Q: You were telling me something about an airplane down here, would you like to tell me about that?

A: Oh, that's when Mr. Coleman was living down here, I think it was friends of his and I think it was Rittenbacker. And he saw this field down back of which is now Columbia Beach and it looked smooth enough for him to land in but when he landed he just tore his landing gear up cause it was old corn rows and stuff in there and he couldn't get the plane up any more and they had to come by from Washington and haul his plane back in trucks. Take it apart and take it back in trucks. Cause if think it was military, I know it was, cause it wasn't a private plane.

Q: Everybody come down here and watch, watch was going on.

A: Well, I didn't get around to see it, but I know that's what happened. Cause it was quite a ways round there and I was a little, I wasn't too big either. But I think it was Eddie Rickenbacker because I know Mr. Coleman was good friend of his. Old Babe Ruth, he came down Cedarhurst. (Inaudible woman's voice in background) I expect so, I expect so, yeah.

Q: Is there anything else that you would like to tell me on this tape so that people in generations to come will be able to hear?

A: I can't think of anything to tell you now.

Q: Do you have any more stories?

A: No. (woman's voice) My father was a Washington lawyer and my mother was a school teacher and we came down here just for the summer time. (man's voice) Yeah, let her, get yourself around there. . (woman's voice) Well, that's about all I have to say because I'm not a, I'm a Marylander now, that's for sure, a Shadysidian. (Laughter)

Q: You, I think you did tell me what year you started coming down here with your parents.

A: Um hum, my father only had the place a couple years, so I believe he bought it about 1925. And I was just a little girl and I was 10 when he died in 27, he was killed in an automobile accident going back to Washington from down at the cottage. He'd come down to turn the water off in the fall of the year, in November and was killed on the way back to Washington.

Q: Is the cottage still standing?

A: Yes. The cottage is still there and a couple other houses stand on the property that we had down there, but Mrs. Collier is down there now, my mother sold the house to her mother and father, now she's there.

Q: When you were growing up here, growing up down here Mr. Crandell, do you remember all the summer people that used to come the the Nowell Hotel?

A: Oh yeah, I remember when it comes to all the boarding houses, there was boarding houses everywhere.

Q: Could you tell me what boarding houses there were besides the Nowell Hotel?

A: Well, there was one right down near, right there at Idlewilde and Captain Will Nowell had it, Captain Will Nowell and Miss Anna Nowell. And Captain Will Nowell was old man Bob Nowell's son, see, the one where the Nowell boarding house was. And then it was Foxes, Mr. Neimeir's.

Q: Where was the Fox Hotel?

A: That's down West Shady Side Road. Down West Shady. . . where KDB is now, that's the same property and then you come on around the shore and it was Captain Eddie Hartge, I don't know whether he ever had, whether he ever had boarders or not. But I know Captain Ed Leatherbury did, he had some and Captain Charley Hartge, he had boarders. And was there anybody else? (Inaudible woman's voice).

Q: Yes, would you like to tell me about the showboat?

A: Oh, the showboat was something else.

Q: Well, tell me.

A: Adams Showboat used to come in and land over at the county wharf over to Galesville. We didn't have it in Shady Side. We had it over to Galesville cause we didn't have no place to have water enough, where it was a county landing. And we'd all go over there in the boat. That's the only way we had to get over there was in the boat.

Q: And what type of show did they have on the showboat?

A: Oh, they had good shows. Good shows, yeah.

Q: What type of shows?

A: It was vaudeville you know. . . (inaudible) . . . in person, that's nice. I don't remember now it was so long ago, I don't remember going over there. (woman's voice) I can remember going, but I don't remember the names of the shows. (man's voice) No, I don't remember the names of the shows.

Q: Would you happen to remember what they would charge you to get in to see the show?

A: Do you remember what it was? (woman's voice) No. I don't know, no used saying, it couldn't have been over a quarter, 35 cents, something like that, because if they did they wouldn't have, they wouldn't have anybody there. People didn't have any more money than that. But they would pack that thing, they would pack it.

Q: How often would the showboat come in?

A: About once a year. It used to come in once a year for quite a few years there. It was, it was something to look forward to then, cause it sure wasn't too much amusements around then.

Q: Mr. Crandell, we thank you very much, we appreciate all the information you've given us.

A: Well, I can't, well you really can't sit down and think of everything, you know, right off.

Q: Of course not.

A: But if I could be of any help, I'm glad to do it.

Q: We really do appreciate it and we thank you very kindly.

A: You're very welcome.