

APPENDIX IV

Oral History Transcriptions

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

Interview with : Hannah Kotzin
Interviewer: Jeffrey Weiss
Date of Interview: June 28, 1993

This interview was conducted on June 28, 1993. The interviewee was Hannah Kotzin, a former resident of the Annapolis neighborhood known as Hell Point. Mrs. Kotzin lived on the corner of Holland and Prince George Streets until 1941, when the Naval Academy appropriated the land where the neighborhood was located. The interview was conducted at the Kneseth Israel Synagogue in Annapolis, Maryland by Jeffrey Weiss, a student in the University of Maryland Archaeology Field School. Both the interviewer and the interviewee have given permission for this transcript to be used for scholarly purposes. The Oral History Project is a project of the University of Maryland Department of Anthropology, the Historic Annapolis Foundation, and the United States Naval Academy.

In the body of the transcript, the interviewee will be identified as KOTZIN, while the interviewer will be identified as WEISS.

WEISS : Okay, this interview is being conducted on June 28, 1993 with Hannah Kotzin, a former resident of the neighborhood called Hell's (sic) Point. The interview is being conducted at the Kneseth Israel Synagogue in Annapolis, Maryland. The first thing I'd like to know, since you sort of already said that it wasn't really, Hell Point wasn't really a bad neighborhood at all, it just had a bad reputation, I guess.

KOTZIN: Exactly.

WEISS: Was that bad reputation just the Naval Academy people who looked down on the neighborhood, or was it all of Annapolis?

KOTZIN: It wasn't just the Naval Academy. [phone rings]

WEISS: We were discussing the neighborhood. So, it wasn't a bad neighborhood really, it just sort of had this reputation ...

KOTZIN: I feel that way, it's been many, many, many years ago; I don't remember too much, but I know that we had black people living on the same street with us, and one woman there was noted for her crab cakes, she was a black woman, and the people just came from far and wide to buy her crab cakes.

WEISS: That's interesting. Could you tell me a little bit more about what you considered your neighborhood. Was it just your street, or was it...?

KOTZIN: No, it was a little bit of everything. They had a lumberyard at the end of the street, and there was a ferry that went from Annapolis to Claiborne, Claiborne. And then I remember, we lived on the corner of Holland and King George Street, and I remember people would like to go to Ocean City, so they would get up maybe three or four o'clock in the morning to get in a line to get the ferry boat to take them over, so we had a little grocery store there, not too much groceries, but a little bit of everything, and they used to come into us and get cheese and bread to make sandwiches 'til their turn came to go to Ocean City.

[Pause] Nowadays, you can't even wait fifteen minutes, but then they used to wait hours.

WEISS: So what was the neighborhood like? What sort of people lived there?

KOTZIN: Hard working people. Both blacks and whites, and just a couple of Jewish families.

WEISS: What were relations like, between the black and the white and the Jewish residents of the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: They, I think they were very amicable, and they used to get along very, very well. We had a little grocery store, as I said before, and they would come in and get, write, get a little order for themselves, and we would give them credit until the following week, when they would get paid. And they, we got along very nicely with these people. We treated them fairly, didn't take advantage of them, we were only too glad to be able to, accommodate them with whatever we could.

WEISS: Was there a sense of, were neighbors close?

KOTZIN: Very much so, very much so, yes indeed.

WEISS: And you did things together?

KOTZIN: Well, we didn't have too much time to do too much other than take care of our business, and help the

people along whatever we could.

WEISS: So, when you were, when exactly did you live in Hell Point?

KOTZIN: We lived on the corner of Holland and King George. And they took, for the Field House, they took the, let's see, King George, Holland Street they took altogether, for the Field House. They had to have that, I think it was 1942 or '43 [The land was appropriated right after the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 1941. The Field House was finally completed in 1954] .

[Pause]

And that was when they had the people come down, make surveys of the land that they wanted. They had to have it right away, and then after they got it, it took 'em I guess about five or six years to build the Field House, which they said they needed for the war effort. They had a big football field there right on the corner, they took that off, and made it what is now the Field House.

WEISS: Right. So what time, how long did you live in that house on Holland Street?

KOTZIN: Let's see, I think we had to leave about 1943 [actual date of appropriation by the Navy was in December, 1941]. That's fifty years, ain't it?

WEISS: Yeah. That's a long time.

KOTZIN: Time goes a long way. Time goes very quickly, yeah.

WEISS: How long was the store in operation?

KOTZIN: Well, actually, we lived above, as a matter of fact, see that picture in the center there [indicates picture of KOTZIN'S, the grocery owned by the family], I had, the synagogue honored me a couple of years ago, and Eric had that done for me, Eric Goldstein [Eric Goldstein is a historian concerned with Jewish history in Annapolis]. And that's the house, the house is in the back, all one building, five bedrooms, one bath, the store was in the front, and right in back of the store we had a living room. And we had to give up the living room, because we had to have merchandise come in there. [Indicates picture again] And that's the little truck that they had.

WEISS: That's really neat.

KOTZIN: So then we had to leave, so we went up, our business was a half a block away from where we lived, and then we had to move, they took the land.

WEISS: I'd like to find out a little more about the neighborhood. What sort of things, what were the common sights in the neighborhood. Other than your store, what were the places that people tended to, to go to hang out?

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: 'Cause I've noticed on some of the maps, they didn't seem to have any bars or saloons or anything...

KOTZIN: As a matter of fact, there was a saloon right across the street from us.

WEISS: No kidding.

KOTZIN: Right across street, had a great big and a beautiful bar. It was mahogany or whatever, and it was, oh just terrific. Right across street, Dutch Cornell, he was the one that ran that bar. They had, we had a lot of Filipinos in that area also, they used to come, they were the ones who used to clean up, do housekeeping for the Naval officers, the high-ranking officers, and they would, the government had to pay them, and then they got smart, and they wouldn't let them do that anymore. But the Filipinos were very nice, clean people, they had their own contingent of friends, and relatives, whereas far as we were concerned, we didn't have too many Jewish people in that area. We had our place, and then there was a man by the name of David Kowansky. He had a junkyard. And I remember, he used to come down our house a lot, every day. He didn't have to have, didn't have anybody to talk to in Jewish [Yiddish], so he used to come to us. And I remember when it was Passover, and he would, he loved my mother's knaidlach, so the whole eight days of Passover, he would come to our house to eat Passover food, he was a great guy.

WEISS: Was the Jewish community, I mean I know it was small, but were they close?

KOTZIN: Very much so. Very much so. You take in our family, my grandmother had eight children, five sons and three daughters, and they all had big families. And they, I don't know where they was, I think it was a ways before '43, my father would go get the notions and pots and pans, whatever he could put on his back, and he and the rest of the four or five people in the area would, they would get the boat and go from Annapolis to, let's see, where was it, Gailsville. And the people in Gailsville got to know these Jewish people, and we were friends for many, many years.

WEISS: That's really interesting. So you made, you had friends in Gailsville.

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: In the immediate neighborhood, did you have any close, were you close to any of the other families.

KOTZIN: Oh yes indeed. Yes indeed. We were very close with..the Gentile people were very considerate of us, and we got along very nicely, and they knew what our scheme of things were as far as, we had this little grocery store. And I remember my mother wouldn't let us sell lard, Crisco, she wouldn't let us sell Crisco, 'cause it looked like lard. And they were religious people, they didn't give up that kind of stuff.

WEISS: When you were growing up in Hell's, sorry , Hell Point, where did you go to school? Did you go to public school?

KOTZIN: Yeah, the school we used to come home for lunch even. I would, I guess we had lunch for maybe an hour. So we went home, had lunch, and went back to school.

WEISS: And it was the regular public school?

KOTZIN: Yes, it's still there, on Green Street.

WEISS: Green Street, right, I heard about that. Did you have a lot of friends in your grade, or in your classes? Were most of your friends from school, or were they from your neighborhood, or was it the same thing, really?

KOTZIN: They were the same thing.

WEISS: They were the same people?

KOTZIN: Yeah. And let's see, what else?

WEISS: What sort of things did you do with your friends, in the neighborhood, what sort of games did you play?

KOTZIN: Oh, I used to play baseball, football out in the street - half the street wasn't even paved, it was oyster shells.

WEISS: No kidding.

KOTZIN: Yeah. There was a lot, there was. let's see, trying to think what their name was, there was a black lady, her crab cakes were well known all over. Jewish people didn't eat them, but the goyim [non-Jews] did.

WEISS: So it was a fairly observant Jewish community.

KOTZIN: Yes. And they respected us. They knew when we were gonna close for Rosh HaShana (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), we didn't have to put a sign up, they would come and tell us "Gonna have a holiday?", "Yes, gonna have a holiday". And the synagogue was on the corner of Randall, let's see, it was on, it came down to a point where the Naval Academy gate is now, from there it went over to the other side.

WEISS: Right across, I think, from where the Brice House is now...

KOTZIN: Let's see, which house?

WEISS: It's...

KOTZIN: Yeah, it's right across...

WEISS: Yeah, and then up the street is Paca, I think.

KOTZIN: Yeah, that's right. The Brice House, sometimes it's open to the public, they have tours there. Beautiful furniture. I think its privately owned now.

WEISS: I think so, yeah.

KOTZIN: And across the street was our shul (synagogue)

WEISS: What was that like, I mean, was it a large congregation at that point, or...?

KOTZIN: No, no. It wasn't very large, I don't know, maybe about, I don't even know whether it was fifty families or not, could have been.

WEISS: I didn't know the Jewish community was that large; I thought it was much smaller, in Annapolis.

KOTZIN: No, see, what they did, in our family, the oldest son would come, came first, he had enough money to get the ticket. The after he came here, got situated a little bit, then he would send for somebody else, either his sister or his brother. And then the mother and father, my grandfather had passed away in Europe, my grandmother came here, her children brought her here. They brought one, and then another one, and so forth and so on, and then they would, my grandmother had a boarding house, and whenever these young men would come, they would all stay at her house. They would go out on Monday and come back on Friday, for Shabbes (Sabbath), they were always home.

WEISS: Did the boarding house just have family, or were there other people living there as well?

KOTZIN: Only people from the area.

WEISS: Only people from the area.

KOTZIN: Yeah. From where they would come, say Kovno (in Poland), or wherever in Europe. And you knew, even though they weren't blood relatives, they were very close.

WEISS: Yeah. So it was, basically, there weren't other, I mean the Gentiles wouldn't have been living in the boarding house?

KOTZIN: No. Yeah, it's where Griffin's is now. That's were the Kotzin's shul was, and then after they got enough

money, they got a little house of their own, and they'd try, they did the best that they could, they were remarkable people, I'm telling you. I say with all of the technology that we have nowadays, and all the stuff like that, these people who couldn't read, couldn't write, and couldn't speak the language had the nerve to come to America, it's remarkable. They didn't have computer's or anything. They would go to, when they went to Gailsville, they used to have little books, they would give them credit. So they would come on Monday, buy what they needed, and they would come back the following Monday, and then they would give them their merchandise. Remarkable, remarkable. People couldn't read the language, couldn't read language, and had the audacity to come. Isn't that remarkable? Nowadays, with computers and adding machines and all that kind of scientific stuff...

WEISS: That's amazing. That's really neat, that fascinating. So, what sort of thing, was there an organized Jewish community? Did they have, like communal organizations?

KOTZIN: Oh yeah. They didn't have the B'nai B'rith or anything like that, that didn't come up until much later. But, they all gave to the shul, as much as they could, and that wasn't too much, but they managed.

WEISS: So the shul was like the center of the community?

KOTZIN: That's right. Exactly.

WEISS: And what sorts of things did the shul do? What sort of Services....?

KOTZIN: Well, they had services. I know they had them on the weekends. I don't know that they have wanted to have a Yahrzeit (memorial service for dead relatives, usually on the anniversary of the death. Commonly only for mother, father, or sibling), and they could come in the evening, whenever, whoever was living in Annapolis at that time.

WEISS: Did they do things for the aged, and the sick and all that, did they have things for that?

KOTZIN: We didn't have too many older people, I don't recall. If they did, they did for themselves.

[Pause]

WEISS: So, what sort of things, I know you mentioned baseball and football, what other sort of things did you do in your free time? I imagine you didn't have too much free time....

KOTZIN: No, used to stay in the store and help out.

WEISS: So you mostly stayed in the store?

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: Who was working in the store, besides...

KOTZIN: I was the older one, and then I had a brother, and a sister, And then another sister.

WEISS: And everyone worked in the store?

KOTZIN: Well, they took their turns, you know. We had lessons to do, we had people to do whatever we could us.

WEISS: So, how many people were living in the house on Holland Street?

KOTZIN: Oh, that was just us. Just our family.

WEISS: Just your mother and your father and sisters and....

KOTZIN: Two sisters and a brother and me. And I was the oldest. Dear Lord willing, I'll be 82 in October.

WEISS: Till 120! (Common expression among the Ashkenazi Jewish community, refers to Moses, the Lawgiver. who lived to be one hundred and twenty years of age, according to legend.)

KOTZIN: Thank you very much.

WEISS: So, was there, I noticed there are two cars in front of....

KOTZIN: One's a little truck, I think, a little van, and the other's an old Hupmobile (See the back of a ten dollar bill. Same car).

WEISS: Were there many cars in the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: Not too many people could afford them.

WEISS: Yeah, not too many people could afford them. That's what I'd heard.

KOTZIN: But isn't that remarkable? Look, they had five bedrooms and one bath, and no one was ever dirty.

WEISS: Yeah, I'd wondered about that, because a lot of what I've heard about Hell Point from other sources, like the Naval Academy, they put out an assessment when they took over the land, and...

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: ...and they were kind of negative about the whole area.

KOTZIN: Oh, yeah. The football field was right across the street from us, I'm telling you, they used to have, and Dahlgren Hall, that was at one time where they used to have all their dances and their single activities and they were ????

WEISS: Did you go onto the grounds of the Academy?

KOTZIN: Oh yeah. We used to go there all the time. It was free, you know they had all the games -football, baseball, boxing, any kind of activities.

WEISS: And were they good neighbors, the Academy type people?

KOTZIN: Very much so. Very much so.

WEISS: So it was very cordial relations before they decided they wanted the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: That's right. That had to be for the war effort. They waited I think for about five years before they did anything. Then they didn't give us too much for the property, when you go to , you know, buy something in those, even in nowadays, it's so much higher than what it was before.

WEISS: So, what was it like living next door to all these midshipmen? Did they interact much with the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: No, the midshipmen didn't come out.

WEISS: They didn't come out?

KOTZIN: The naval officers...

WEISS: Just the officers?

KOTZIN: Yeah. We didn't have too much. They were so busy with their activities.

WEISS: Right. Did you get to deal with them socially at all? I mean, were there dances and things like that?

KOTZIN: Yes, when we had, at that time, they had to go to a service, they had to have something for religion. It was either have it at the Academy, or have it out in town. So they used to come out into town. We used to have as much as fifty Jewish midshipmen.

WEISS: That's a lot.

KOTZIN: It really was. And then there were the, I'm trying to think how many, they would come out every Sunday, because at that time, you had to attend a religious church or a synagogue. But nowadays, they can go out, they give 'em the weekends off. So we don't see too much of them, and also, they had built a beautiful little chapel down at the Naval Academy, it's non-sectarian, it's beautiful. And now we don't see too much of the men, they have their own and then have the weekends off, so it's altogether a different ball game.

WEISS: So they showed up for the services. Did they come to your homes or anything?

KOTZIN: Oh, that was, we knew, and developed a friendship with them, it was very , very pleasant. As a matter of fact, we used to have bagel and lox (smoked salmon) and cream cheese about once a month we'd give 'em a breakfast, we'd have maybe forty-five or fifty men. A friend of mine and I took care of that for maybe twenty-five years. And then when they went for themselves, we didn't see too much of them anymore.

WEISS: Now, did the Academy, did the Naval officers spend a lot of time in the neighborhood? I know you said that the midshipmen stayed on the Academy grounds for the most part...

KOTZIN: Yeah. The Naval officers, they didn't stay there too much, if they had the opportunity leave, they went away for the weekend.

WEISS: Did they shop in the store at all?

KOTZIN: No, in ours. We were just a little neighborhood store. We didn't have too much there. Then we developed a wholesale business. Cigarettes, tobacco and candy. Before we had that little store there...

WEISS: What was it like, I understand that you were living in the neighborhood right around the time when there was the Depression. What was it like, I mean , what sort of, how did the store make out during that time? Did you still have the credit?

KOTZIN: It kind of almost dissipated itself, because everything was so expensive. And they just did the best they could. And it wasn't so much.

WEISS: Did the neighborhood change at all when the Depression hit?

I mean, were the same sort of people living there?

KOTZIN: Yeah, because they weren't too wealthy to begin with. So they didn't have too much to lose. But they were very kind, they were very considerate. We treated them well, you know, so many times they always have Jews this and Jews that and Jews, but they were always very kind to us, and we could always depend on them if they said they were gonna come in on Monday to pay what they owed, they would come, we would give them credit for another week, and we got along very nicely.

WEISS: Did you have friends who weren't Jewish, or were your friends mostly Jewish, in the Jewish community?

KOTZIN: Yeah, we had, let's see, I'm trying to think when we graduated high school, I think we had twelve or fourteen in senior high school when I graduated.

WEISS: That's pretty cozy.

KOTZIN: Yeah, and as a matter of fact, we had our graduation in Mann Hall because we had, they had a fire at

the school, and we couldn't have their graduations, so we graduated from the Naval Academy.

WEISS: Was it a stable type of neighborhood, I mean 'cause all the things, I keep going back to all these reports I've read before, that say Hell Point was such a terrible place, and there was all these people coming and going, and

KOTZIN: Well, we didn't pay any attention to those kind of people. They did what they wanted to do...

WEISS: So, there were those sorts of people in the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: Yeah, there was drunkards, I guess you'd call 'em. But they didn't bother us, they wanted the liquor, that was up to them. They drank liquor, whatever.

WEISS: But most of the families, in your neighborhood at least, in your part of the neighborhood.

KOTZIN: Yeah

WEISS: ...were mostly stable people, staying a long time?

KOTZIN: Yeah. Exactly. Absolutely. And they were always, I mean we had a maid, that even came in on Sunday to scrub my mothers floor in the kitchen, she felt..we were so kind to her, then she put the newspaper down.

WEISS: Yeah, I've heard about that. What exactly did the newspaper do?

KOTZIN: It kept the floor clean.

WEISS: Oh, it kept the floor clean, OK.

KOTZIN: A little longer, anyway. And she was Sadie, she was a wonderful old lady, I'm telling you. She did for us and we did for her, it was reciprocal.

WEISS: That's really neat.

KOTZIN: You know, it's a long time, you can't remember too much. Fifty years!

WEISS: I have problems remembering what I did last week!

[Laughter]

KOTZIN: Yeah, isn't it remarkable? So wonderful.

WEISS: So, you ran a small grocery. Did you just have dry goods and things like that?

KOTZIN: No, we didn't sell dry goods.

WEISS: You didn't sell dry goods. So it was mostly food and...

KOTZIN: ...and soft drinks

WEISS: and soft drinks.

KOTZIN: Cheeses, you know they'd make their won sandwiches while they were waiting to get over to the Eastern shore.

WEISS: Where did you shop? Where did your family shop?

KOTZIN: We had to go to Baltimore, as a matter of fact.

WEISS: Baltimore?

KOTZIN: We had to go to Baltimore. The two lane traffic going on the Old Annapolis Road.

WEISS: Yeah.

KOTZIN: Oy, gevalt (Woe is me)! I'm telling you.

WEISS: Was that just for the kosher items, or was that for everything?

KOTZIN: Mostly for the kosher things. And then there was also a Jewish theater in Baltimore. I don't know if there was, this must have been before that, though. And they had a Jewish kosher restaurant, also, so my parents would take us all there in the Hupmobile we had at that time, that was really jazzy already, the Hupmobile, and we would go in the, we would go and have lunch, dinner, and then we would go to the Jewish theater. Molly Picon (Jewish actress) do you remember her?

WEISS: Yeah.

KOTZIN: Yeah, that goes back an awful long time. The whole family would go, that's what left an impression on me all this time because we were a close knit family. We didn't have to run around looking for different things to do, with eight children, and my grandmother's family, you know, and they all had lots of children, so we had a really nice gathering there for ourselves.

WEISS: Was that a regular thing, or was that just for special occasions, that you would go to Baltimore?

KOTZIN: Whenever there was a Jewish theater. We were the only ones that came there with a family. We were three of us in Baltimore at that time. My sister, my brother, and myself. And we went to the Jewish restaurant, and we had theater seats, just go, we were the only children of the young people to go to the theater. That always made an impression on me. You were so glad to go. It was a family affair.

WEISS: What was a regular week like for you, growing up in Hell Point?

KOTZIN: Well, you would go to school, come home. stay in the store and wait on the customers and give your

mother some chance at some kind of a breather. 'Cause she couldn't read English. But she spoke a little, mostly English, tried very hard.

WEISS: What was her native language?

KOTZIN: It was Jewish, Hebrew. Jewish, not Hebrew.

WEISS: So it was like Yiddish?

KOTZIN: That's right.

WEISS: 'Cause my grandparents also spoke Yiddish. And Russian and Polish and a few other things too...

WEISS: So, what was Friday night like, and Saturday? What was Shabbat like?

KOTZIN: Well, we had candle lighting, we had nice Sabbath meal with chicken [Phone rings]

WEISS: We were talking about Shabbat. You were describing Shabbat meal and what sort of things did you have for the Shabbat meal?

KOTZIN: We had chicken, and gefilte fish, chicken soup. sometimes we'd have knaidlach, regular good meal, my mother was an excellent cook.

WEISS: What was Saturday like? Did you go to the shul on Saturday?

KOTZIN: Well, I think we kept our store open, and I think we went to shul, we didn't go to shul, but the young people, I think we stayed home and took care of the store, I don't think we closed up on Saturday, I don't remember. We did close on all the holidays, as a matter of fact, the neighbors would tell us a couple of days before, "Ms. Hannah, you gonna close up, your holiday's coming up?", they knew better than we when Rosh HaShana, they were very accommodating.

WEISS: What were the holidays like? I mean, what you do?

KOTZIN: They were great, because with having that aunts and uncles and all having..

WEISS: The whole mishpocheh (family or clan) would come in.

KOTZIN: That's right. And the one who had the biggest house take care of everybody. And that was Tante (Aunt) Feige. Tante Feige lived right in back of the shul. The shul was on the second floor, and then they lived a catty-corner up on East Street, Cornhill Street, they lived in that area.

WEISS: Was the extended family also involved in the store?

KOTZIN: No, our store, we took care of ourselves.

WEISS: What did the other people, Tante Feige and...

KOTZIN: The others, yeah, some of them went to Gailsville, they left Monday, came back Friday, and then we had some of them who opened up little shoe stores, and then they had, a couple of them had ladies ready-to wear. I think jewelers had one, though that didn't come that early.

WEISS: So, for the holidays, did you go to shul on the holidays?

KOTZIN: Oh yeah. We would close the store and everyone would go to shul. And they stayed there too. They didn't run around.

WEISS: So, it wasn't like it is today, with the kids in the nursery...

KOTZIN: Exactly.

WEISS: Did you have a rabbi for the congregation?

KOTZIN: It seems to me we had a rabbi by that time, Rabbi Rosenblatt. We had several rabbis in between, but then he came in, 1950, I don't remember exactly.

WEISS: I guess the holidays were sort of an all-day affair?

KOTZIN: Well, we came home and ate dinner, a nice hardy dinner, then they laid down and took a nap, we all had to have a little bit of a relaxation. Hard working people.

WEISS: Did both of your parents go to shul, or was it just

KOTZIN: Yes, yes. Ladies sat in the back, and men in the front. gorgeous chandeliers, now they won't even let us go in there to look at the second floor. Several of the old-timers said that they were beautiful chandeliers, that were donated by one of the families, and that when they moved, they couldn't find them anymore, and they were beautiful, magnificent.

WEISS: So, what did your parents do for relaxation? What did they do for fun? I mean, did they have an opportunity to relax?

KOTZIN: Yeah, they did, Saturday afternoon, when they would go visiting. We all lived downtown, which wasn't too far, Randall Street, Dockside, right where the water was, used to go to Taschlich, the first day of Rosh HaShana, to throw the sins away, now, instead of down to the dock, we'd go out to one of our neighbors, we walk down there, a mile or more. Some of us walk, some of us ride.

WEISS: That's Rosh HaShana. On a regular weekend, what would your parents do? They would also go visiting?

KOTZIN: I think so. More than likely.

WEISS: Where did you, I know you went to Baltimore to shop for food, where did you shop for clothing?

KOTZIN: Clothing was , shopped here in town. And down at the dock, here, the Goodman building, they had a big store there. And the other people, there was shoe stores and dress shops, a couple of jewelry stores, they did pretty good , with the diversity, a little bit of everything.

WEISS: I know you mentioned that you didn't have a lot of time for games and such, but did you stay in the neighborhood for that?

KOTZIN: No, we got together with the other young people in the area, and used to have cotillions and dances and suppers. So they would have those on a Sunday, when everybody would have a little free time, to get together, sometime they would cook stuff right in the shul, they would have a dinner there, to relax a little bit. But we mostly stuck to ourselves, we didn't go looking for the goyim to be friendly, some might intermarry. We didn't do that , we stuck to our own. And I think it gave us a little more strength. when you don't stick together, you kind of dissipate.

WEISS: Did the other children in the neighborhood also work, or was it just your family, because you had a store?

KOTZIN: No, some of them shucked oysters [Phone rings]

WEISS: You were talking about some of the kids in the neighborhood and you said that some shucked oysters. Did they, was that for a company?

KOTZIN: That was for themselves. They used to go out on the boats, they had oyster boats, where you drew the oysters in, then they would come and shuck them out when they came back to the wharf.

WEISS: Did they sell them as peddlers, or did they have a stall?

KOTZIN: They did. They did have a stall. There were fish people, and they went out and got fish and came in. Had little shanties like, they would come right up and the fish would still be jumpin'. Very fresh fish, oysters and that's where they got a lot of the tourists to come in. But I don't know whether the Jewish people were much on fish, I know they bought the fish, I don't remember them catching the fish. We had a lot of black people that did, that were fishermen. People would line up , waiting for that fresh fish, and oysters, crabs.

WEISS: Did your family buy fish from..?

KOTZIN: Yes, sure we used to go right down there and wait, every time the boats were coming in.

WEISS: Was that a daily thing, a weekly thing?

KOTZIN: Depending on what the catch was gonna be. The weather, I don't know, may have had something to do with that. But they managed.

WEISS: Besides oystering, was there any other work for the young people in the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: Well, I think the black people used to do domestics, you know, clean. People that could afford it.

[Pause]

WEISS: I've heard that in some of the writings about Hell Point, that there were places that people didn't go, or weren't allowed to go. Were there places in the neighborhood that your parents, say wouldn't let you go, or wouldn't let you play in?

KOTZIN: Not that I remember. I mean, I'm sure there were those drunkards, and they were far and few between....

WEISS: Were there any problems with the other parts of Annapolis, with kids from the other parts of Annapolis? I've heard that there were sometimes gangs that would go through, say, Eastport, and they had a turf, that they wouldn't come into Hell Point, that Hell Point people wouldn't go into....

KOTZIN: That must have been the Gentile people. We didn't have any contact with those people. We were staying out of their way. Guess that's where they got the Hell Point from. They got those nasty people.

WEISS: So, you went to high school, graduated high school in Annapolis, what was that, that was also a public high school?

KOTZIN: Yeah, yeah.

WEISS: And what sort of people were in the high school? Were there black and white?

KOTZIN: I don't remember there being black....they had their own. They had Bates High School, and they had their own schools.

WEISS: And in High School, were your neighbors still from the neighborhood, or did you meet new people, who weren't necessarily from...?

KOTZIN: Yeah, whoever wanted to come, it wasn't restricted, I don't think, I don't remember it being restricted. It was down on Green Street, that was where the grammar school was, and I think next door to that was also the High School.

WEISS: What sort of classes did you take in High School?

KOTZIN: Regular stuff. And we had real bright kids , too.

WEISS: Did you have special classes for the...?

KOTZIN: No, indeed, they were lucky they could get the funds to pay the teachers.

WEISS: What were your favorite subjects in school?

KOTZIN: I liked math, there wasn't algebra or anything like that, I liked the addition, and multiplication and get the work done, and let the money come in, that was what I was interested in. We used to have a graduation party/dance, and that used to be down, right on the water. It was beautiful down there.

WEISS: How large was your graduation class, 12 to 14.?

KOTZIN: Jewish.

WEISS: Jewish. And then there was a larger....?

KOTZIN: Yeah. I guess we had about a hundred other, twenty-five. And we used to have class reunions, up til about ten years ago. We'd have people coming in from California, Florida, some of them still had relatives here, they would come spend their summer vacation, whenever they could get time off from their jobs, they'd come. Class reunions. I used to enjoy that very much. We had about twelve, I think, Jewish people were in the graduating class.

WEISS: Did most of the kids who went through high school go on to college?

KOTZIN: Many of them did. Many of them did.

WEISS: So it wasn't just a matter of going through high school, then going back to work for the family?

KOTZIN: Not necessarily.

WEISS: That's really neat. One of the other things we're interested in is what was in the house. Could we sort of go through the house? What did the house look like on the inside?

KOTZIN: Well, we had a big kitchen, with a coal stove, and then we bought a gas stove. We had a nice kitchen, so we ate in the kitchen, and then we had a dining room and a living room, downstairs. And we had a grape arbor outside, right outside of our kitchen. And we had grapes, which is something that you don't see very often today. And my mother used to make wine, and she used to make borscht (beet soup) with the beets, and to have the Seder, we would go to the aunt who had the biggest home that she could accommodate that. It was beautiful. They almost had, like, potluck.

[interlude for cake mix request]

WEISS: We were talking about the inside of your home.

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: Did you and your sisters. did you have one bedroom?

KOTZIN: Oh, no, we had five bedrooms.

WEISS: Five bedrooms.

KOTZIN: Five bedrooms. We all had our own bedrooms.

WEISS: Was that the sort of common thing in the neighborhood, or was that...?

KOTZIN: There weren't that many that had big houses, I can tell you that, no.

WEISS: Most of the homes were much smaller than that?

KOTZIN: Yeah

WEISS: Where did you spend most of your time in the house, when you weren't in the store? Which rooms got the most use?

KOTZIN: I guess the kitchen. Food always gets you!

[Laughter]

WEISS: Yeah. It's the same thing in my house. So you spent most of the time in the kitchen?

KOTZIN: Yeah, doing our homework there.

WEISS: Were there any areas in the house that they didn't let you play in or do anything in?

KOTZIN: No. We were a very close-knit family, with the aunts and uncles, I mean eight people in a family, you have a lot of nieces and nephews, like that, and we loved our house.

WEISS: What did you do, you lived close to your nieces and nephews, did you play with them, or were they much younger than you, I guess?

KOTZIN: No, they weren't much younger, a difference maybe of about two years.

WEISS: So you played with them I guess.

KOTZIN: Yeah, we didn't have too much time to play. We were either in the store, doing lessons, or doing something. We played mumblytypegs, jacks, dodgeball and all that , outside, We were very happy children, we didn't

know anything, you know about....

WEISS: I meant to ask you about that. What was your perception of the neighborhood like?

KOTZIN: You know, black people, white people, Filipino people, and that's the way it should have been, just a group, but we never had anything of problem.

WEISS: I've read that they had all those huge piles of oyster shells and that they had all these industrial things going with the lumberyard....

KOTZIN: That was right at the water, and we were one block from there.

WEISS: What was it like, living that close to an industrial type operation?

KOTZIN: Well, it was separate. They came to a point where the oysters were no more. They didn't come over this side for the crabs or for the oysters or for the fish. You had your stall, and you came up and unloaded right there.

WEISS: So that really didn't encroach on the neighborhood at all?

KOTZIN: Not at all. They just stopped right there. As a matter of fact, when the lumber company moved, they went out to the end of West Street, and then we came and followed them right after, also. We were neighbors for many, many years.

WEISS: So they were good neighbors?

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: Were the people who worked for the lumber company also from the neighborhood?

KOTZIN: Some of them were. And the others, I think, went to some other thing. They would start working in the stores that the Jewish people owned. So that was on Main Street and the first block of West Street.

WEISS: I've read that Annapolis was kind of not antisemitic, but there were some problems with restrictions in the main part of the city?

KOTZIN: Well, we never ran into that. We heard about it, but we never ran into that. I'm sure it was.

WEISS: But it didn't affect you at all?

KOTZIN: We didn't pay any attention to it. We did what we had to do, and they would ??

WEISS: Did people from outside the neighborhood come to your store?

KOTZIN: Yes. Well, as a matter of fact, my father used to open the store on Sunday morning, for the churchgoers, people who would come in, and then he would keep open the store to accommodate them when they couldn't come in town, or couldn't go to see them. And he would open up, between ten and twelve, and they would come and buy whatever they needed, and take it with them and go back home.

WEISS: Back home being Eastport?

KOTZIN: No, Gailsville and Shadyside, and some of the areas that they couldn't get to during the week.

WEISS: Did people come in from outside the neighborhood to socialize?

KOTZIN: Well, we only went with Jewish people, so that sort of limited us. But we were friendly with all the Jewish people, they were very clannish. We lived on, down from Main Street, on West Street and branched off from those streets.

WEISS: That's interesting, because I hadn't realized that the Jews in Annapolis were so spread out.

KOTZIN: Yeah, yeah.

WEISS: And were they also mostly merchants?

KOTZIN: No. And some of the merchants had the people from the area, not from the area, the countries where they came from in Europe, and they came and stayed with those particular people they had associated with before they came here. So if they were jewelers, or shoe repairers, or dressmakers or whatever they were, but it was mostly on Main Street and West Street, they hadn't expanded out to Parole yet.

WEISS: And when did they start moving out towards that suburbs of Annapolis?

KOTZIN: That was quite a while ago, I'm trying to think????

WEISS: One thing I was curious about. When the Navy came in, and did this assessment, and decided they really desperately needed the land, what sort of warning did they give you?

KOTZIN: Wasn't too much. We had a warehouse a half a block down the street where we lived. And, I think they gave us enough to buy a house, but not enough to build a warehouse. And we were very upset, because when you want to buy, you know, you want to buy it as cheap as you can...

WEISS: Right...

KOTZIN:...and when you sell, you want to get as much as you can. So we were caught, really, in the middle. So

we bought ourselves a house in the part of it, historical Annapolis. But then we had to do a lot of remodeling. But nevertheless, we were with the high-class goyim at that time. And they couldn't do anything about it, they had to accept us, 'cause they pushed us out. That was a beautiful, that area down there. Number one gate was, and the Field House and the football field. So we had access to all those things, that the government had provided.

WEISS: Besides the buildings, what did the landscape look like down in that area? Was it landscaped at all?

KOTZIN: Well, yes. I think those ??? people took real nice care of their homes, took pride in them. And they would keep them up, take pride in them.

WEISS: When it was still owned by people in the neighborhood, were the yards the same way? Did people take care of them?

KOTZIN: Well, they didn't have too many yards, because they would come right up to the dock, and there was a hole, right where the market is, now. And right across street where the boats come in they had shacks, where those, they would have rowboats, and they would come right into the stalls and people would be waiting for them to come in with the fresh fish, or oysters, or whatever, they were waiting for them.

WEISS: Moving farther away from the docks, into the heart of what they call Hell Point, did people have yards at all?

KOTZIN: Yeah, sure, they had back yards. Front yards, and we used to sit on the patio or whatever they had there, just relax, just watch things go past.

WEISS: So things were well kept.

KOTZIN: Yes, they were. They really were.

WEISS: That's interesting. 'Cause again, we were getting a totally, now we're actually finding out what was really going on.

KOTZIN: Sure. I can't remember. Maybe once or twice there were a couple of drunkards, coming up the street, down the street. I mean nowadays, we wouldn't make a big tsimmes about it. You just take it for granted, and hope they don't [Phone rings]

WEISS: We were just discussing what the neighborhood was like, you were mentioning that it was very clean, that it wasn't a big problem with alcoholism or anything like that.

KOTZIN: No. I can't remember any drunks. I'm sure they had 'em, but I don't remember them.

WEISS: That actually leads me to another question: for a large period, there was prohibition. I was wondering if there was any noticeable difference during that time.

KOTZIN: I think they had some Jews that were involved.

WEISS: In?

KOTZIN: In the, what was it, bootlegging? Couldn't think of the word.

WEISS: Oh, we had some of those in the family too.

KOTZIN: So they were the bootleggers.

WEISS: But otherwise the neighborhood didn't change that much, it wasn't that noticeable?

KOTZIN: No, they took pride. They painted their houses, inside and outside, and they had the grass growin', flowers. They took a lot of pride in, I mean, that's what I remember. There may have been other things, but they never stick in my mind, and I'm grateful for that, because these people really do more than having to be criticized like that, to build up Hell Point, I mean you'd think that everybody there was a drunkard....

[Long pause]

WEISS: Actually, that was one of the things that really interested us, was the fact of Prohibition, and you say there wasn't really much of an effect at all, because there wasn't a really problem with alcohol use to begin with.

KOTZIN: That's right. They had the bootleggers, and they were Jews.

WEISS: Were they supplying just the Jewish community, or was that for....

KOTZIN: Oh, no. Jews didn't buy from them.

WEISS: Oh, they didn't buy from them.

KOTZIN: No, [laughter] they just sold it to the Gentile people.

WEISS: Oh, that sounds familiar. [Laughter]

WEISS: Oh, yeah, my grandfathers uncle was doing some of that. Was that a big business?

KOTZIN: No, there was just a couple of people there. As a matter of fact, they had a black nightclub. Pearl Bailey was one of the entertainers there, and one of the members of us here remembers her, and then there was another black Gillespie, no it wasn't Gillespie, another black entertainer. They had their own nightclub, it was right on, it was on Washington Street. A fancy name.

WEISS: Were there any Jewish nightclubs?

KOTZIN: Not for Jews. No, they had the black entertainers.

WEISS: So, Jews didn't have a nightclub of their own. Where did young Jewish singles go?

KOTZIN: They went to Baltimore.

WEISS: They went to Baltimore?

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: So there wasn't really anything in the area?

KOTZIN: No. Nothing around here.

WEISS: Did that weaken the community at all, or did it make it stronger, the fact that they had to go outside....?

KOTZIN: I think it made us stronger. There weren't many Jewish young people.

WEISS: So the majority of the Jewish community, I guess, was between middle aged or older. Were there many children?

KOTZIN: Wasn't mostly children. We had children, a rabbi used to come here on the weekends, then he would conduct a service, and they would have a little Sunday school, or something like that. They did try and keep together, which was a good thing.

WEISS: Was there religious education for the kids?

KOTZIN: They had a Sunday school, they had later on, I don't think it was '53.

WEISS: Did kids get Bar and Bat Mitzvahed then?

KOTZIN: Oh, yes. Yes. Very much so.

WEISS: And that was some time when everyone would get together.

KOTZIN: Yeah, we would have it in the synagogue. ?????

WEISS: Another question I had, was with the second World War, a lot of things changed because the Navy decided....

KOTZIN: Right...

WEISS: ...what other sorts of things happened, what other changes were there?...Besides their wanting to grab land? Were there a lot more Navy people here then? At the Academy?

KOTZIN: I don't think so. They'd gradually decreased now, but I think it was kind of stable.

WEISS: Did it change the neighborhood at all, I mean did it touch the people who worked in the neighborhood, or touch the people who shopped in the store?

KOTZIN: The bigger the stores were, the Jewish people couldn't accommodate them, big stores like they have nowadays. When the mall comes in, changes the character of the business.

WEISS: There's one other thing I was curious about, is there a Jewish cemetery here in Annapolis?

KOTZIN: Yes.

WEISS: Did people, when there was a death in the neighborhood, did the people help the family?

KOTZIN: If there was help needed. They went to the shiva (period of mourning) house, and they brought food.

WEISS: So they did that.

KOTZIN: Oh, yes. Even now, we have our differences, but we also have our common things. We're all ready to help.

WEISS: When you were going to school, when you were going to elementary school, what were your favorite subjects there, were you also interested in math that early, or was that later?

KOTZIN: I don't think so. We took what was offered, tried to do the best we can. All our kids were bright kids, 'cause I guess they studied more. So studying was sort of stressed in your house.

KOTZIN: That's right.

[Pause]

WEISS: I guess your parents probably weren't able to help you much, with schoolwork?

KOTZIN: No, you're right.

WEISS: So that must have made it even tougher for you.

KOTZIN: Well, we all got together, and we used to go to each others homes to do lessons.

WEISS: So you would get together to study.

KOTZIN: Yeah.

WEISS: When people left the neighborhood, did they come back? I mean, did most of the people stay in the neighborhood when they grew up?

KOTZIN: They gradually moved. It wasn't, more blacks came into the local areas, then they gradually moved up the ????

WEISS: So the character of the neighborhood changed?

KOTZIN: Yeah, the lumber company moved, and we followed. There's still a lumber company out on West Street, two of them in fact.

WEISS: I noticed the Johnson Lumber Company.....

KOTZIN : Yeah, Johnson Lumber Company, and ????

WEISS: So I guess it was after your family left, and the area sort of went into a decline.

KOTZIN: Well, I'm trying to think: the lumber company went, well, both companies left, and then we left, I guess that's when they started to take over the Field House property.

WEISS: I just have one final question: what is your predominant memory of Hell Point?

KOTZIN: I remember, they used to line up to go to Ocean City. It was really. It was so funny. They would spend so much time in the sun, because they would go to Ocean City. The ferry took them over, that was the only way they had to get there. Now they have the bridge.

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER, 1993

Interview with Victoria Eucare Prewett
by Nancy R. Broderick
June 28, 1993
Eastport
Annapolis, Maryland

BRODERICK: This is Tape 1, Side 1 of an interview with Victoria Eucare Prewett, who is a former resident of the neighborhood called Hell Point. The interviewer is Nancy R. Broderick and the interview is being conducted at 148 Jefferson Street in Annapolis, Maryland on June 28, 1993, for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, College Park, Anthropology Department, Historical Annapolis Foundation and the United States Navy.

BRODERICK: The first thing that I would like to ask you Mrs. Prewett is what dates you lived in Hell Point and what the streets were that you lived on, if you remember them.

PREWETT: What Dates?

BRODERICK: Yes! Approximately how old were you when you lived on a particular street.

PREWETT: Well, Dock Street, I think I was like thirteen, fourteen and I think that the house number was 96. And what else?

BRODERICK: And what other streets did you live on in Hell Point.

PREWETT: Then I lived on Prince George Street, 125 Prince George Street. Then we lived on Market Space, you know where Middleton is? We lived right on top of Middleton, that used to be Mandress then.

It was called Mandress. And then we lived on Fleet Street. I don't know if you remember it used to be Dockside Restaurant, well we lived on top of there and my mother had like a boarding house for Filipino sailors and I think that was 1, the number was 1 Fleet Street.

BRODERICK: 1 Fleet Street? Uh, okay!

PREWETT: And then we lived on Main Street, the lower part near Green Street, that was a shoemaker called Melato, I can't remember the number of that but we lived right on top of that shoemaker store and then further down Main Street, the further part of Main Street is right across from the dock, it was 88 Main Street and that was on top, you know that there's all stores along there. And I think there was another place on Main Street near 88th but I can't remember the number of that, you know where the Whale Store is?

BRODERICK: The Sign of the Whale?

PREWETT: There was a building next to that, where we lived, and I just want to see if I covered it all, and then Compromise Street, that's part of Hell Point too, but I don't remember the number of that and that was on top of a store.

BRODERICK: Okay. Now, from what you recall, what was the geographic boundary of Hell Point? Do you know what street was the border of Hell Point?

PREWETT: Of Hell Point?

BRODERICK: Yes!

PREWETT: Well, I think it was from like from say Compromise Street, you know where Fleet Reserve is, along there, cause when we have Hell Point Reunions, sometimes, and we have it held at Fleet Reserve and then across the dock and all the little streets like Dock Street, Prince George Street, King George Street, everything near the Academy wall and Pinkney Street, Fleet Street, Cornhill Street and the lower part of Main Street and Green Street, the lower part of Green Street. The Green Street School, that was where all the Hell Pointers, most of of them went to that grammar school.

BRODERICK: I see, okay.

PREWETT: And I told you Main Street, the lower part of Main.

BRODERICK: I'd like to discuss Hell Point, do you have any idea how Hell Point got it's name?

PREWETT: Got it's name? [Laughter] A lot of people ask that. I really don't know, I don't know if it's because it's the point, you know, of the dock.

BRODERICK: Oh, I see.

PREWETT: And then that's the only thing I know. You know.

BRODERICK: What was it like to live in Hell Point?

PREWETT: Well, Hell Point was mostly like everybody was poor. You know. Most everybody was poor down there. And it seems like everybody was close and friendly. We didn't worry about anything like things today. We didn't lock our doors. We didn't have no fear, you know, of anything. Everybody was friendly and the Salvation Army was down on that part then on Randall Street, and I think most all Hell Pointers around there all went to the Salvation Army. That was part of our childhood. And!

BRODERICK: Were there differences in each street? Between, say, King George and Prince George, were there different types of kids that lived on each street or different families?

PREWETT: No. I would say, like King George Street and Randall Street, well see half of King George Street was, you know like middle class and there was some just a little better off, you know and others were, you know, they all had big families.

BRODERICK: I see, and what about the other streets. Were there...

PREWETT: Well, the other streets were all about the same. You know, just like I say King George, Randall Street, Prince George Street, it was half and half, the lower end, I think were poor people and the upper end were a little bit better off.

BRODERICK: I see, okay. Now, what kind of professions [telephone rings] did some of the people have? [Tape turned off while memoirist talked on telephone.]

BRODERICK: Could you go over again what kind of professions the people had who lived in your neighborhood?

PREWETT: Well, the Academy was the most part where people worked. And, like my father, he was in the Navy and he came out and he settled here and he worked down at banquet hall, and he like, what do you call it, Mess Attendants and, I can't think of it, where you took care of the Midshipmen's rooms and all that stuff, he worked there till he retired.

BRODERICK: And how many years was that?

PREWETT: I don't know how many years but he worked there till he retired. I think his service count too, I really don't know.

BRODERICK: Okay, Did your mom work at the Academy also?

PREWETT: No. She did all kinds of odd jobs of, well she worked a lot for the Salvation Army. She helped them a lot. And like selling war prize and when it's Christmas time, you stand up at kettles, you know and then she worked in Reads as a waitress and behind the fountain, which a lot of my sisters and brothers all worked there too and then she worked in Ortman's Restaurant, which is not there anymore and that was way passed Hell Point, it was up Main Street.

BRODERICK: What other professions? Did any of the other neighbors or their families work for the Academy or?

PREWETT: Yes, a lot of them worked in the Academy of all different jobs they had down at the Academy and, let me see, well there was a lot of Navy people who lived on Holland Street, which the Field House took it up, the Naval Academy took it up. It used to be a lot of homes there and they were almost all the Navy people that worked down at the Naval Academy, Mess Attendants, lot of Filipino sailors.

BRODERICK: I see. What kinds of smells and sounds do you remember?

PREWETT: Just like this: when we lived on Dock Street, they had that big oyster pile and the Chesapeake Market [laughter], it's all gone and they used to have, like, crab pickers and when twelve o'clock, they had a twelve o'clock whistle blow, all the crab pickers would come out and go to lunch and then when you talk with smells, the oyster pile gave a lot of odor and then we had, down at the Academy they used to have that ten o'clock gun that used to go off.

BRODERICK: A gun?

PREWETT: Uh huh. They shoot a cannon gun down there that would say ten o'clock.

BRODERICK: I see. Ten o'clock at night.

PREWETT: Ten o'clock at night. And then we had the ferry that used to come in and we always can tell the time, every time the ferry used to come in, when he used to blow his horn, you know, when it comes in, and we always knew the time [laughter], all those sounds are gone.

BRODERICK: Yes, they certainly are. Can you tell me about any vendors, did you see vendors on the streets in Hell Point, when you lived there?

PREWETT: What is that?

BRODERICK: Vendors. Were there men that sold things or sharpened knives or anything, on the street corner?

PREWETT: We used to have that. We had Murphy's 5 and 10, you used to see a lot of them out there, like some of them, I don't know what you call it but he didn't have no legs and he'd push along, and they used to have a cup,

you know, and they would collect, and then there used to be an Italian man, I think, he used to go around, ring a bell and I think they sharpen all kinds of things for you, things like that.

BRODERICK: I see. Okay. Were there any regular police on the beats in Hell Point? You know, who walked the beat?

PREWETT: That's all they used to do, was walk the beat. We didn't have police cars, like this. They just walked the beat and then they had a paddy wagon.

BRODERICK: Were they friendly? Or? Did they talk to you? Were they part of the neighborhood?

PREWETT: Uh huh. Everybody knew everybody. You know, everybody knew everybody.

BRODERICK: Do you remember anybody's names?

PREWETT: No, I don't think I can remember their names. But, like I say, everybody knew everybody then, all the business, you know, all I can remember is like Main Street and they...everybody knew all the business...everybody knew everybody.

BRODERICK: Now, did you own your home? Or did you rent?

PREWETT: No, my mother rent. Everybody was too poor then to own a home then.

BRODERICK: Now, you say your mother rented. Your father was the head of the house or was he.

PREWETT: Oh huh. My father.

BRODERICK: But, why did you say your mother rented?

PREWETT: I meant [Interruption].

BRODERICK: The backyards, did you have a backyard in your home?

PREWETT: Oh huh. Some of them. Some of them didn't, when we lived on top of stores, they didn't have any. But then we lived on Dock Street, they had backyards, but they were small, small backyards.

BRODERICK: Did you have a garden or anything in the backyard?

PREWETT: One time my father had corn, he planted corn.

BRODERICK: I see. Okay. Now, as a child, what games do you remember playing, say for example outside.

PREWETT: Well, just as I say, we didn't have much of a backyard, and all the neighbors they used to, the neighborhood kids, used to play games outside...

BRODERICK: That was on the streets then?

PREWETT: Yes, on the streets. Like Craig Street was right near Dock Street. That was just a little street that went to Prince George Street and Dock Street. They use to skate. They used to play jumping ropes. They used to play all kinds of games like Hide and

Go Seek, Tin Can Annie, and all the boys used to play a game called Gone Off...they would run around the block to do that [laughter] and we used to play, like we was on a stage and acrobats and all that stuff.

BRODERICK: Now, where weren't you allowed to go? Was there any boundary that your family said you couldn't go? Or?

PREWETT: No. You mean my family?

BRODERICK: Uh huh. Were you allowed to play near the water or?

PREWETT: Oh, my lord, the waterfront was...we always said we owned the dock [Laughter]. That was free waterfront for us. We learned how to swim. There used to be an oil company, Standard Oil Company, down the end of, where the Harbor Queen and everything comes in, and we used to always jump off there and swim and we couldn't afford to go much to the beaches because the beaches were out, the only one I know was called Oak Grove, that was the closest, that was going up near the South River bridge but it's not there no more.

BRODERICK: Now the children that you played with, were they all neighborhood children or would they...

PREWETT: Yeah, they were almost all neighborhood because everybody lived so close, you know, like I say, everybody knew everybody.

BRODERICK: You talked about the oyster pile already...did you climb on it or did you just?

PREWETT: Uh huh!

BRODERICK: You did.

PREWETT: They used to play on it...when it was snowing and everything, they used to get cardboard boxes and slide down [laughter] on the snow and ice.

BRODERICK: Describe for me a typical day that you had!

PREWETT: A typical day?

BRODERICK: Yeah, like you got up and went to school or whatever you did.

PREWETT: Oh well, most of the time I know, like if you went to school, then when you came home, most of the kids, like I told you, played outside and we played till it was time to go in. I think we had to go in, like say eight

o'clock. I mean, we played out there till it was dark [Laughter]. And in the summertime, we'd swim from morning till night and we'd go to movies on Sundays.

BRODERICK: Movies on Sundays? What...

PREWETT: We didn't have many places to go.

BRODERICK: What about in the winter? Did you still play outside in the winter?

PREWETT: Uh huh. We'd skate, you know. We did a lot of skating in the winter.

BRODERICK: Now, you mentioned about movie theaters, was there a movie theater in Hell Point?

PREWETT: Yeah, there was the Circle Theater, that was on Church Circle and the Republic Theater, that was up Main Street. That was only two in town.

BRODERICK: I see, okay. What did the adults do, while you all were playing? Do you know what they did?

PREWETT: All I can remember was that my mother was always working [Laughter]. You have a lot of kids and...when you...they used to wash... see everything was like when they wash clothes, they wash by the boards and ah...

BRODERICK: How many children did you have in your family?

PREWETT: My mother had seven!

BRODERICK: Seven?

PREWETT: Uh huh.

BRODERICK: Seven, I see. Okay! Do you know anything about the gangs that Hell Point had...that were in conflict with the Eastport

kids? Did you ever hear anything...

PREWETT: I don't know of any gangs but I know that I was one of them...I had to fight my way over at Eastport. We always used to want to go to Horn Point and the kids used to always fight us and didn't want us to come over there and we used to have to fight our way through.

BRODERICK: And what was there that you wanted to go there?

PREWETT: The beach. Horn Point.

BRODERICK: I see. Oh! Okay.

PREWETT: It used to be a beach. Horn Point used to be a beach...

Horn Point. We used to go over there and go swimming.

BRODERICK: So they used to try to stop you?

PREWETT: Uh huh! Yeah! We used to have to fight our way through.

They always used to say we don't belong over here...only God's people who lives here. Only [laughter]...

BRODERICK: I see. Okay, now what kind of...were there any holidays or festivals...you mentioned the Salvation Army a couple of times, were there any special things that you did during the holidays with the Salvation Army?

PREWETT: Oh, yeah! They had, like Christmas was a big thing, Christmas, summertime we had...they went to camp and ah--

BRODERICK: Did you go away to camp or did you stay in the area?

PREWETT: I didn't but my brothers did. They went to camp and ah--

we went to beaches, we all got on the bus and went to beaches. I think the main beach I remember was Beverly Beach...they took us. BRODERICK: I see. Okay.

PREWETT: And they had...Salvation Army had lots of things goin on like they had Boys Clubs, and they had Sunbeams, like you know how they have Girl Scouts and all that stuff...

BRODERICK: Yes, uh huh!

PREWETT: They had that all in there that mostly all the people down there used to go to it.

BRODERICK: I see. Now, you mentioned before about the Green School you said that...

PREWETT: The Green Street School.

BRODERICK: The Green Street School that where all the... all the kids in the neighborhood went to school?

PREWETT: Oh, yeah! Not only just Hell Point but all over Annapolis. BRODERICK: I see, okay.

PREWETT: People outside like were bused kids, at the time...went there.

BRODERICK: Now how, you walked to school?

PREWETT: Yes, we walked to school.

BRODERICK: So it was close enough to walk to school.

PREWETT: Yes, we walked to school.

BRODERICK: Were you aware of any segregation in the school?

PREWETT: No! Uh uh! No.

BRODERICK: Okay. Now...

PREWETT: Now we didn't have blacks goin in school, now.

BRODERICK: I see. Where did they...

PREWETT: They had their own school. It was called Bates.

BRODERICK: Bates?

PREWETT: Uh huh! That's a...not not the Bates we have now...that's a, what is it? A middle school...a junior high, I think. It was, a...what did they call it? Smith Street...Smith Street in Annapolis.

BRODERICK: Okay. Now, the kids that you played with at school, were they basically kids that you...were in your neighborhood or were they or were there any students outside of your neighborhood?

PREWETT: Well we had a lot of Navy people, like Navy Juniors, officers...kids.

BRODERICK: So the Navy sent their children to Green Street School.

PREWETT: Everybody went there. Only school we had in Annapolis. Later on, we had Germantown School, further up, you know, over... what's it called...West Annapolis...Cedar Park...out that way. You know.

BRODERICK: Yes, now was there any attitude problems at school or did you everybody get along with everybody else?

PREWETT: Yeah, they...they got along but then a long time ago, that's before we were comin up, we were real young then when my mother and father first settled here that they had problems of like you say...Are you allowed to go here and there? They had problems with...they wouldn't let Filipinos go anywhere.

BRODERICK: Oh! I see.

PREWETT: One time they said that you couldn't go to the movies. Circle. Circle Theater. And so one time a Filipino Midshipman brought his mother, they came to visit him from the Philippines and he wants to go to the movies and they barred him and wouldn't let him come in but the Academy sued the Circle Theater [laughter].

BRODERICK: Did they win?

PREWETT: [Laughter] Yeah, it was lifted. You know. The ban was lifted.

BRODERICK: How did that make you feel?

PREWETT: Huh?

PREWETT: How did that make you feel when you heard things like that?

PREWETT: I was very young and I didn't see any of that. It was lifted as I was coming up. It was just a small town at the time. A small, narrow-minded, everybody knew everybody's business. Some of the Filipinos they had run like a gambling places and everything what's gave you like a little a bad name, so they just condemned em' all [laughter].

BRODERICK: I see. Now you mentioned before about your mother having a boarding house, I believe. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

PREWETT: Yeah, she...they, they had a boardinghouse which a lot of Filipino's were stationed here, down at the Academy, and so she had a boardinghouse for them.

BRODERICK: I see, okay.

PREWETT: After a while, she gave it up because they went into the whole with it so they gave it up. And then somebody else took over that were Filipinos and had like a restaurant, where they cooked and all that stuff. That was right on top of dockside, at that time. There was a big, big place, lots of rooms.

BRODERICK: Okay. What did you do on birthdays since there were so many children in your house? How did you celebrate birthdays? Or did you?

PREWETT: My mother always made a cake. And we always had cake and ice cream.

BRODERICK: Well that was good. Did you have friends over? Or did...

PREWETT: No we couldn't afford have...our family [laughter] was enough.

BRODERICK: I see, okay. The neighbors that you had around you when you lived in these different places, did everybody always get along...a community type thing?

PREWETT: Yeah, uh huh. Yes, you know everybody got along. It was just poor people and we didn't have much bad things going on like we have today.

BRODERICK: Was there any crime that you remember in the neighborhood?

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

BRODERICK: Were there stores in Hell Point, like food stores or did you have to go outside?

PREWETT: No. Everything was all on Main Street, the lower part, you know where the market is. Used to have a lot of Jewish people have grocery stores, and Italians that had restaurants, Greeks had restaurants, ice cream parlors, things like that. Murphy's 5 and 10 was where we could buy mostly everything, you know, like Murphy's

Mart and Hanes. That's how Murphy's 5 and 10, what we used to call 5 and 10 cent store and that was down where crab, where Buddy's Crab, at the point, that was Murphy's 5 and 10, right there. I still call it Murphy's corner [laughter].

BRODERICK: Now, on a typical day, can you describe a typical meal at your house.

PREWETT: At our house?

BRODERICK: Yes!

PREWETT: Well, in those days my mother always used to make like means we walked to school and we came home lunchtime, my mother always made like a lot of soups, like lima bean soup, bean soup. split pea soup. That really filled you up, and we ate a lot of bread. She always made stuff that was like chili con carne, black eyed peas, things that were stretchy. You know, especially when you have big families and like potato soup. Sunday was the best meal.

BRODERICK: What made Sunday's meal best?

PREWETT: Well, she always would cook maybe like have chicken and she'd always bake a cake and she always had a big meal on Sunday's.

BRODERICK: Was there any food sharing? Not in the gardens but like if you made a cake, would you give some to somebody or...

PREWETT: No, we were too poor to do that. [Laughter]

BRODERICK: Now, on your holidays, were they celebrated with your immediate family or did you have other relatives come in?

PREWETT: Um um. My mother is from Scotland, they are all far away.

My father was from the Philippines. All...it was just our family.

BRODERICK: Just your family, I see. The clothes that you wore, did you have special clothes that your wore just to like go to church or on weekends.

PREWETT: Well, we just had regular clothes, no special clothes.

BRODERICK: You didn't wear uniforms or anything in school?

PREWETT: No, no. Just St. Mary's used to do that...Catholic Church.

BRODERICK: And did you have a clothing store that you bought these things, in the neighborhood? Or...

PREWETT: Murphy's was the cheapest place where you can get things. Like shoes used to be only \$2.98 and dresses used to be something like that too. [Laughter]

BRODERICK: I see, okay. Was there a...you said there was a Murphy's right in the neighborhood? At the corner?

PREWETT: Yes, Murphy's 5 and 10.

BRODERICK: Were there any organizations, besides the Salvation Army that were active in the community, that you can remember?

PREWETT: I can't remember nothing like that. Probably Red Cross.

BRODERICK: I see, Red Cross.

PREWETT: Salvation Army the only one I knew.

BRODERICK: Okay. Do you remember anything about the hurricane of 1933.

PREWETT: '33. I can remember we had a big flood, if that came from the hurricane. I thought that was...what did you say '33?

BRODERICK: Yes.

PREWETT: The one I thought was like '35. Something like that.

BRODERICK: Okay. Did your home get damaged by the flood?

PREWETT: At that time, my mother lived on top of Dockside, Fleet Street and it was like a hill and then come up there but my mother had lots of room where everybody who lived near the water, you know it came right, you know, right into their house, like Dock Street and all the business stores there. A lot of them came up and sleep on my mother's floor. It had a big front room, you know, almost like a dance hall [laughter].

BRODERICK: Do you remember anything about Prohibition?

PREWETT: Provision?

BRODERICK: Yeah. When they, when they outlawed alcohol, the selling of alcohol.

PREWETT: No, uh uh. At that time nobody had a drink in my family.

[Laughter].

BRODERICK: Do you know any local events that that fire departments had or anything from Hell Point? Or do you recall anything?

END OF SIDE ONE OF TAPE ONE.

PREWETT: They had a, say when they had a Memorial Parade, sometimes they have midshipmen marching in it, the Navy sailors and the Navy Band and a, see what else, what was you saying, what else?

BRODERICK: I was talking about parades, sporting activities. Anything did they...

PREWETT: And then the midshipmen had their dress parade and all that stuff they had in the Academy grounds.

BRODERICK: I see, okay. How did you feel that your dad worked there. Was that any problem for you that he worked there?

PREWETT: No.

BRODERICK: Okay. Were you around when the land acquisition was made? When they they got the land for the new building. Did you still live in the neighborhood then?

PREWETT: Was I still around? Oh, no. Mostly everybody was gone at the time when they did that.

BRODERICK: Okay. Uh, do you know of anybody that stayed. Do you know of anybody who who were displaced?

PREWETT: Well there were no more homes. Mostly business in town, except up further, I don't know them too good, like Prince George Street and King George Street and we have a couple on Cornhill Street that I know of that still live there that we used to know each other as neighbors, that live on Cornhill Street.

BRODERICK: And do you remember their name?

PREWETT: The Mikajohn's. Do you just want the last name?

BRODERICK: It doesn't...if you remember them.

PREWETT: Charlie Mikajohn and his brother Georgie. Let's see, who else? I guess that's the only one's I know that still lives in town.

BRODERICK: Okay, now I'd like you to tell me about the activities in your house. What ...did you have any rooms in your house where the children were not allowed to play?

PREWETT: No. Uh huh.

BRODERICK: So everything was...

PREWETT: Everything...see my mother had a big family. See that's why we lived all over Hell Point because she never had no room. She was always moving to find more room. And the family was gettin bigger.

BRODERICK: Did you share a room?

PREWETT: Oh, yes! I shared - when we were little - with my brother, my oldest brother and after that my sister Rita, we slept together and in fact everywhere I looked my mother had a bed. [Laughter]

BRODERICK: Can you describe some of the chores that you all had to do as children?

PREWETT: Well, I was the oldest and my brothers said, I was second mother [laughter]. And didn't have babysittin in those days, and I had to take care of the baby. And my mother always had work and did things for the Salvation Army and I practically took care of house. I even cooked dinner. I was fourteen. I cooked dinner. I cleaned house. I always had the house clean, had dinner ready for my mother when she came home [laughter]. Had a lot of responsibilities when I came on.

BRODERICK: What kind of...how long did your dad work for the Naval Academy...you didn't remember that.

PREWETT: I don't remember that. I don't know if my sister remembers that or not. [Her sister has come into the room recently.]

BRODERICK: When he retired, did...

PREWETT: I think he was fifty five years old, I think, when he retired.

BRODERICK: Uh huh. Now did you stay in the area then or did you move?

PREWETT: uh huh!

BRODERICK: You stayed in the area? [Prewett nods]. I see.

PREWETT: My mother and father are both gone now.

BRODERICK: Your house, where ever you lived...all the different streets, what kind of heating did your house have?

PREWETT: We had oil, say like oil that would heat the front room. In the kitchen, she had coal, cooked with coal and had oil too to cook with. She had a coal stove in the kitchen and in the middle room, I think, was one of those little coal stoves. But only the lower part, the bedrooms didn't have no heat.

BRODERICK: Did you have any family pets?

PREWETT: Cats. We loved cats. Only had one dog as I remember but I was real little at the time. But most of them were cats

[Laughter]. We were cat lovers.

BRODERICK: Okay, what sorts of things about Hell Point stand in your mind today as an adult, when you look at Hell Point and you're

growing up. Is there anything that stands out in your mind?

PREWETT: What I liked about Hell Point was we knew everybody. You know, everybody was friendly. Everybody was close, just like you talk to people, you sit on the porch. People you sit on your porches a lot in those days. Or if you didn't have a porch, they sat outside in their homes and we used to sit out there on hot summer nights cause it was so hot. We didn't have air condition or nothing like that and ah that's about it. You know, everybody was... that's what I liked about...we knew everybody. When you go to town now it's a tourist town now and ah it's just like people just like strangers. Everybody liked it when it was... everybody knew everybody.

BRODERICK: One thing I wanted to ask you about your house. Could you describe...ah, did you have china that was a very special?

PREWETT: No, my mother couldn't afford nothing like that.

BRODERICK: Okay. Did you have every day china?

PREWETT: All I know is plates, I don't know what they were [laughter].

BRODERICK: Okay, that's fine, that's fine. Am, how old were you when you moved away from this area? All together?

PREWETT: From that area? I guess I was twenty-five.

BRODERICK: Twenty-five.

PREWETT: That's when I got married [laughter].

BRODERICK: Okay, ahm...

PREWETT: I forgot to mention we lived in Hyde's Alley. That was Cornhill Street and Main Street. Do you remember when you used to have Hax' store. It's a [unclear] jewelry shop on the other side.

BRODERICK: No, I don't recall, but go ahead.

PREWETT: Anyhow it's an alley goes in between Main Street and goes up to Cornhill Street. We lived there too.

BRODERICK: Okay, I see, okay. Do you remember how old you were when you lived there?

PREWETT: Just like I said, I was twenty-five when I left the place.

BRODERICK: Okay, alright.

PREWETT: No, no, no, no, no, I'm wrong. We left there, after that my mother moved out to truxon...truxon park. Out there in truxon. When you go hilltop lane and you go Boxwood Road.

BRODERICK: No but go ahead!

PREWETT: Well, anyhow we lived out there. My mother got her home then after that and that's when I left, and I was twenty-five then

but that was after Hell Point [laughter].

BRODERICK: Alright. Was there ever any discussion with your family ah about Hell Point, as a neighborhood? Did you talk about how close your family was with the neighbors or any discussions that you had...?

PREWETT: Are you talking about our family?

BRODERICK: Your immediate family!

PREWETT: The only thing I know is that when we used...our family used to get with the one's that we grew up with in Hell Point, we always talk about way back then...all the things that happened [laughter].

BRODERICK: Now I understand there's a there's a Hell Point Organization. Do you belong to the Hell Point Organization?

PREWETT: A Hell Point Organization?

BRODERICK: Yes where they...like an association now where you meet.

PREWETT: Oh, you are talking about when we have a reunion. Yes. I'm on the committee that they have and we haven't had one for a while but we all ah get together. They have like a dinner and a dance and that's another time that everybody gets together and they all talk about way back then.

BRODERICK: And how often do you get together?

PREWETT: I say, every two years like but here lately some have been sick on the committee and we and I don't know if you know the Mayor

Alfred Hopkins, okay he's on our committee too.

BRODERICK: Yes, oh, I see!

PREWETT: And beings the mayor and everything haven't had time to get together and some people had been sick and ill but we really have good times. Doris DeLucia, she's the chairman, but she came and borrowed some of my books. I have...I'm a historian and I have to keep track of all the ah pictures that we take and put them in an album...she had borrowed it from me because she was supposed to be interviewed too.

BRODERICK: I see.

PREWETT: She was supposed to bring it back before then cause I wanted to show you it and...but her husband got sick and he's in the hospital so I guess she hadn't had time to give it back to me but we had really good times at those reunions. They hold it at the Fleet Reserve.

BRODERICK: Okay. I want to thank you very much for ah for spending some time with me. I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to me. Is there anything that you would like to discuss that we haven't brought up ah...?

PREWETT: No! I think you just covered it all [laughter]. I could tell you lots more stories of things we that we did but...

BRODERICK: Would you like to talk to me about anything that you did?

PREWETT: Well, like telling about how we used to go swimming over at Horn Point. We used to take the row boat and even row over there and one time we got in the way of the ferry and so like one was the Mikajohn boy and the other was the Hubbard girl. They were rowing. And I was sitting up on the end of the boat. And that ferry was coming; getting closer and closer and they were gettin' panicky and they were havin a hard time to gettin away. We finally got out of the way, but we just thought that we was going to be towed under [laughter].

BRODERICK: But you survived!

PREWETT: Yeah. That's why I...every time we get together, they all used to talk about all the swimmin' and everything. We used to really have a lot of fun swimming in that water. You know the water today is dirty. Back then it was dirty too but not like it is today and when we went swimmin', we could see bottom, we could see bottom. But you can't see bottom now.

BRODERICK: Yeah, well thank you again. I really appreciate it.

PREWETT: I have some pictures that I wanted to show you.

BRODERICK: Okay!

PREWETT: Margaret, you can come in now... [Direction is given to Prewett's sister who is entering the room]...with your pictures.

Do you want to take this off now? [Prewett removes microphone]

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO.

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

Interview with Robert Norman
Interviewer: Jane Cox
June 28, 1993

COX: This is tape one, side one of an interview with Robert Norman, who is a former resident of King George Street in Annapolis, Maryland. The date is June 27, 1993. This interview is being conducted for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History program which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, College Park Anthropology Department, Historic Annapolis Foundation and the U.S. Navy. This interview is being conducted to capture some of Mr. Norman's memories of the neighborhood of Hell Point.

O.K. To start with, can you give me your perception of where Hell Point was and what you remember as to where Hell Point would be described as being.

NORMAN: Well Hell Point was considered further down on King George Street than where I lived. I lived at the very end of the Naval Academy Wall and the wall was right next to where the old Naval Academy Football field was. That was down at Hell Point. Let me give you an idea, and the ferry came up at the foot of King George Street, which is almost a half mile from my house, but its a straight little run down there with the trolley or the train came right down the street, right down to the ferry boat and some of them went on the ferry boat and across to the Eastern Shore even.

I remember mostly as a kid and of course there was the large lumber company down at the end of the street, which was Johnson Lumber Co., which is still here in this area. They decided to move after the Hurricane of 1937. (Date?) ,which wiped out all there wood supply, It was a bad one.

COX: How far down towards where Ego Alley is now, how far down that way, towards the parking lots now, how far did Hell Point extend that way?

NORMAN: Well, Actually the Prince George Street went out just a little bit further than it shows right now, but not much further. It goes out to the pier. The pier was land in those days; Its been washed away. But obviously Eastport was joined in that area somewhere to Annapolis. Maybe a hundred years before that it was, you walked over.

COX: Wow, Now there's a huge space.

NORMAN: Yeah, it seems like a huge space, but you get alot of flow of water, (indistinguishable) ... of town.

COX: Towards the direction where your house was, where do you think the cut off was there for what was considered Hell Point and what wasn't.

NORMAN: I would say it was down to Randall street,

COX: Down Randall Street?

NORMAN: Yeah. Where the light was. There was a restaurant right there and a very active restaurant when I was young. In fact the person that had the restaurant there, he moved over, up by the regular train station. That's way around the corner, up on College Avenue.

COX: What kind of things went on at this restaurant? You say it was real busy.

NORMAN: It was a very busy restaurant. Not a big restaurant, it was originally probably a local place, as tourists came more and more, then it catered to the tourists and the locals more or less moved away from it.

COX: That happens now, doesn't it? So it was kind of like, before the tourists...

NORMAN: Yeah before the Naval Academy became a sight. Of course all the Naval Academy down that way was all fill land too.

COX: Yeah, there's very little at the Naval Academy that's not fill, it seems. Do you remember the name of the restaurant?

NORMAN: If I heard it I know I'd remember it, It went by Randall Street restaurant also but it was also the man's name. I'm pretty sure that they were greek people. They had a very nice place there.

COX: Did you ever eat there?

NORMAN: Oh yeah.

COX: Was it like, were they open at night or were they just open during the day? Did they have late hours?

NORMAN: Not late hours as we know them now.

COX: Do you have any idea why Hell Point is called Hell Point?...where that name came from?

NORMAN: Well, waterfront people are notoriously considered "roughies", what ever you want to say. Like water people were always that way to, so you had alot of water people there and they lived like I said alot of them lived in their boat. Alot of men even came there doing fishing and crabbing in season and went back to their homes which quite often was the Eastern Shore. So they lived in their boat. They'd dock like any old time boat group they got close together, the boats where right on top of each other. They would walk over each others boats to get up to the land and vice a versa.

COX: Did they come up to eat at the restaurant?

NORMAN: I would say no. They went down town where they had a little action!

COX: Do you remember the composition of what kind of people lived in Hell Point? So there were boat people that were kind of transient, they cam in during seasons and that kind of thing. What other kind of people lived there?

NORMAN: Well, people that gradually got employed by the Naval Academy were inclined to live close by. There were a lot of those and I know they went into alot of crafts at the Naval Academy.

COX: So like families for the most part or...

NORMAN: Yeah, whole families, and of course in the old days the laundry was pretty much a hand job, so they had a very large laundry to take care of the Midshipmen alone. There were quite a few more officers that lived at the Naval Academy in those days. They had some very nice homes all the way up that line . Some of them are still there. So there was quite a few of those and instructors and so on like that. The closer they were to the Naval Academy the easier there job was.

COX: You lived next to Carvel Hall, right.

NORMAN: No, I lived across the street.

COX: Oh across the street, Do you think alot of people from Hell Point worked in Carvel Hall?

NORMAN: Not a great deal, I mean there were, I would say, a dozen or two. They would take care of the normal hospital, I mean hotel like work.

COX: Can you just walk, pretend you are back there then and walk down King George Street towards the ferry from where your house was and just kind of give a description of what the neighborhood looked like and where the streets were and the different activities that went on. Just like if it were the middle of the day or something. What would King George Street look like going towards the ferry?

NORMAN: It would just be a straight street and has obviously only one goal down the end which would be the ferry boat and the ferry boat could handle quite a few automobiles going across, things like that and they used that way to get across. That was the only way to get across the bay, so you had to have a pretty good ship or a boat to handle that kind of traffic. And of course the transient working people and the growers from the Eastern Shore came that way to take their wares to D.C. and Baltimore.

COX: Do you remember, did you have alot of friends who lived in Hell Point that you went to school with or hung out with?

NORMAN: Well I had alot of friends down there that I would play ball together and things like that, but most of them are deceased and of course the fire department was right nearby too. That was just two blocks away. Two big blocks. Right at Number Two Gate, which has been closed for years and years. That goes up through to East Street and the Fire Hall is right on East Street. So its only a block off of King George Street.

COX: Where would you go to play ball? In the Streets?

NORMAN: St. John's and we could play on the fields in the Naval Academy.

COX: Do you remember any friends in particular that you could describe to me?

NORMAN: Well the old Mayor of Annapolis, Louie Phipps, he lived further down on Prince George Street, which is parallel to King George Street. He lived down there about, just above a hundred number on the street. Now going down to the zero number would be the end of where houses where on the street. Of course they reduced in numbers more and more as Johnson Lumber Co., which owned the pier down at the end, would, they took over, but primarily it was watermen, fishermen and waterman and retied fishermen and watermen.

COX: Can you describe some of the houses to me on King George Street? What did the front look like, Did they have porches, were they one floor, two floors?

NORMAN: They were mostly two floors, they were mostly all wood, they were typically Maryland gray colored quite a bit. They all, Most of em in the later part where I was down that area I can remember, they worked at the Naval Academy a great deal. In fact the personnel for the cooking and all of that for the midshipmen, most of them lived in that area because they were transported over here. They were recruited and enlisted in the Navy and they

did the mess service for the midshipmen, and they lived on Holland street mostly. That street was almost all those people and former Annapolis people too.

COX: What did Holland Street look like? Was it the same as King George or do you think it looked different?

NORMAN: It was smaller, much smaller. Holland Street was a dead end, it went in so far and it didn't go all the way through to Prince George Street. No, what a minute, I take that back, Holland street did, it was the next street, the lower street up, was only a dead end and went so far in, but that's where they all lived. There was a confectionery type store right on the corner of Holland. It was an old building, obviously it had been there a long time and it wasn't very active when I was there but you could tell it had been active. So things were moving away even at that time.

COX: You said that the Ferry brought in a lot of people bringing things in from the Eastern Shore and different things like that.

NORMAN: yeah, Fruit.

COX: Did most of that just go right out to D.C. and Baltimore or..

NORMAN: Mostly to Baltimore, yeah they didn't stop in Annapolis cause they mostly went to wholesalers in Baltimore. There was quite a few of them every day.

COX: What kind of activities went on in the streets. I get the sense that it's a real working class type of neighborhood, that these people are going to the Naval Academy. Did you see alot of activity in the street.

NORMAN: Yeah, the further down you went, there were no playing fields for the children, so they played in the street, and being that traffic was primarily one way, it wasn't to dangerous that way because they knew all the traffic was coming from the bridge and from the ferry and to the ferry. The trolley that went down the street which could turn either at Randall or go up King George street and go up College Ave. and all the way out to West street. There was the big station there and the activity was reduced year after year except for the growers from the Eastern Shore and the people that were attached to that.

COX: You said that there was Holland Street that went through and there was another street the was a dead end.

NORMAN: There were several little, almost like alleys, that they built homes in.

COX: So the alleys were there then the homes just got stuck in?

NORMAN: yeah and the alley got larger and they built additional little houses.

COX: Do you remember anything about these little alleys?

NORMAN: Yeah, there was no reason we couldn't all go down in there, but any alley groups of people like that would watch any visitors they had from different parts of the city and the kids would think nothing of having a little fight. Whether it be Eastport or Hell Point or just like that.

COX: Do you remember any of the families that lived in the alleys?

NORMAN: I remember some of them that stayed there. Calabrese and there are quite a few names that don't come to me correctly now. There were alot of families that stayed around here and very good families, and I knew em and they'd been there before me. I don't know how to add to that because I don't know where any of those people are now but...

COX: What do you remember about how they related to everyone else?

NORMAN: They stayed pretty much to themselves. They worked mostly at the Naval Academy and the where mostly all Philipinos and they intermarried and they had no problem there. I went to school with them and some of them were good athletes. They just melted in the population.

COX: Where did you go to school in Annapolis?

NORMAN: St. Marys. It's up on Duke of Gloucester. Not a great distance from where we were. So the grammar school was right next to it. You go up Green Street, you walked right past there, which was the elementary school of Annapolis, and also the high school at that time. Then the high school moved out to where it is now.

COX: Did alot of kids who lived around you also go to St. Marys?

NORMAN: To the grammar school? Yes. People all went to school in their own district.

COX: With the elementary school being right there, which kids went there and which ones went to St. Marys.

NORMAN: Well, St Marys was a private school and you had to pay to go to that school. Of course everybody could go to the county school and city school. And they had the yards right there and the playyards. They were located on Green Street and Compromise street. Compromise Street goes along Hell Point and goes to the bridge, the Eastport bridge. Across the bridge was built around the turn of the century, around 1900, they had a bridge going across there. It was a flat bridge then a drawbridge and so on.

COX: Where did the kids from Hell Point go to school? Did they also go up to the school on Green Street?

NORMAN: Yes

COX: You said that the Philipinos mixed right in, they went to school there also. Did any Blacks live in the neighborhood?

NORMAN: Yes, oh, yes.

COX: And where did they go to school?

NORMAN: St. Marys had a separate school right in there own area which was for the colored, then they mingled them together. Then the other colored that couldn't go to the elementary school at the time because it was segregated, they went a little further out towards West Annapolis and also to West Street, which they had a school out there.

COX: Was there segregation within Hell Point, do you think?

NORMAN: (PAUSE) It was mostly a by choice basis. If people lived at certain places, they was segregation on that. There was friction, but that's all.

COX: Did they live next door to one another or was there little pockets?

NORMAN: Little pockets more likely.

COX: Do you remember where any of those were?

NORMAN: Right around Holland Street, there were several. And then of course as you come down then prince George Street and go a little bit to the south or towards Green Street, you come into market space. And there were many streets off of there, Cornhill Street, and those streets, alot of colored people lived along those streets and there were little pockets I would say.

COX: You said there was friction. How did that show up, What kinds of things happened to have friction between the blacks and the other people that lived there?

NORMAN: NOthing greatly, I think the get along better then than they do now. We played ball with them,

COX: So the kids played together. This might seem kind of wacky but do you remember where at halloween, do you remember what streets you went to, what kind of area you covered when you went trick or treating, at Halloween?

NORMAN: Most kids I would say on Halloween, they probably just did something to somebody that was mean to them. like turning over their cans or turning there fences down. They usually did it to who they had a feeling against.

COX: So did you have a group of kids that you would go out with?

NORMAN: Oh, yes, all kids get their little groups.

COX: Do you remember where you'd go and hang out the most?

NORMAN: I don't remember ever hanging out anyplace and there weren't to many that did, I don't think. Further out in the country, away from the population, the groups would go to the corner of a street, things like that. I don't remember ever mingling.

COX: You have alot of really neat memories about the ferry and the wharf. As a kid were you allowed to go down there and just watch everything come in?

NORMAN: Oh yeah, you could stand right at the dock. In fact several people fell in and drowned. A ferry boat is a dangerous thing when its at the wharf because it has an undertow, and of course the paddle wheel was even worse. If you got in it, you'd be killed.

COX: What was a typical summer day as a kid, what kinds of things would you do, you'd play ball, what would you do on a typical summer day.

NORMAN: Well, we always had something to do around the house, so you had to take care of those things . We had to chop wood, and go get coal and take care of those things. Because we all still had coal stoves back then, when I was young.

COX: What were your parents typical day.

NORMAN: Well my father died when I was very young. There was five of us children, and my mother was a school teacher. She taught until she was seventy.

COX: Where'd she teach school?

NORMAN: Anne Arundel County, Annapolis in Anne Arundel County.

COX: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

NORMAN: There were five of us.

COX: How big do you think a normal family, if you say there is a normal family, in Hell Point, Were they big families or small?

NORMAN:I don't know, I would say about four or five was the average family.

COX: Do you remember any other places of businesses that were in Hell Point. You said there was a confectioners

, a lumber mill, there was Randall Street restaurant. Do you remember any other places or stores?

NORMAN: Well if you go over to Prince George Street, there were a few places over that way. and across, during the time that I can remember, there were small stores that would sell seafood and things like that and barbershops and cleaning places. But you'd have to get over a little bit further until you get over to Dock Street. Now Dock Street would have all kinds of places. It had a lumber place, it had a restaurant down on the corner, Mandras Restaurant which was right next to the market, the city market. The Market was pretty active all the time. The Market area would completely be considered Hell Point, so to speak.

COX: OK. would Dock Street also then...?

NORMAN: Dock St. would be considered in Hell Point. The Chesapeake Seafood used to be down on the southern part of Dock Street, going towards the water. The piers there were just fair in condition, they had to be built by the people that used them, and then of course the city improved them a little bit later. It was up to the peoples property to take care of there own. Whenever you had the flooding and things like that it was kind of difficult.

COX: Hannah had told me that you remembered alot about the flood, when the hurricane came through.

NORMAN: Well it was bad all the time, and actually the water would come right up on Main Street. Oh yeah, it would come right up to the stores and broke the windows of the five and ten which was on the corner of Main Street. The buildings still there.

COX: Did Hell Point also flood like that?

NORMAN: Yes

COX: How did the community react when that happened? Do you remember if the came together or if was kind of a thing that was your problem if your store flooded? Do you remember anything about that.

NORMAN: Well I'm sure that some of the business places did get flooded some. It wouldn't be a great deal. The places like Mandras and the city market would get flooded and they would just have to move things out of the way until it went down.

COX: You talked about earlier the alleys and the people that lived in them. When you went into these alleys what kind of feelings did you get?

NORMAN: I think it was all right. They watched you. They felt, I imagine they felt, that if someone came into their alley they were up to no good. So they looked at them with that regard.

COX: Did they ever ask you to leave?

NORMAN: I'm sure they did.

COX: What kind of noises do you remember from Hell Point? The Ferry coming in?

NORMAN: The ferry boat made alot of noise going up the street. In fact the trucks as we know them made alot of noise, considered as we say today as a lot of noise.

COX: How about the trolley or the train that went by?

NORMAN: Yeah, the train was a large train, it was not a trolley, it was actually a train. It went and when it got up to West Street and took on passengers or freight it went on to Baltimore or Washington and they were on the bigger tracks and they had to be capable of handling that. They were large trains. I can remember that. To large for the streets that they went through.

(SIDE TWO)

NORMAN: They didn't come up the streets that much at nighttime.

COX: So it was kind of quiet at night.

NORMAN: They had regular runs which they went down and down in numbers as the people no longer used them. The locals that went to Baltimore ad got a transfer to go to Washington, they used the thing, but as there use was depleted there weren't no need for it so they stopped or discontinued the services.

COX: So this Neighborhood is called Hell Point and you kind of get this vision of all this bad stuff going on. You said that alot of people would go into town a little bit further into town to look for something to do. Did that ever come back into the streets at night? after they were out did they come back into the neighbor hood? Do you remember any incidences?

NORMAN: They didn't have to many incidences because the few police that they had were really patrolmen and they were well known in the neighborhood. They knew the people and they knew the young guys who were out at night. But very few people stayed out at night. they went home.

COX: What time would the streets be cleared off by?

NORMAN: Well they would diminish almost down to nothing by ten or eleven o clock. Anybody out at that time had to go to a lighted district because all the streets were not even lite. No they weren't all lite. And you'd go down around Holland Street and it was just pitch black. Yeah, when I was fairly young and gradually they had corner

lights and that's about all.

COX: So the alleys didn't have lights?

NORMAN: Oh no, no lights at all. You couldn't see a thing.

COX: So you had to know where you were going. Down at the ferry dock you said that it was dangerous if you fell in. Did anybody play in the water when the ferry boats weren't around? Can you give me a picture of what the waterfront looked like.

NORMAN: Yeah the ferry personnel had to watch the kids that were we'd jump right in the water, and if you got close enough you could be dragged under by the undertow. So you had to worry about it and they worried about it because they were familiar with the capabilities and a lot of us would jump in or a lot of the kids would jump in just to torment them. Which is really what they were doing. They knew that a person could get killed.

COX: The policemen, the patrolmen that worked there, there were only a couple. Do you have any memories of them?

NORMAN: Yeah I remember the policemen when I was young. I remember the one that was down in that area for years and years and years was named Droll and his family, the Droll family was very prominent around. Yeah, I remember David and his brother. I knew them well.

COX: So he was one of the patrolmen?

NORMAN: Yeah there was a Droll. I remember him for years.

COX: What kind of things did they do as patrolmen?

NORMAN: They walked around and they talk to the locals, which is the way they should do now. Because they knew who to watch and who not to watch.

COX: Do you remember anyone who had a bad reputation in the area?

NORMAN: Nobody that I would mention. (Laughter) None of the reputations were criminal, not to my knowledge anyway.

COX: You said that you had some family that had gone to the Naval Academy, your grandfather...

NORMAN: My grandfather graduated in the class of '88'. He had two sons that went through the Naval Academy and graduated. They were in World War One. Both of those. And then my own sisters all three of my sisters graduated, I mean married graduates, yeah all three of them.

COX: Do you think that happened a lot with the people who lived in Hell Point there, do you think a lot of the midshipmen met girls that lived there.

NORMAN: There weren't that many girls, or boys either in my time, they were drifting away from that area. Most of the people down in Hell Point in my time were older. Older families.

COX: How did your sisters meet the people that they married?

NORMAN: All the local girls went to dances at the Naval Academy and they met them through there and they met them through families. In the Navy, families stuck pretty much together. The ones that lived in the Yard and the ones that lived out in the town. They went to their own functions.

COX: What kind of functions?

NORMAN: The dances and teas and different parties that they would have and then of course some of them worked down there, in the administration office. Quite a few of Annapolis people did the office work and things like that.

COX: So there's kind of a separate thing going on at the academy. Would you ever see a midshipman walking around the part of town that you lived in?

NORMAN: Oh yeah, they'd walk right past the house.

COX: Were they going somewhere, to a different part of town?

NORMAN: They don't go far, they would go up to Maryland Ave. which is one section, which was a Midshipmen section, and they went into different bars and tearooms on those streets cause they were teetotalers, no Midshipmen could drink even if he was old enough.

COX: Not the case now.

NORMAN: It hasn't been too long and they are screened pretty good on that.

COX: It's probably hard because you knew a lot of people and have family that are involved with the Naval Academy, but do you remember the sentiment of the neighborhood as a whole, about how they felt towards the Naval Academy, with that wall?

NORMAN: The wall was a physical thing but it was also a block in a sense that what was on one side of the wall should not mingle with the other side.

COX: You said as a kid you could play on the fields there.

NORMAN: Yeah, the 'jimmie lugs', that was the cars of the, guards and things like that, we used to call them

'Jimmie-lugs', cause when I was young they used to ride bicycles. They needed them.

COX: And they'd let you just come in a play on the fields?

NORMAN: You could walk into the Academy quite freely and you still can.

COX: And they'd let you just go on the fields and play?

NORMAN: They would chase you off from time to time, as the groups got a little bit to big, they would break them up.

COX: Do you think they midshipmen had a concept of Hell Point and what do you think their opinion of Hell Point was?

NORMAN: It was more like a go between. Hell Point didn't represent any thing but a place people lived so they would be close to their work, and that was predominantly what it was. An area and of course some homes on Prince George Street where people had retired. Quite a few of them had nice homes and I don't like to put it that way but the homes were taken care of better then they are today. Now if you had a messy area the police in the area would stop and notify the family that they better get out there and clean it up.

COX: Really, Wish they could do that now.

NORMAN: They should be able to do it. They can do it but they have to go through and get authorizations and things like that that they didn't need in those days, They were the authority. Its a better system whereby everybody representing the city can tell you what to do in regards to what there particular branch is.

COX: Do you remember when the Naval Academy decided to take Hell Point. Were you still living in the area at that point?

NORMAN: Oh yeah, when they took that area.

COX: Do you remember about that?

NORMAN: I can remember it, yes, it was just a simple thing that the Naval Academy as they had funds and as they had need for it, they took it. The main topic was when were they gonna take the area that would move the ferry, which was sort of. The State of MD. tried to control that a little bit and tried to put it off a little bit more. The Naval Academy wanted to buy that land down there so that they could till it and expand it, which they did. So as they had, they needed another football field or stadium, that was a target, of course then they had the big armory that they have there today. That was the main area that they took. And they took that as funds were available.

COX: Did you have any friends that lived in the area that was taken over? do you remember what they felt when they were told to get out.?

NORMAN: Well, their property was on a condemnation situation and they got a fair price for their property so they could move somewhere else. Some actually have a nicer place even. It wasn't a question because condemnation doesn't mean that you're supposed to lose.

COX: You had friends that lived in Hell Point, Did you ever go to their houses?

NORMAN: Oh sure! oh yeah.

COX: Can you, do you have one in particular or one house in particular that you remember.

NORMAN: I can tell you about one large family that lived down there right at the corner of Holland Street, down that way, The Macy's

And they were there for years. They had a really nice place on the corner of Holland and Prince George Street. They moved into different areas of the county. Own businesses and did very well.

COX: Do you remember what their house looked like?

NORMAN: Yeah, They had a real nice house and there were a couple of doctors right near in that area. Dr. Brice was down that way, then Louie Phipps who was the mayor of the city of Annapolis, of course he was right down there not far, not over a hundred yards from the area I'm talking about. In fact P. Weems, professor Weems who was a great man as far as navigation. And he came from that area. I knew his family, his own son, he went to the Naval Academy, graduated around 1912. I knew his sons, and one of them that I played football with was named B. Weems, and he was a commanding midshipmen when he graduated.

COX: So he grew in Annapolis.

NORMAN: Yes and he was killed in an experimental flying for the Navy and it was either in the Chesapeake Bay or the Delaware Bay where he was killed, oh yeah he was an officer, and he was the striper so they say as a midshipmen and his father was a very famous person. In fact, the aviator Earhart, who was lost in the Pacific came to Annapolis mainly for her study of navigation because navigation was still at that time dead reckoning type of navigation and she came here with her navigator, who was named Newmann. And I remember them because I saw them, oh yeah I was around there. At that time, they had moved over into Cumberland Court., No not Cumberland Court, I think what its behind Maryland Avenue, in that area. Its a big old home back there that they took over.

That was actually at the old Weems. He was a very good local man, a terrific athlete. Very active and wonderful fella. And of course he had his own school, navigation school, he had a school here.

COX: Yeah, I've heard about that. The family you said, the Macy's. They lived on the corner of Holland and Prince George Street.

NORMAN: Right on the corner within a door of it. And I remember the Carrolls, Henry Carroll, and of course Bobby Campbell. He lived right across the street from the Phipps. So he was in the same block. There was... (pause). I'm trying to think of some names but I've got some names on the tip of my tongue, but I can't pull them out.

COX: How about the Macy's. Do you remember if they had a backyard?

NORMAN: Yeah, oh, yeah.

COX: What did their backyard look like and how did they use it?

NORMAN: It looked like a rosebush. They had roses, quite a few of them, right on the corner. I'm not sure if that was their house or not. There were some beautiful roses and gardens. There were a lot of rose gardens all along there, and of course all the way up Prince George Street and King George Street. My mother had some roses. We had a whole yard of them. And that was typical if you had a yard and the space.

COX: So were the kids allowed in the yard with the roses or did the Moms say be careful with my plants?

NORMAN: Well I don't know. In most cases, the kids took care of them. We all had gardens in those days. We had gardens, we had flowers and fruits and food.

COX: With the back yards, did you spend a lot of time outside in the yards playing?

NORMAN: Not so much playing because we did have a lot of gardens and our yard was right on the corner and we had a full yard next to it, which was gardens and vegetables, tomatoes and so on.

COX: Did a lot of people in Hell Point have vegetable gardens?

NORMAN: If they had the space they did. We did have the space in our particular yard, right there. There was an inn right across the street to. They used to have the roses in the back and all like that. That was called Blue Lantern Inn.

COX: Do you remember your Mom's relationship with the people in the area? Did she have a lot of people that she was friends with?

NORMAN: Oh yeah. The Crosby's were right up the street from us on the other side. He was a professor at the Naval Academy. Quite a few of them all the way up the street. The McNairs, they had a very large family and they were only a few doors further up and they had a good sized family and he was a Naval Officer, graduated from the Naval Academy. I knew his son and he had many daughters. I knew most of those, quite a few and the Crosby's, the same way. They lived right there. There was a doctor up on the corner but I can't think of his name, I have to get his name. Right on the corner of Maryland Avenue and King George Street. Dr. Hopkins, that was his name, Dr Hopkins. He was there forever it seemed like. And see going around Maryland Avenue, in that area all of them were Professors and people like that at the Naval Academy. They lived as close as they could because almost everybody walked to work.

COX: Were there a lot of cars in the Hell Point neighborhood?

NORMAN: Not anymore than anywhere else. I would say on average they had more cars because they would have to go to the store or any where like that, they would need a car.

COX: Where would they normally shop?

NORMAN: Down on Main Street. Main Street had the full... they had meat markets and everything like that. In fact they attracted quite a bit of tourists because the food.

COX: So that's where most of the people would go...

NORMAN: Down to the market..

COX: Did the tourists, when they were on their way to the Naval Academy, would they go through Hell Point? What street would they go down to get to the Naval Academy?

NORMAN: Well I'm at the bottom.... Of course Bancroft Hall which had all the Midshipmen had all its own functions all within its own building. The Midshipmen would walk out and come out number one gate and number two gate, normally and number three gate was the main gate. They usually didn't come... they could go in all those gates at that time. They had guards on all of the gates. But they had certain times that they were controlled. Midshipmen were controlled by time. In other words, they could go out but they knew they had to be back in there for formation probably at seven o'clock, or something like that. So they were controlled by their duties.

COX: The tourists that would be getting their food on Main Street, What kinds of things would they do as far as walking around Annapolis?

NORMAN: They would go down to the Naval Academy.

COX: They would just go to the Naval Academy?

NORMAN: That would be their primary target.

COX: Could you tell who the tourists were?

NORMAN: Oh yeah, by the way they stayed in their own groups. They would ask people different things... What's that building? or things like that. And the locals, most of the locals were disinterested. They wouldn't know too much about the building either. But there were plenty of locals who did know everything about it. So they would find somebody that could inform them. They also brought instructors of what was going on and things like that. They would have busloads that would go right into the Naval Academy. Of course they do today to.

COX: Were there any churches in the area? The Hell Point area?

NORMAN: Not in Hell Point area. I know of no church. Salvation Army was down on Randall Street. They were active at that time. They only had a small hall but they were more active at that time considering their size.

COX: Do you think a lot of the people in Hell Point, in the neighborhood there, went to church, and if so where did they go? Do you have any recollection?

NORMAN: I think St. Mary's had the fair share of them. Most of the Spanish speaking members were more or less Catholics. They went to the Catholic schools and things like that. But St. Anne's is just up on the top of Main Street. Then there were several... There was

Calvert churches over on Duke of Gloucester Street and there's quite a few churches all through that area.

COX: What was a typical Sunday like?

NORMAN: Everybody more or less didn't work or they worked around the house and they dressed up as best they can. Most people did dress up on Sunday.

COX: Do you remember any really big local events that happened when you lived there, just within that neighborhood, any kind of fires or we talked about the flood a little bit.?

NORMAN: Well, we had the fire that ruined Carvel Hall.

COX: There was a fire there?

NORMAN: Oh yeah, destroyed it practically. Financially it destroyed it. They never could recoup from it. It was a bad fire, I can remember it. Simply because they didn't have the control of water and things like that. The fire would stay ahead of it. I can remember, they had hoses down on the street all the way up from the water because they had run out of water. It doesn't take long to run out of water. The mains just didn't have the power to push the water forward like it does today.

COX: And that was a big place.

NORMAN: Yeah Carvel Hall was a very big center. It was open up on weekends and they had dances continuously. The midshipmen had their dances there too. The military, like anything else, they try to get, for recreation, they try and get away from the institute. So they came out in town.

COX: Do you think a lot of people from the neighborhood would go to those dances?

NORMAN: Yeah that was a source of popularity for the girls so they could meet Midshipmen. They went in their own group to, they were welcome to, quite often.

COX: Can you think of anything else that you remember that you want to include in the record?

NORMAN: You mean about Hell Point?

COX: Yeah, anything we kind of skipped over that you remember real vividly.

NORMAN: Well I don't know as well cause I never was much on the waterfront of the city, but there was a large waterfront, and Hell Point was probably equally as strong in it as Eastport area. They competed for the same people and the same boats and the same activity. That's about all I can think about. It was a hard working crew because they actually made their livelihood from the sea. They had to go out and get people to work for them and get up and work all day. They had a hard life. So they stayed in their own groups too. Any group that works hard together usually play hard the same way.

COX: Are you involved at all with the Hell Point Association that is active now? They have brought together people from Hell Point and they have formed an association. Are you involved in that?

NORMAN: I hadn't even known about it. No one's ever talked to me. I don't know who they would be. I'm sure most of them aren't really, there are some I'm sure that are original Hell Pointers, but any people I know that were in Hell Point at that time have moved away.

COX: Really, so a lot of them aren't even around. They supposedly got 300 people now that are calling themselves Hell Pointers and they get together to talk about it.

NORMAN: Well, I guess if you live in the area you could use the name.

COX: Do you remember if people would make a deal out of being from Hell Point then?

NORMAN: I think most Hell Pointers were glad to say that I'm from Hell Point. There was no bad feeling about where they came from. I don't think so at all. I think they were more proud of where they came from.

COX: Again this has been an interview with Robert Norman about what he remembers of Hell Point in Annapolis Maryland and it is June 28 1993.

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

ANROMAN: Well, good morning.

HUBBARD: Good morning.

ANROMAN: Good morning. This is tape one side one, of an interview with Mrs. Agnes Hubbard. Today is June 30, 1993, and the interviewer is Gilda Anroman, and this interview is part of the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, Department of Anthropology, Historic Annapolis Foundation, and the United States Navy. And we are conducting this interview in Eastport, Maryland, and I think that's everything... and again, thank you for talking to me today.

HUBBARD: You're welcome, I'm sure.

ANROMAN: Mrs. Hubbard, can I ask you when... I'm going to be asking you some questions about when you lived in Hell Point.

HUBBARD: Yeah.

ANROMAN: And can you tell me the dates that you lived there ?

HUBBARD: Yes, I moved there May the 5th, I mean May the 2nd, 1923.

ANROMAN: 1923? Okay, and you lived there for how long?

HUBBARD: I lived there for eighteen years.

ANROMAN: Eighteen years?

HUBBARD: Um- hum. I lived there until I think it was August... I don't know the exact date but it was in August. I don't know the year either, it was eighteen years after that I moved on Cornhill Street...19...

ANROMAN: Cornhill Street?

HUBBARD: Cornhill Street.

ANROMAN: Did you live on Dock Street also?

HUBBARD: Hmm?

ANROMAN: Did you also live on Dock Street?

HUBBARD: Oh yes, yea. I lived there for 18 years and I lived on Cornhill, nineteen years.

ANROMAN: O.k., which one was first?

HUBBARD: Dock Street...

ANROMAN: Dock Street was first and then you moved to Cornhill street...

HUBBARD: Right after I got married. I was married June the, I mean July the twenty second, I mean fifteenth, I'm getting everything backwards 'cause I'm trying to talk fast.

ANROMAN: We have all the time in the world.

HUBBARD: We got married the fifteenth of July, 1922.

ANROMAN: 1922, okay. Actually...

HUBBARD: Course, right after, no more than two months, I was carrying my first child. I got, right away I got...

ANROMAN: How many children did you have?

HUBBARD: I gave birth to twenty one.

ANROMAN: Twenty one children.

HUBBARD: Um-hum. And uh, course I only raised fourteen, because the others were born dead or died just a few days after, it was from, you know, the birth. I didn't have anything to do with that, cause I wouldn't have done nothin' to my children. Nohin'.

ANROMAN: I understand. I wanted to ask you, do you know anything about the origin of the word "Hell Point"? Do you know where that came from?

HUBBARD: I don't know exactly, but I think it used to be a bad place. You know, where so much stuff went on, and they started to call it Hell Point.

ANROMAN: Was it like that when you lived there?

HUBBARD: I couldn't see anything wrong with it when I moved there, no. When I moved down there, there was people there that lived there before me, and uh, my sister-in- law was livin', I moved in the third house

from the farthest corner, and my sister- in-law lived next to me, and then my husband's uncle and aunt lived on the end house.

ANROMAN: So your whole family was around.

HUBBARD: And everybody, uh, everybody, when I moved there, everybody would help each other. If they heard of anybody being sick, they was right there to give a hand. If they could help to bring food or something, if you was in bad need. And uh, they was very good. I, I... course the people on Prince George Street, the next street up and down, they thought we were a bunch of poor trash. We might have been poor trash, but we certainly did take care of each other, and looked after each other on that...there was eight houses there and everybody shared. My next door neighbor, she heard my husband was sick, she'd come on over... anything I needed. She would give me coal for my fire, and when I had coal and she didn't, I'd give her coal for her fire. That's the way...

ANROMAN: Coal for your fire... you heated your home and you cooked on a coal stove?

HUBBARD: On a wood or coal stove, yeah.

ANROMAN: Did you have water?

HUBBARD: Yea, inside water, but outside toilets.

ANROMAN: Outside toilets? Was it like...

HUBBARD: And you'd almost freeze when you'd go out there in the winter. Cause we had snow then, ya know, real deep snow.

And we had chickens. I had six chickens, I had a rooster and five hens. And we had eggs. Course my husband, he made a pet out of one of the chickens, a Rhode Island red chicken. And she'd come peck on the door every meal time, she'd come peck on the screen door. And he'd open the door and let her in. And she'd come in and stretch her head way up, neck (phonetic), to see, try and see what was on the table, she couldn't get that far. And he'd take a piece of bread and hand it to her... time she'd had enough, she'd go to the door and peck on it for him to let her out, she'd go out in the yard again. She laid an egg every day in the year, for a whole solid year, never missed. I kept track of it- never missed a day. And a big egg too! A Rhode Island red laid a big egg! And we had a black hen and then we had a Plymouth Rock hen.

ANROMAN: What's a Plymouth Rock hen?

HUBBARD: They're black and white speckled. And the black one, I know the name, but I can't think of it now... I can't think of the name of the black hen, but uh, the Rhode Island red one was the pet, we made a regular pet out of her.

ANROMAN: Can you tell me a little bit about... you mentioned to me that your family lived around you, can you give me a description of your street? You told me a little bit about some of the houses, can you give me a little more?

HUBBARD: Well, um, they had oil tanks down there, when I moved down there, great big huge ones- two of them- on the end of the dock.

ANROMAN: Near the water?

HUBBARD: Yea, and it wasn't too long, I guess it was about five, six years, maybe a little longer than that when they brought in another one and put it there, that was three. And we always kept scared to death, afraid they'd blow up or something.

ANROMAN: Was there a smell?

HUBBARD: No, no, no. The oil trucks used to come down my street, and go down there and get oil out of them for the delivery, you know. Different people and uh, well, uh...

Then we had a flood, and the water went all the way up to Randall Street. And uh, the people that lived there was taking boats and putting people in, gettin' out of the houses, cause they were afraid something might happen, ya know.

ANROMAN: What happened to your house?

HUBBARD: Well, it didn't nothin' happen to the house, but uh, a man come with a boat and took my husband and I and the children, cause I didn't have very many children then, uh, away from there and we went up to a friend of ours up on Randall Street, went to his house and stayed until the tide went down.

ANROMAN: In front of your house, how deep was the water?

HUBBARD: Well the water in our house, it had come in our house, in our houses on Dock Street and was tricklen' underneath of uh, the chairs where you sat, uh, eat. It was right underneath the chairs, cause my husband had his uncle, lived down the corner, had him come in, they were sittin' there eatin' with water trinklin' in underneath, with their feet down in the water. We got to laughin' over that for months. And uh...

the water didn't quite reach the houses on Randall Street. It went to the curb, like, and that was all. And that's the reason they, my husband took me up there, with the children, to you know, afraid something would happen to them, so, he let us stay there.

ANROMAN: How many children did you have at that point?

HUBBARD: I think I had about three or four.

ANROMAN: That's not too many then.

HUBBARD: No, no, my goodness. It was comin'... I've had 'um as close as ten months. After I had my... one, two, three, four... fifth child- fourth child I had one ten months from that. And I was havin children... a lady used to live on Prince George Street, she used to come around sometimes. But they were snooty people, I'm tellin' ya. They used to make me so mad! I couldn't see anybody being so nasty to people.

ANROMAN: What happened?

HUBBARD: They, well, um, she used to come around and talk to me. I used to take and dress my children and wash 'um and set 'um out on the step, and they wouldn't move, they wouldn't move from that step. They set right there. I said, " Now you sit right there until mama gets through her washin' and dressin', and I'll be out," and I bring a chair and set out there and they all huddled around me. And we'd set there until it started getting dark, and then I'd go in and get them fixed, put their clothes, pajamas on, nightgowns for the girls and boy and put them to bed. So, this lady come around from Prince George Street, she didn't tell me she told one of the neighbors, the neighbor told me. She said, I guess I can say that on here, uh, she said, ' My lord, that poor lady's havin' another baby, she has a baby every time it rains.

(laughter). I'da had more than that, what I had if I did (incoherent). So uh, well I know the people on Prince George Street, I guess cause uh, it had been a poor community, thought they were better than anybody else.

Now, the man on the corner, on the end of Prince George Street, lived right down on the water, he had a little, a few boats and my husband used to take fishing parties out for him. He was a good man, but I never, his wife never come out. I used to go down and set on, in... it had a shed then. Men used to congregate down there, sometimes their wives would come with em, set there. So I used to go down sometime with the children and set there, uh, with my husband till he got ready to go home.

And uh, I don't know, this one lady...see I joined the Salvation Army, and uh, this one lady in particular, I won't say no names, uh, she thought, she stuck her nose up and wouldn't even come around on this street. And if any of my kids would have stole past that corner, she'd holler at 'em and tell them get around there where they belonged.

ANROMAN: Did your children play with children outside of your neighborhood? Did they have friends on Prince George Street?

HUBBARD: Only one boy used to come around here once in a while. And this woman that I was just telling you about, her son used to come around here once in a while and play with my oldest boy. And she'd come out and see him, and she'd come back over there where they belong. Wouldn't allow him to play with my kids. And my kids were just as good as hers, cause her boy got in a heck of a lot of trouble, and mine was better cause they never got in no trouble. Only with each other, you know, arguing or fussin' or somethin'.

ANROMAN: Where did your children spend most of their time playing?

HUBBARD: Right on Dock Street. I wouldn't let 'em go off of Dock Street.

ANROMAN: Where did they go to school?

HUBBARD: When they were real little they played in the back yard, never wou...let 'em away (incoherent) I was so afraid they'd get hurt. Uh, they went to the uh, Annapolis, you know the old school, grammar school.

ANROMAN: Grammar school? The old grammar school?

HUBBARD: Yea. And then they went to high school when they graduated from grammar school, they went to junior high. When they had the junior high, and then to high school.

ANROMAN: Was this area... can you tell me a little about the waterman type of atmosphere? There was a lot of oystering going on around here.

HUBBARD: Yeah, Oysterin', crabbin', my husband used to do that when we first got married. He used to uh, crab and oyster and that's a means of living. And uh, then there was a lot of crabs. He'd come home with uh, in his boat, this man that lived down there had a fishing boat, he finally gave my husband one of his boats that he had been using carrying fishing carts (phonetic), he gave it to him. He went out crabbin' when one come back, I went down to the walk with the children to see him come in and he was dumpin' his crabs in uh, he had a hand made uh, box, you put overboard made out of mill-thin (phonetic) wood, slides and stays on top. And

he made it to put the crabs in, so they'd live until he sold um. So he was dumping the crabs, and he caught nine barrels that mornin', nine barrels of crabs- nice crabs. And he would dumpin' one barrel in the crab bin and he dropped the barrel and all the crabs went over...(phonetic- laughter). He uh, the funny thing I sometimes think about things that happened and I'd get to laughin', you know about them. And uh, well, uh, I don't think anybody else down there crabbed, but him, my husband.

ANROMAN: And he brought the food home?

HUBBARD: Yeah, yeah, well sometimes he would uh, catch crabs, and had a little bit over ya know, and he'd bring 'em home and I'd steam 'em, or whatever he wanted to make, and I made crab cakes. He used to go hunting, and I cleaned squirrels, I cleaned muskrats, I cleaned rabbits. I got so tired of cleaning this stuff I said, 'Oh, my land will I ever get done,' cause you know me being pregnant all the time, kind of upset me to my stomach. And uh, finally the one boy I had uh, John, he lives in Florida now, he was uh, I was pregnant with him, when I said that, and it must have touched my leg and right on his leg, right along there, he's got a thing shaped like that, and that's supposed to be a muskrat, because when it ain't season it's got no hair on it and the time muskrats come in season you got long black hair on it.

ANROMAN: It's a birth mark?

HUBBARD: Um, hum. From me when, I must have slapped my leg when I said Oh, my lord I wished... I used to get so sick of cleaning them things, but I used to cook 'em, I used to cook 'em. The muskrats I wouldn't touch, but the rabbits and squirrels I used to eat. My husband and his, I had my brother-in-law after a while staying with me, and uh, his oldest- next to the oldest brother, and he uh, him and my husband, I'd fix it, brown them and make gravy and put them back in the gravy, so it, well, browning wouldn't be too hard, you know to eat. And had potatoes, and some greens if I had them in the house for dinner, and that's what they ate. And I made potato soup many a time. It wasn't, I didn't have a whole lot of stuff, but the potato soup I had plenty of that. And the kids always went to bed with their little stomachs full. They never went to bed hungry. If they did, I didn't know it.

In the morning they had cereal, and my husband, he got I guess fallin' in the water and gettin' wet and everything, he got pleurisy and he was sick for... about three or four weeks with that, and couldn't go crabbin', couldn't work or nothin'. And then finally one day, I don't know how he got the job, but Mr.- Old man Ben Salls (phonetic), not the Ben Salls that had a boat yard here, but the one, he had a boat yard down in, or he had a machine shop rather, down by the Eastport bridge. And uh, he heard that my husband was out of work and he asked him, he come to the door, and asked him to work for him. So uh, he said, yeah I've been doing crabbin' and fishin' and stuff like that, said he'd rather have a steady job because of the family, so he went to work for him. And he worked for him for maybe five years.

ANROMAN: What did he do for him?

HUBBARD: Fixin' machines, you know, motor boat engines and all like that. And uh, made eighteen dollars and twenty five cents a week.

ANROMAN: That was a lot of money back then.

HUBBARD: That was a lot of money then, yeah, but I often think about that, my land.

ANROMAN: That was a lot of money back then.

HUBBARD: Yeah, oh yeah. He worked for him for five years, and I don't know what happened, but him and I called him, his name was Ben Salls, his other son that lived has, had a place down here and uh, he, they must have had an argument there or something, I don't know what, he never did tell me, and he quit, he told him, he said I'm not working for you no more. He must have asked him for a raise or something, didn't give it to him, I don't know, but anyway he was out of work then for a while, not too long.

So he had a friend that lived on Prince George Street and the backyard come in on Dock Street, and they had a garage there, and he was talking to him one day and he told him, he said, 'Why don't you go down the Naval Academy and put in for plumber, helper job,' so he went down in and got a plumbers helper job. And uh, he worked there until he died ...(phonetic). That was where- he had just retired in August, I think it was August, and September he died.

ANROMAN: What year did your husband die?

HUBBARD: 1963, the twenty ninth of the month. He was born the first of the month, and he died almost the last of the month. That's odd, ya know.

And he worked there all that time and I was, when we first moved down there you know, I was just tickled cause we lived near the Naval Academy. I thought that was something great. But they was very good to him. And then he got to become a plumber mechanic, so he got raise a couple different times. And it was

pretty good. We had of course more money, could buy more food and stuff, and we lived pretty good (phone rings). Then we had to move cause they was goin' to sell the houses (phone rings again).

ANROMAN: Do you want me to stop for this?

HUBBARD: Yeah, please (Stop tape).

ANROMAN: I want to ask you some questions about the Naval Academy, but before move on to that, I wanted to ask you... could you tell me the differences let's say when you lived in Hell Point between the seasons, how was it different for you in the cold winter verses the very hot summers of Maryland?

HUBBARD: Well, it wasn't as hot as it is now.

ANROMAN: Really?

HUBBARD: No. No wheres near it. And the winter it was real cold. I've had snow, it snowed down there when, when I lived there. I raised the window one day to see how deep it was and the snow fell in, that's how deep it was at the window sill. Cause the windows was pretty low down there. But the snow had to be about that deep.

ANROMAN: What about the summers?

HUBBARD: Well, the summers was hot, but the wasn't as hot as they are now, and we got along fine and left the doors open, ya know, had screens on them, and left the inside doors open and the breeze would, course there was a nice breeze ya know the water, nice breeze comin' through all the time ya know. It was real nice. I never complained about the heat.

ANROMAN: What were the smells and the things you would hear when your doors were open in the summer?

HUBBARD: The smells?

ANROMAN: The smells like...

HUBBARD: Oh my goodness, Nella (phonetic) had a crab place there and oyster, and he had a great big oyster pile, there. And uh...

ANROMAN: What was that like?

HUBBARD: The smell would come from the oyster shells, course when they got stop gettin' (phonetic) when they took the oyster out, that little piece that's left in there when that started gettin' bad it started smellin'. But we didn't pay no attention to it, finally got used to it and didn't pay any attention to it. It smelled, but we couldn't help that because we had to have the doors open on count of the heat. Well, it wasn't for the oyster shells in the uh, there was certain times, I think it was either April or May oyster season is over. And then it don't start again until September, so they don't oyster then, they just crab. But they had crab shells they used to throw there on the oyster pile. And that oyster pile got huge after a while. And uh, but I just never paid any attention to it, you got so used to it, you know.

The kids used to run out there in their bare feet on that oyster pile and one of the boys, one of my boys cut his foot. I said I told you to stay off that oyster pile and you should have stayed off cause he's regular size now, cause when they were little I'd never let them do that. And uh, I said, ' You shouldn't have went up on that oyster pile you know them shells is sharp some of them, and you shouldn't have went up there,' And he said, 'I'm sorry.' But, too late to be sorry, cause he cut his foot.

ANROMAN: Was he alright?

HUBBARD: Yea, it didn't cut too bad, just slidin' down there, or runnin' down there, he just hit a shell that was a little sharp and he just cut his foot. It didn't hurt him too bad.

ANROMAN: What kinds of things did you hear, on a summer afternoon, what would you hear? Would it be busy, would it be noisy?

HUBBARD: Yeah, a little, sometimes, when them big oil trucks come down there it'd be...ya know, cause sometimes a couple come down there at a time one right behind the other. I think it been 'bout three at a time. One would come down, and it wouldn't be long before another one, and then another one carrin' oil to deliver it to different places. But, we never paid attention.

ANROMAN: What about people, did you hear a lot of voices?

HUBBARD: Well, sometimes you'd hear people standing, talkin' you know, uh, either on one corner of the house, his uncle would be talkin' to some of his friends out there, and then sometimes my husband... one man used to live almost directly in the back of us, he lived, two old men lived in the house behind me where our yard extended, and this man lived next door to these to old men. And uh, he was a friend of my husband's, Mr. Laterna. His son used to be something up at the bank, Annapolis Bank, the First Co. And uh, so he come around, and we didn't have no radio or nothin' like that, couldn't afford to buy one. So he had a little

three tube one about this big, and he brought the round in, and gave it to my husband, for the use it for the...and we'd set there night time before we went to bed and listen to that, and uh, first thing I heard on there one time was Minny Pearl, on grand ole' opera. And we'd set there and laugh about it, and laugh and laugh. I often wondered about Minny and uh, that was our source of uh, entertainment, cause we never went anywhere. We went to the movies one time, I had six children.

ANROMAN: Where was the movie? Where was the...

HUBBARD: It was Circle Theater, and uh, Al Jolson was playing that story, Sunny Boy. So we went to see it and when we come home my husband said, 'I tell you one thing, we never going to the movies no more, not as long as we got these children.' See

cause, well, he had one in his arm, I had one in my arm, and two was hanging to him on his pant's leg, two was hanging to me (laughter). So, that, that was a little too much for him. So, uh, anyway, when uh...

ANROMAN: How much did it cost to go to the movies?

HUBBARD: It didn't cost nothin' for the children, just for him and I.

ANROMAN: Oh really?

HUBBARD: Yea, cause they was pretty small. Uh, I think it was ten cents a piece or fifteen cents- something like that. That's all it was, cause my kids used, every Saturday, used to ask me for a dime, when we moved on Cornhill Street, after that to go to the movies, see the morning show, they used to have cartoons and stuff and they liked them. So, I'd give them a dime. All of 'em wouldn't go, but a couple of the boys would like to go. So, I give 'em... and the girls always helped me when they got big enough to help, they'd to the dishes and... they better had to, cause their father would have strapped them if they hadn'ta.

ANROMAN: Could you give me a, oh, typical day? How would it go?

HUBBARD: Well uh, when I out with the children, on Dock Street, I didn't crochet. I used to do a lot of crocheting when I lived up on Cornhill street. And uh, after I moved off of Dock Street, uh, they aunt that used to live on the corner of Dock Street, she lived around Hides (phonetic) alley, then, her husband had died and she moved around there, so she crocheted a lot and she'd come around a lot, and we'd set on the porch and crochet. Her and I and set there.

The lady next door to me on Cornhill Street, she wouldn't even, had nothin' to say to me. Until after her husband died, he fell down the back steps, goin' to take the garbage out. And uh, I heard that in the hospital but he died, so he must have hurt hisself pretty bad. And then her daughter moved away, and finally her son moved out, so she was there by herself.

Then, I was sittin' there one day crocheting and well, here she come out stopped at my, goin' down to the store, she stopped at my porch and said, 'Could I talk to ya a minute, Mrs. Hubbard?' I said certainly, I never turned anybody away (phone rings), even the black, I never turned them away, cause I'm not, I don't care what people's doin' now (phone rings again), but I don't never stop sayin' things bad about anybody (phone rings again- stop tape).

ANROMAN: You were sayin' how the lady stopped...

HUBBARD: And she stopped and was talking to me, she acted very nice, because I didn't like it when she would turn her head the other way when she'd go by my house like she smelled something. So uh, she, I guess she talked about ten minutes and said I'm going to the store, I gotta go down to the store, so she left and went on down to the store.

ANROMAN: Where was the store? Where about, where did you shop?

HUBBARD: Well, the A & P used to be, when I lived on Dock Street A & P just moved where the man I told you had the garage, and my husband used to talk to him a lot. Uh, moved right there...the store did. And I used to do my shoppin' there. And it wasn't long before they uh, wasn't long before they moved from there I guess it was about three or four years maybe five years and then they moved from there, and I don't know where they went to from there, I think it was on Main Street, and uh...

ANROMAN: Where else did you shop?

HUBBARD: Well uh, you know the auctioneer Bobby Cambell? Robert Cambell? Well, his father had a store, just a little way up from there, and then I started dealin' with him. He used to let me have stuff on credit until, my hus... that was when my husband was uh, workin' down at the machine shop- till he got paid and then I'd go pay him. And uh, the bill would only run about eight dollars and somethin' a week. And you imagine how much food you'd get for them days. And I used to buy, well I never bought anything extravagant, I used to buy the things that was cheap and good for me and the kids and my husband, and vegetables cause they didn't have a lot of- we didn't have a lot of fresh...we didn't have a lot of fresh vegetables, but they had can

stuff, and meats. And then when I started dealing with Mr. Watson used to have a- in the market, where that market is now, they messed that up, I got mad when they messed that up, but...

ANROMAN: How was it back then?

HUBBARD: Well, they had all the uh, all the uh, people had the stalls in there ya know, for their vegetables. And I used to deal with Mr. Schaffer, used to have one in there and uh, I'd go up there and he'd always tell me that uh, he had a bag of uh, he saved me a bag of like lettuce leaves, cabbage leaves, and stuff to put in soup. So, he'd save me uh, any... anything he'd had in there more than a day or two he'd save me like carrots, turnips, and potatoes and stuff, put 'em all in a bag and when I'd go up there, he'd, he'd uh, give 'em to me, when I'd go to buy vegetables, he'd give me a bag of stuff, said, 'This is for your next soup,' and he'd charge me maybe ten cents, he didn't charge me much for 'um.

And then Mr. Watson, he had a meat place. And his son Willum (phonetic), Willum (phonetic) was his name- big fat man, I don't know how he ever got around. He used to be the meat cutter. He could slice and cut meat, beautiful. So, he got so Mr., the Old man- he used to come down Dock Street, when I'd be out there front talkin', stand talk to me. And then uh, he'd go down shore where my husband was...my husband would eat his supper and then go down there and talk with the men in the shed. And uh, he'd stop and talk to me first and see how the kids was and I said they alright. He used to call me Grandmother Hubbard...uh, Mother Hubbard, either one. And I said well they alright, and he says how are you, and I said well, I'm fine. And uh, he'd go on down the shore. So, finally he, I went up one day I said, 'I'd like to have a piece of corned beef.' I love corned beef, always have. And he said, 'Mother Hubbard,' he said, 'I don't have no corned beef on hand. He said, but I'll tell you what I'll do, I'm going to have some corned beef the next time you want some.' So bless him, he used to put it in uh, bind (phonetic) so it made it fix it (incoherent) he knew just how to fix it, and he'd do that and have me...next time I went up there, he'd ask me, said 'You need a piece of corned beef yet?' I'd say, 'No not right today, Mr. Watson, I don't need it today.' He'd say 'Well, what do you want today, what can I fix for you?' So I'd tell him, and he'd go ahead and weigh it up and wrap it up- used to get, used to sell three pounds of pork chops for twenty five cents. And I used to get three pounds at a time, you know, on count of the children, havin' so many. And uh, I used to eat pork, but I can't eat pork no more. I can't eat it. Now it don't taste, it tastes like dried chips to me. I don't know maybe it's because I cook it too much, I don't know but I like it good and done because you know, worms, I mean uh, I had that on my mind- worms. I don't know why. Pork has got worms in it, and if you don't cook it good it's bad for you, so I used to cook it extra good I guess. So anyway... (end of side one).

HUBBARD: (beginning of side two) Course when the houses was gonna be sold, we had to move.

ANROMAN: That's what I wanted to ask you about, I was just coming up to that. You were one of the people...your house was one of the ones that was leveled when the Academy...

HUBBARD: They sold the whole thing...

ANROMAN: How did you feel about that...

HUBBARD: And the man that I rented from, I don't know he owned them all or not, it was Mr. Bloom, had a clothin' store on Main Street, lower part of Main Street. His son owned 'em, his oldest boy. But I don't know whether uh, that was the only one they owned or not.

Well, when I got ready to move, I was only paying thirteen dollars a month rent, cause he had raised it two dollars. So that was uh, ninety Dock Street. And uh, then I moved from there on Cornhill Street cause if they hadn't uh, you know, it was gonna be sold, I wouldn't have moved. We moved Cornhill, 19 Cornhill Street and uh, I don't know how come uh, I don't know how come I'm...

ANROMAN: How much time did they give you to, to say you have to go... how much time did they give you to pack and leave?

HUBBARD: He didn't tell me any time. He just said, 'Mrs. Hubbard, I hate to tell you, because we gonna sell these houses.' I guess they owned them all I don't know. And uh, I said, well I said we could find a place I guess. So, we went lookin' around or somebody come and told me there's a place on Cornhill Street, number 19, it was for rent. And the man that owned it, he uh, give this woman, lady charge of rentin' it ya know, like she was a... what do you call it when ya, somebody owns a place and they give somebody authority? I forgot what she was now, but anyway...

ANROMAN: A realtor?

HUBBARD: Yea, and uh, so we went to see her. She said 'How many children you got?' That's the first thing they asked me, cause I guess she'd heard something 'bout me havin' so many children. I said, 'Well, ' I don't know how many I had then, I think it was...cause I had two more after I moved on Cornhill Street, and I

didn't have anymore after that. I had my boy, youngest son and youngest daughter. And uh, I had uh, let me see, it must have been twelve, I had, cause I had the two other ones in... and uh, so we rented it twenty two dollars a month. My husband said, 'You think you can afford to pay that much for rent?' I said yes, we can get along, we'll make out.

So, we moved there, and the lady next door, that I told you was snooty when I moved there, she come out to the door and says, 'Oh my lord! That woman moved there with all them children, my lord, I know it's gonna be a mess now.' I didn't bother, I never bothered her, and her husband was friends with my husband, him and his brother both. So, anyway, I'd go out and do my duties, I had the close lines out there and I had a good shed in the back where I used to put my coal in when they delivered it. I got along pretty good.

ANROMAN: Before you moved there, when you were still on Dock Street, how did it feel being so close to the Naval Academy, could you hear them?

HUBBARD: You could hear the band when they played outside, oh boy, we had band music...

ANROMAN: Did you ever go inside to, uh...

HUBBARD: I went down to a football game one time, my husband and I.

ANROMAN: Did you?

HUBBARD: Um-hum. We didn't have children then. And uh, it was just time football was gettin' ready... I was pregnant with my first one I think. And we went down there...he says 'Do you want to see the game?' And I said, well, I'll go, but... we never went again. I didn't...cause I didn't care about football, I like baseball, but I don't care for football.

ANROMAN: Did you see midshipmen? Did you, uh, did you, did they interact in your community, did they walk by, did they visit?

HUBBARD: No, see, uh, there was a little street come through, I think it was called Craig Street if I aint mistaken, come though from where they'd come at the Naval Academy over this way. And Dock Street run up this way across it, and uh... a lot of times you'd see them comin' though all dressed up. Yea, to go out on the town. The kids used to talk to 'em, they used to talk to the kids, ya know- 'Hi, how are ya?' They'd be playin' ball or something, and they'd, sometime they'd catch a ball and throw it back to them ya know, they'd throw it get it off track and they'd catch it and then throw it back to the kids, and stuff like that.

ANROMAN: What did you think of the midshipmen?

HUBBARD: I thought they were a pretty nice bunch of boys. Just I do know, I think they... I'm glad to see even the black ones now. I'm glad to see them go to the Naval Academy being able to do something with their life. It don't bother me a bit, I'm not prejudice.

ANROMAN: Did your daughters date midshipmen? Did they go...

HUBBARD: Yea, my twin daughter did. I have se... uh, I had uh, I gave birth to two sets of twins, but one set I lost, uh... I gave birth to a set of triplets. And I only raised one, the other two was premature and uh, the boy now, he's the one I'm worried about, he usually comes and drops his lunch bucket over there and then goes on to work... and he comes here for lunch, and then after he has his lunch he goes, but the lunch bucket wasn't there when I got up and I said, 'Boy, I'm worried about Frankie now,' so, that's his name, after Franklin Delanor Roosevelt, I named him Franklin Delanor Hubbard (laughter). My youngest son, I named him, the last boy, I named him Douglas MacArthur Hubbard, after Douglas MacArthur. It was just that time when...yea, yea. He was born in forty two, and this was a time when MacArthur was over seas in that fight.

ANROMAN: Tell me about your daughter who dated the midshipman.

HUBBARD: Yeah, my youngest daughter, I mean my twin daughter. She was supposed to marry the guy, but I don't know what happened between them. And uh...

ANROMAN: How did they meet?

HUBBARD: They stopped seein'... gee I couldn't tell ya. I guess, you know she was at the age, flirtin' around probably... so, they broke up, and she married a man, and she's doin' alright now, they live over on Eas... Delaware.

ANROMAN: Were, do you think that your neighbors were you, were they upset when the Naval Academy took over your houses? Bought your land?

HUBBARD: Yeah, yeah, everybody was. Cause everybody had to move and they didn't know where they was going to move to. So, well, some of 'em was, toward the end of the time, they put Filipinos in the house, and boy, it was hard to get used to them, cause we thought, 'Oh my lord.' Didn't know what they was gonna do to people.

And uh, one day my husband was out in the backyard cuttin' wood for the wood stove (phone rings-turned tape off). I hate these interruptions.

ANROMAN: You were telling me about the new Filipino families.

HUBBARD: Uh, they moved in the houses when they couldn't rent them to the white people, but they was married to white women, see, and uh, my husband was out in the yard cuttin' wood for the wood stove, and uh, he come on in the house, and he, where he had his end of the table he used to sit, in the chair, he was right there by the window and he could look out and see anybody commin' in the yard. Bless him after he cut the woods, and come in there and sit down there he looked out the window, he said, 'You know what?' I said, 'What?' He said, 'That damned Filipino next door is in our yard taking our wood.' I said, 'Well go out there and stop him. Don't let him take the wood, we have to have that for the fire.' So he went out there and he picked up a piece of wood and he hit him right over, hit him right over in the back. And he hollered, my husband say, 'He sound like a pig,' when he hollered. But he dropped the wood and went out the yard and my husband told him, 'Don't you ever come back in this yard again stealin' anything. So, if I had anything you might need, you ask for it,' said, 'don't come here and steal it.'

ANROMAN: So how were the relations between your neighbors and...

HUBBARD: So finally they you know, they uh, that were just men livin' there then, in that house. So finally a man and his wife moved there. And uh, we got acquainted with her cause she was a white woman. And well, I'd have got acquainted with no matter if she was, had been a Filipino, just the same, would've made no difference to me cause I wasn't snooty, and I didn't, I wasn't nasty with people or nothin'. So uh, she used to come in the house sit down, have a coffee or tea, whichever she wanted with me and I'd, we'd sit there and talk, then she'd go on home.

ANROMAN: Did she have children?

HUBBARD: She, no they didn't have no children, she was a woman up in age, I guess she was about thirty five, forty, maybe. So, she'd go on home and we was neighbors until they left there and went, I don't know where they ever went, I lost track of her, so...I did get a letter from her one time, I think she was in New York. And uh, after that, it wasn't long after that when they started notifying people they had to move cause they gonna sell the houses. So, everybody had a date to get out.

ANROMAN: How was it with the move, and also with the start of World War II, did you have children... your children were very young, they would not have been...

HUBBARD: Yeah, they were young, yea. My one boy was uh, I think he was. He was born in thirty nine, I think he was just uh, uh, oh, a little over a year old. Had the prettiest curl, blonde, curly hair you ever saw! Just laid ringlets all over his head.

ANROMAN: Did you have children of draft age? No I don't think you did.

HUBBARD: No uh-uh, I had five boys that went in service on their own.

ANROMAN: Oh really?

HUBBARD: Yeah. And they was all seventeen years old, and the one was eighteen. So, uh, uh, the ones, I don't know which one went in first, but they didn't tell me nothin' about they was goin'. And all of 'em quit school, high school to go in service. My oldest son, he went in service, he was in Navy first and uh, he was in automobile accident and had his arm, his shoulder broken, and it was somethin' they put in there to fix his shoulder, that every time he raise his arm up like this or out like that, it would get stuck and they couldn't get it moved, couldn't get it back down for a while. So, while he was in the Navy, on the field with guns, practicin' ya know, his arm got stuck up like that, and the one who's ahead of it come over and said, 'Hubbard, why you doin' that funny?' He said, 'No sir, I had an accident and whatever is in my shoulder, I can't get my arm up, I can't get it back down.' So he gave him a medical discharge.

So, but the others went in... I had, a, two that retired from the Air Force, Harry, and a, oh, by the way, the movie that I told you out there's playin', Sunny Boy, I was pregnant with this boy that was in search (phonetic) retired in the Air Force. We called him Sunny, started callin' him Sunny, and that name stuck to him, even now I sometime, I'll, when he comes up from Florida, him and his wife, I'll say, Sunny and I'll say, 'Oh, that's right, your name is John, they call you John,' he said when he went in the service, they started callin' him John.

ANROMAN: You moved from Dock Street, right around the time the war started.

HUBBARD: Yeah.

ANROMAN: How was that then, with the war going on, and all of you moving?

HUBBARD: Well, to tell you the truth, I didn't pay much attention to it. And after I got up on Cornhill Street, and the boys all told me they was going to quit school and go into the service, and they went and they joined the service and then they told me. They joined...(laughter).

I had one in the Army, he was sent to Alaska, and I had one in the, Junior, he was in the Navy and then he went in the Army after that. And he was only in the Army a couple of years, and he got discharged from the Army, so he didn't go in the service no more. And uh, uh, Alton (phonetic) the one that lives on the Eastern Shore now, he went in the army and they sent him to Alaska. He was up there for, I think it was three years. Then uh, Sunny, the one I call Sunny, he went in the service, he was only seventeen, and Alton (phonetic) was seventeen, both of 'em were seventeen. And uh, they sent him, uh, oh, I don't know where they sent him first. Somewhere for boot camp first, and then they sent him down to McDill (phonetic) Air Force Base in Florida. And he stayed there for quite a while. And then they sent him to Alaska, well, he was up there three different bases, uh, up there, Anchorage, Burbanks, and another one, I've forgotten. Everyone of them places he was sent to, he went to college, took a course in college. And uh, he had uh, when he come back he had nine diplomas. And he found all of 'um but one, he couldn't find the one he had when he, when, in the one place in Alaska, he couldn't find it. And I looked through it, every place here, and I couldn't find it. I thought maybe he'd forgotten, left it ya know. And finally, he said he couldn't find it, and I couldn't find it so he just gave up, so it left him with eight. And uh, Harry, my other son, he was eighteen when he went service, he went in the Air Force at that time and they sent him oh, lord he was all over the place, everywhere. He was in California, ? (incoherent) Desert, that camp that's out there, and then they sent him to Germany, that's where he had one of his children, the one, oh, and I got a grandson that used to play baseball with the Atlanta Braves, Glenn Hubbard, that was his son. And uh, he was born over in Germany, so they st... I think they was, six years over there, I think. And I never saw any of them, 'till they come back to the states. And then they sent him back to California that um, ? (incoherent) Desert where they used to be. And, but before he left he was over in um, Delaware, stationed over there. And while he was over there, I started to driving. And I bought me an old car, boy was she good though.

ANROMAN: What year did you get your license?

HUBBARD: Huh?

ANROMAN: What year did you get your license?

HUBBARD: I don't know exactly, but uh, after join' Salvation Army I had, I used to go around help 'em to collect ya know, money for things that they had to have money for. And uh, I was with uh, going on a collection route, and I went up there to take my license test and I had my uniform on, my bonnet and all, and uh, so I went and took the... everything worked fine, didn't have a bit of trouble, only when I took the test, test your eyes. This eye, I couldn't hardly see anything with this eye. It's funny, but I could see off a distance. And still today I can see pretty good. And uh, so, uh...

ANROMAN: Where was the Salvation Army? Where was it then?

HUBBARD: Randall Street.

ANROMAN: Right on Randall Street.

HUBBARD: Yea, um-hum, I can't think of the number now, but it was close to the corner, or just next to the dock. It was there, and it was there several years. It used to be over on King George Street right on that corner, King George and that other street comin' down this way.

ANROMAN: You mentioned earlier that your husband for many years worked on the Naval Academy.

HUBBARD: Oh, yeah, yeah.

ANROMAN: I uh, maybe this is incorrect...I heard that you worked at the Naval Academy, did you do work there?

HUBBARD: Oh yeah, I worked there before he, before I married him. Before I even met him.

ANROMAN: When did you work at the Naval Academy?

HUBBARD: Uh, well I got married, I was only uh, I don't know if I was sixteen yet or whether I was just fifteen. But I told a fib, I told him I was eighteen, and I did look older, I tell you the truth cause I was big for my age, and I went to work down in laundry. I worked in the laundry, cause the women then, my sister-in-law worked in the "Extry (phonetic) room" they called it, doin' the officer's clothes. So, she got, she talked to one of the head men there, and got me moved from the downstairs, to the regular sailor's clothes, up to where she was, in this "Extra (phonetic) room" and I, I got more money.

ANROMAN: How was it different? You got more money. How was it different, you mean the clothing was different?

HUBBARD: Yeah, the clothing... we used to find things in the bag on the... I don't know why they left things in the package. I found a big ring one time, and I lay it... put...they had a thing that you could put stuff you find, lay it there and let the officers when they come to pick up their clothes, you'd give it to them. And uh, all the ladies in there, I had a, my husband's cousin, she worked there, in the Extry (phonetic) Room, and my sister-in-law. So, every time they'd have to clean the pockets out to put 'em in the laundry ya know, and nearly every time they'd clean the pockets out, they'd find something, either a watch or a ring or something.

ANROMAN: Is it true what I heard, that some people, that, that you were able to take the old clothes home, or... was, was that true?

HUBBARD: I uh, I never took anything home, no. I never knew anything about that no, unless they started that later, no. And uh, so I worked there until, uh... I don't know, just before I met my husband, I don't know how long that was, and uh...

ANROMAN: You were married in 1922.

HUBBARD: Yeah.

ANROMAN: O.k...(incoherent)

HUBBARD: It must have been uh, 'bout a year before I met him, must have been about '21. And uh, then I met him, I met him in June and married him in July. We got married on the note (phonetic) of the month, but I don't think I done bad.

ANROMAN: Did you stay with the Naval Academy after you were married, or did you...

HUBBARD: No, I quit, no.

ANROMAN: O.k.

HUBBARD: My husband said you don't have to work, don't work.

ANROMAN: Did you like it at the Naval Academy? How was it at the Naval Academy?

HUBBARD: Oh, it was good, had uh, uh...ya know, the people that worked there was nice and friendly and, we had, we laugh and joke and cut up and all.

ANROMAN: Were they neighbors of yours? Did...

HUBBARD: No, no. They'd (phonetic) parts of the summer, I lived over here in Eastport.

ANROMAN: O.k.

HUBBARD: And uh, so I, I enjoyed it, I enjoyed it, but when he told me he didn't want me to work so, I quit. I told give 'em notice that I was gonna quit, because I was gettin' married, and uh, they hate to see me go, but that's what I had to do.

ANROMAN: While you worked there, uh, was there an oppor... did you ever talk with the staff, with the officers. Did you ever...

HUBBARD: Not, only to say, uh, only to say, when he come in and say hi or goodbye or something like that.

ANROMAN: Whereabouts...

HUBBARD: They didn't do much talkin' to the employees.

ANROMAN: Where were you on the Naval Academy? Whereabouts?

HUBBARD: Um, well it was, let me see...we couldn't, I don't think we went into that gate they got now down there next to the docks. We used to have to go in the main gate. And uh, I can't explain to you where it was. It was way down that way. I think it wasn't too far from where the water was. And um, I can remember very well, we'd take our wraps in the winter when it was cold, we'd take our wraps off and put it, put the wraps down on a hanger, they had uh, hooks, for the ladies to hand their coats, and hats, if they had their hats, and that's one thing I very seldom wore. I didn't like hats. So, uh, but the women all was very friendly down there when you... they hate to see me mo... go up to the "Extry (phonetic) room."

But I used cut up and kid with 'em all the time, and the old, one old lady especially, she was uh, I don't know if she was from Yugoslavia or where, but she was, didn't talk good you know, good English, and she was, she had white hair, she was awful nice, and she, I just thought the world of her, I thought she was such a nice person, always loved old people, ya know, I don't know why, but I always did, love old people, that's the whole thing (phonetic) i used to say, even as a child, I loved old people.

ANROMAN: Since you lived so close to the Naval Academy, did you, did you notice a lot of the reconstructions that they were doing?

HUBBARD: Oh, yeah, my goodness, when they started buildin' that field house down there, oh my goodness...

ANROMAN: How did that make you feel, seeing that field house go up right where you used to live?

HUBBARD: Yeah, we used to walk around there you know, and do things and watch things and all, and we couldn't do that no more, and they used to have... and Johnson used to have a lumber yard there too. And uh, we used to go around there and look around ya know, just talk and all like that with different people, and uh, my son, that one I call Sunny, he used to soft crab down at the shore. Get up early in the mornin' and go around there and soft crab and one time he went to jump down... I don't know off a log or somethin', and he jumped on a broken bottle, and cut the bottom of his foot, almost cut ha... half his foot off. And he didn't never come home. He was bleedin' terrible, he went, Filipinos had moved in the house then, and he went to this, Maggie, her name was, lived on a corner, she was married to a Filipino, she, o.k. (this o.k. was said to Mrs. Hubbard's daughter who was leaving at this time) she mo... he went to her house and she come up my house and told me. I says, 'Oh my lord, we have to get him to the hospital.' So, make sure the door's locked (to her daughter who was leaving). And uh, so, they finally took him to the hospital and they sewed that foot, I don't know how she put...it turned out, but he never complained about it no more- that it hurt him or anything, but it scared me to death, and he liked to drowned (phonetic), he was down on uh, the wharf, and he saw a crab, that's how much he liked to crab, he saw a crab on the top of the water, and he went to get a net, and he got the net and he leaned over to stoop down and reach down and get it, and he fell overboard. And he lay right there with his face right in the water, just like that. And uh, uh Dick Carol, he used to come to my house with my husband, and he, he reached down, cause he was tall and thin and real long arm, he reached down and grabbed him by the shirt and pull him... hadn't for that he'd probably drowned.

ANROMAN: And when was this? Was this...

HUBBARD: That was uh, oh I don't know what year it was or nothin', I can't remember dates, but he was about, he was only about nine years old. Used to get up early in the mornin', go down th... I knew he was alright, just go around the shore you know, and I...

ANROMAN: Were you still living on Dock Street?

HUBBARD: Yeah, um-hum. I didn't think anything would happen to him, and then when he cut his foot, I told him- You better not go around there no more, you liable...do cut your foot worse. And, I said this is bad enough. But, he'd, he went. And when his reach for the crab and fell overboard (incoherent)...that took the cake!

ANROMAN: You were close to a steamboat launch too, weren't you?

HUBBARD: Yeah, and my ? (incoherent) around there yeah. Right, just a little way from where Johnson had the lumber company.

ANROMAN: Tell me about that, tell me what happened there. What uh...the steamboat took cars across, did it not?

HUBBARD: Yeah, yeah, it took cars and it took people goin' through Cambridge. That's where it run, to Cambridge. Oh, a long time, it, I've seen that... we used to go there and watch some of the time people goin' in, loadin' their cars on, you know- the boat. They had a thing on underneath, they used to put their cars in. And the people was on the uh, top. And it was a big steamer, and she was, I say she, I notice that men now, men say she (laughter). She was a good boat, I'm tellin' ya.

ANROMAN: Did you go on it?

HUBBARD: I think we took a ride one time, that's all. And uh, when I was a kid, my mother used to take me to Tall Chester, that's down there somewhere. And uh, we used to go- I got a picture of it, when my mother took me and my uncle. When I was a kid, I used to have spasms, I'd pass out, wherever I was I'd pass out. And if I got in the sun too much, my mother couldn't take me in the sun too much, she'd have to keep me out of it, and uh, so we took this picture of my aunt- my mother's youngest sister, and my mother, and me and my uncle, my great uncle, rather. And uh, when took his brother, my great uncle would say, he said 'Look, Aggie's wall-eyed, she's gettin' ready to have a fit,' (laughter), cause I was in the sun you know. And I got a big (phonetic), and I was I guess about eight or nine years old when that happened. And now, I see that they got a different thing you know, down there, they got a... I don't know they must have, did have some kind of a summer place, but I don't know whether (phone rings) they got that or not. Man, I wish people would stop interruptin' (answers the phone- end of interview).

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY
SUMMER, 1993

INTERVIEW WITH: LEONARD BERMAN
INTERVIEWER : BRYAN BERJANSKY
DATE: June 30, 1993

This is Tape 1, Side 1 of an interview with Mr. Leonard Berman, who is a former resident of the Annapolis neighborhood called Hell Point. The interviewer is Bryan Berjansky and the interview is being conducted at the Maritime Museum in Annapolis, Maryland on June 30th 1993 for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland College Park Anthropology dept., Historical Annapolis Foundation and the United States Navy.

BERJANSKY: What exactly is the history of the name Hell Point?

BERMAN: I'm , I'm really not too sure, other than the fact that they were probably noted for having some hooligans in the back, it was actually an area or a neighborhood of upper middle class people and towards the lower part of Prince George's Street, which is also part of Hell Point. I would say you had your blue collar workers, it was a good mix, a good ethnic mix. But most of the houses between the street which is now missing, Holland street and Randall Street were what you might term town houses and some prominent citizens living in those houses. It was just a great place to grow up.

BERJANSKY: What kind of ethnic mix was there?

BERMAN: Well, maybe it was just a misnomer, there were mixtures of all kinds of people. There were Italians, there was Jewish, there was some Polish, I don't know too many of the derivations. I'm just thinking of some of the people who come to mind it was a, we had, it was a white neighborhood that fronted off Prince George, but directly behind it, maybe we will get into it later on in the interview, was a nonexistent street known as Block Street was a black community, unfortunately a very poor black community. In contrast to today, a very safe I really must say.

BERJANSKY: Some of the other stories that I heard how it got its name was that the shipmen called it Hell Point because it was a Hellish point to get around, did you ever hear anything off of that?

BERMAN: You mean tacking in sail boats?

BERJANSKY: Yes!

BERMAN: No, I haven't heard that.

BERJANSKY: And the other story I heard was a gentleman named Hill bought it and it was named Hill Point and some how it changed to Hell Point.

BERMAN: I no, I never heard that story.

BERJANSKY: No, I was just trying to see if you...

BERMAN: NO, good, good story though. [LAUGHTER]

BERJANSKY: What is the meaning of Hell Point to you?

BERMAN: It was a place where I grew up. I have a fondness for it. I have a great memory for it. I was proud of it. There were very few places in the city which that had a name per se, Eastport was Eastport. Eastport prior to my youth was known as a real tough neighborhood. There were some legendary fights between the people on one side and the people on the other side, but it was a condemnation of the community over there in Eastport. Hell Point was a kind of an affectionate name I think, given for that section we lived. I don't really know the exact boundaries, it may go as far as East Street, Prince George to East and over to King George which bordered the Naval Academy wall and probably over to lower Main street including Market space. Lower Main Street, I would imagine that would be the ,the perimeters of Hell Point...That had a name for it, small section of the city, Murray Hill has a name as a small section of the city and I'm sure there was others, but these were the ones I remember.

BERJANSKY: How did Hell Point get its rough atti..

BERMAN: I don't know, I don't know. As I grew up I never experienced anything like that, it was just a great homogeneous neighborhood, a marvelous place to grow up, it really was. You had the best playground in the world, the Naval Academy. You couldn't ask for anything better.

BERJANSKY: So you guys actually went on to the Naval Academy?

BERMAN: Sure, that was our playground.

BERJANSKY: They didn't say anything about you...

BERMAN: Oh no, no. It was wide open, not during my days. As a matter of fact, again we can get into this later on, but bordering on King George Street was the Naval Academy stadium, Thompson Stadium, and all of the Navy football games were held there. During the war the Army - Navy game was held there, that was a playground, and we used to go down to the end of King George Street where the Johnson Lumber Co. was located and the ferry boats slips were there going to Matapeakes. It was a hell of a place to live and play, and of course we were exactly a short block from the water and we used to fish and crab. You can't ask for anything better than that. It's a misnomer if you call it Hell Point, maybe it should be called Heaven Point.

BERJANSKY: Do you still attend the meetings for Hell Point?

BERMAN: No, I haven't been, I told the mayor he is remiss in not making sure I get invited.

BERJANSKY: Now what kind of stories do you know about besides being a rough neighborhood from the outside, or from the people from the outside about Hell Point?

BERMAN: I never knew it as a rough neighborhood, Bryan. I think that maybe this reputation was put on it by some others for bravado reasons, or maybe there was one or two or three hellions in the neighborhood that were proud of the reputation. I hesitate to name some of them but a [LAUGHTER], but some were a little wilder than others.

BERJANSKY: What about any good reputations around about Hell Point?

BERMAN: I was say, so oh sure, that area of Hell Point where we lived, some very fine, people lived there. Very, very fine people. I felt privileged to live there, and everything was in walking distance. For all intents and purposes growing up, the town for growth purposes ended at Amos Garrett Boulevard, that was about the end known as Jim's Corner today. So we used to walk to school. We went to Green Street school, and then we went to Annapolis High School, which is Maryland Hall today, that was another nice feature about it. Hell Point was a place you could walk anywhere, you really didn't need a car.

BERJANSKY: How many cars were around at that time? Did a lot of people have cars?

BERMAN: I wasn't conscious of an awful lot of car traffic. I do recall that there was very little vehicular traffic where we lived on lower Prince George because we used to roller skate on Craig Street without a hell of a lot of problem.

BERJANSKY: Explain Prince George Street to me from Randall down to the water?

BERMAN: Well on the corner of, going by recollection, some of which are still there on the corner of Randall and Prince George, was a very old stucco still there was owned by the Florestono family, and as we move down the street I believe it is next door, was the old Sand's house which had the reputation for being the oldest frame in the city of Annapolis. I think it was built in the 1600's.

BERJANSKY: And that one is still standing?

BERMAN: Yep, still standing there, and lived in, which is amazing. The descendants of the original family are still there, I believe it's the (Ryde) house but I can't be sure, then there was a low house which was lived in by some servicemen to the best of my knowledge, who were stationed or worked at the Naval Academy. And next to that was a grander stucco house, which was later occupied by the Phipps family, who was living in that when he was elected mayor of Annapolis. That's Louis M. Phipps and his son Louis M Phipps Jr., otherwise known as " Buster", one of my playmates.

BERJANSKY: How did he get that name?

BERMAN: Lord knows [LAUGHTER]. I Guess because he was a Buster [LAUGHTER]. It was an affectionate name. Next to that was a frame house, I believe it was three stories, and incidently, behind the Phipps house was a barn, and we used to play in there and swing on the ropes. It was just great, and next to that was a home that I am a little fuzzy on this, I'm not sure whether he lived in the Phipps house or whether he lived in the house I'm referring to: I believe 116 Prince George Street. There was a Dr. Pervis lived in that house, or the one next door, a very, very prominent Annapolis physician who delivered me, an old friend of the family. He later moved to Franklin Street to a very lovely home at the corner of Franklin and Shaw, a bar [LAUGHTER]. The later family which came in were the Morlands. I remember the Morlands, when I was growing up, who lived next door to us, one of the, the, let's see, the Morlands and the Smalls, they lived in that house. One of Annapolis's great athletes came out of that house, a fellow of the name Stiff Morland. He was a great athlete.

BERJANSKY: What sports?

BERMAN: Football, Football. Basically he's a rough, tough guy, later became a policeman. A terrific guy, I'm probably talking about ghosts right now, these are some of my memories. Then there was our house, 114 Prince George Sreet. We had a side yard, we went back. It was very deep, we may have gone almost 300ft or more,

which is extremely unusual for that area, and I recall my mother had great pride, and a, a beautiful garden back there. We had 120 rose bushes, I'll never forget, gladiolus, and we had a few sheds, three sheds and we used to make our own wine because we had our grape arbors in the backyard and my mother and grandmother when she was living would make wine on a... That was a marvelous memory. And there was a fence at the end of our yard and that was an entry to what was known as Block Street today. The Black community.

BERJANSKY: You said that your...

BERMAN: If you want me to back up, I'll keep going down the street...

BERJANSKY: I just wanted to ask one quick question, you said your family made wine even through Prohibition or what happened during that time?

BERMAN: Well, I don't know. I was aware it was strictly for home use, we would take the wine and, and it was a old process I remember the cheese cloth over the urns and unfortunately we used to miss a lot of it because our maid used to like it better than we did [LAUGHTER]. I never drank the wine, I just ate the grapes, great grapes.

BERJANSKY: What about holiday time?

BERMAN: Oh, we also had a chicken coop back there, so you know it was, I suppose if you looked at the front of our house it looked like a little marvelous town house on a quiet little street but if you looked in the back it had this formal type garden and then on part of the backyard it was almost rural, but that was a through back.

BERJANSKY: If you can continue down the street?

BERMAN: Next to us was the Patterson house. I don't recall anyone living in there except the Patterson family. Mrs Patterson used to have a rooming house. She would rent rooms, and it was a big ole ramblin' house, and her yard and our yard were contiguous, separated by a fence, and she had a gazebo in the back of her house, and it also backed up to the black community. On Block Street next to that, was a house which was occupied by the Short Family. One of my playmates there was Barbara Short. In fact, I just met her at my reunion two weeks ago.

BERJANSKY: Which reunion?

BERMAN: Our High school reunion, we went all through school together. They lived there, I can tell you who lived there before, prior to that, these are the people I remember. Then as I recall, there was another house. I had, I'm getting no recall, and as you go down to the end at Holland and PG on the same side I lived on, was another Florenstano.

BERJANSKY: Another Florenstano?

BERMAN: Another Florenstano. They were related, and to the best of my recollection, the Florenstanos which lived down towards the water, I think her husband was a bandsman in the Naval Academy.

BERJANSKY: Which does ..what, what does a bandsman do?

BERMAN: It was um, oh OK [LAUGHTER].

BERJANSKY: As in a instrument player or

BERMAN: Yeah. He was in the Naval Academy band, which was a very privileged position in the Navy, and when he came to play in the Naval Academy band they just stayed. It was like permanent station. Going back to the other Florenstano, on the corner of Randall and PG, one of the famous people who came out of there was Mrs Florenstano's brother who was Sam Lorraya, (phonetic) who had an infamous tavern on Dock Street. He was a real character.

BERJANSKY: When you say he was a real character?

BERMAN: Yeah. Well, he was. He would sell... I don't know the prices, but he would sell beer for a bargain and today I think a...Sam Lorraya's (phonetic) Tavern is well known and documented throughout all history papers. You'll see it in early Annapolis. I don't mean colonial but early [LAUGHTER], and today it still operates as a bar and restaurant, I believe it is Mums today, I could be mistaken. Anyway, he was a character. He was the brother of Mrs Florenstano. Then that was on the corner of Holland and PG, and going down past Holland to the water, I have very little recollection. I only remember names, the last names which would mean nothing, I'm sure.

BERJANSKY: How often did you go down there, that side of the street?

BERMAN: We would go down to the foot of the street, there was a wharf down there, actually a parking lot and boats would tie up down there and we would go down there and with our string and our chicken heads and our nets and we would crab down there, bring them home and cook them. There was also, at one time, a show boat which tied up down there, restaurant and show boat.

BERJANSKY: You said Block Street was a black community. Were there any other like all one ethnic group communities streets?

BERMAN: Not in that area.

BERJANSKY: So Block Street was the only one that was really ethnic oriented?

BERMAN: Yes, which I repeat this was a very poor community, but they were honest, hard working people who loved to drink and they lived day to day, they were wonderful people. We had a maid who raised me practically. She lived right in our backyard practically. But one of the best recollection I have of Block Street area was my grandfather, my mother's father, had a... What they called a junk shop, I guess today he would be an Antique dealer.

BERJANSKY: What was the name of this junk shop?

BERMAN: I had no idea what the name was, I just know it was, ah my grandfather was affectionately called "Zeyde", and I knew it was my Zeyde's place of business. There were garages back there, there are some famous stories of about kids who used to go back of his shop and steal merchandise, then go into the front and sell it back to him. [LAUGHTER]. So the stories go, he knew this very well and with a smirk he would put out a few pennies and buy it back, he was a kindly old man. I just, even though he died when I was very young, I have some fond recollections, but there was the junk shop there and not far from him was off of Randall Street, there was a very small street, which was right next to the last house that's on Randall Street right now before the Naval Academy wall. As a matter of fact, that home was once lived in by the Aaron Goodman family, who have this building on the corner here by Market space, and there was a little alley next to their house and it went back to an auto repair place. It had a marvelous name, it told exactly who the guy was and what he did. He was called "John the Fender Man" [Laughter]. I just recall that.

BERJANSKY: With a oil shop in Hell Point did people come in from the outside?

BERMAN: I had no idea why they went there, how they went there. I was much too young and naive to even know what "John the Fender Man" was doing, other than the fact that he had autos there that he was repairing. This was all prior to the Navy taking the territory.

BERJANSKY: You said the um Block houses of Block Street were more like town houses.

BERMAN: Not on Block Street, no.

BERJANSKY: What kind of...

BERMAN: They were more kind of ramshackle wood houses. I recall as a kid we often thought, God forbid if there should ever be a fire the place would go up. It was dirt cobble stone street that ran down there. I didn't know until years later it actually had a name Block Street, but it went in, and ended at it was a very short street. It was like in the middle of the King George Prince George Street area and it ended at King George Street. And at the end of that there was a tailor shop there, I'm trying to think, It was my mother's seamstress. She was a Filipino lady, a wonderful person, a wonderful person. Anyway, I told you, if you catch me on a day where my memory isn't good you wouldn't get all the facts.

BERJANSKY: Don't worry, I'm getting a lot right here.

BERMAN: Go ahead if you want, pursue Block Street, I, I don't have a whole lot of recollection of the people per se, who lived there, but we as kids would use that as a short cut to the Naval Academy because as you emptied out of Block Street on to King George you were at Gate One, not where it is today- it was set back.

BERJANSKY: Were those the only house like that, all the rest similar to those on Prince George, and Holland?

BERMAN: There were a lot of frame homes, but not clearly as poor of a condition as these were.

BERJANSKY: What kind of reputation did some of these like side streets like Block Street have, just being poor.

BERMAN: They were poor, yeah. You have to understand, if we are going back 50, 60 years, unfortunately, the town was in a segregated condition and there was a black community off of West Street and this was the, this and Pinkney Street were black enclaves.

BERJANSKY: Pinkney Street is exactly where?

BERMAN: Pinkney Street is right off of Market Street.

BERJANSKY: Right off of Market, OK.

BERMAN: You go to McGarvey's as you know it today and go up that narrow street, the Shiplap house is right there, so to answer your question, no I don't really know of any other pockets like that, except Pinkney Street and Block Street.

BERJANSKY: What kind of activities were done, I guess as a children did you and your friends do, you mentioned Roller skating?

BERMAN: Oh yeah, we played right in the street, so that answers the previous question about vehicular traffic. There was a, across the street from me on the opposite side, there were huge framed houses with front porches we nev... I don't recall people going in and out of these houses. We used to say they were spooked, but we had no compunctions about playing in the street. We played Spud in the street, they still play Spud today. You drop a ball and call someone's name. Matter of fact, my father owned a house just two doors up from Craig,

diagonally across from us, then later on that whole section was torn down for an A&P store, which ah was there for years.

It was the only supermarket around, I recall. My gosh, you know it was right across the street. We were facing the back of the A&P, the front faced Dock Street. Going back on the other side of the street now, next to where the A&P was, and they are still existing there, is a home now owned by the Campbell family. They bought it from the Frantum, F-r-a-n-t-u-m, Frantum, and there was a wild kid who lived there, Jigs, Jigs Frantum. Then Bobby Campbell lived right next door and he still lives there today. I understand you are going to interview Bobby if you haven't already.

BERJANSKY: I'm sure somebody will, it will be on tape and in the computer.

BERMAN: Yeah right. He's, he should have excellent recall because he has lived there all his life, and he's a pinch older than I. [LAUGHTER] He is also a town character, so it was the Frantums and the Campbells, then there were some non-descriptive homes. They were low stucco homes. At the time we had a lot of Filipinos who worked at the Naval Academy in the mess department or the food service as you would know it today. They would room there as I recall, and on the opposite corner, as I recall, of Randall Street and Prince George, this is across the street from the Florenstano's to the best of my recollection, there was always a barber shop there.

BERJANSKY: Is it now the Uniform place?

BERMAN: NO, your thinking of the dry cleaners. Go back across the street towards the water now.

BERJANSKY: Ok.

BERMAN: Alright, and as I grew up the inimitable Izzy Wolf ran his barber shop there. Izzy Wolf is a long kind resident of Annapolis and well established in the Eastport area with his brother Leon, the unofficial mayor of Eastport. I recall as a kid, he always had his barber shop there, also, there was a confectionery store right where Gate 1 is today, right on that corner, I recall a confectionery store. The name escapes me for the moment. That was one of my stops for candy, and ice cream and for whatever, and of course where Middleton's Tavern is today was Manderis, who ran a lunch room and a candy store and later expanded it to a souvenirs as well, and that was run by the Manderis family, and later by the Manderis son-in-law, who is Cleo Apostal, who married, and their son John Apostal became Mayor of Annapolis, a lot of networking.

BERJANSKY: You said you backyard was, you know you had the chicken coop, the garden. Did a lot of people play their backyards or do activities in the back yard?

BERMAN: Yes, yes it was the playground. That was where you did it, we used to play in the backyards of our homes and I recall being berated for stamping on the rose bushes, but it was a big yard. It...it was home as we knew it. We weren't in little boxes, we were in nice homes with nice yards - that was the way of life.

BERJANSKY: You also said early there wasn't any kind of cars or traffic..

BERMAN: Well, I don't have any recollection of a lot of traffic.

BERJANSKY: What kinds of noises otherwise could be heard around the neighborhood? Like you talked about the ferry earlier.

BERMAN: Oh yeah, we heard the ferry whistle, horn, whatever it was. That's one of the sounds I recall. There was a 12:00 whistle from the Naval Academy, which we heard everyday, we set our clocks by, and two blocks up from us, on the corner of East, almost on the corner of East and Prince George was the Waterwitch Fire Department, and since it was an all volunteer fire department, if there were a fire, you heard the siren and all the volunteers ran out of their houses, so those were the sights and the sounds, ah nothing loud like a , like street repair, [Laughter] that's for sure. It was a reasonably quiet neighborhood.

BERJANSKY: I have heard stories that a train used to run down West Street or Main...

BERMAN: Oh yeah.

BERJANSKY: Could you hear that at all?

BERMAN: Just a clicky-clack. I had an aunt and uncle who lived on West Street, and we used to visit them and when ever the train went by we could feel the shaking of the house. I can recall that. I recall the train well, (Bladens) Street now we are getting out of Hell Point, (Bladens) is on the edge. It ran up Main street and around the circle I'm looking at the moment where the flag is blowing, at the City Dock, it ran around there to Randall Street. I'm sure it ran up King George because I do recall the Naval Academy Midshipmen went to the Army Navy game in Philadelphia on the trains and came back that night on the train it was always a big celebration.

BERJANSKY: We talked about...

BERMAN: I don't recall riding on the trains, believe it or not.

I don't remember it was part of the, it wasn't a local train. It was part of the WB&A system: Washington Baltimore, and Annapolis, otherwise known as Wheel Bump and Agony. [LAUGHTER]

BERJANSKY: How did you get up to you uncle's on West?

BERMAN: Walked, everything you walked, everywhere. There was no reason. Matter a fact, I recall my father had a car, and it was constantly parked out in front. We hardly ever used it, unless we took a long trip to maybe West Street's extension.

BERJANSKY: We talked about different sounds in the neighborhood. What about different smells?

BERMAN: If the wind was right, you would smell oyster shells.

SIDE II TAPE 1

BERMAN: At the end of Craig Street, which was a very very short street between City Dock and PG, it still exists today, Craig Street where we did of our fancy roller skating because no one ever drove down there, but at the end there was Chesapeake Fish Company and in the back of that they used to have fresh fish. We used to go to the market there, they had fresh fish there, and in the back of that, they had a HUGE pile of oyster shells there, because the wharf men would come right up to the dock and sell all the fish to the fish company, and they would clean the fish and shuck the oysters, and throw the pile of oysters. In the early days, the streets back there were covered in oyster shells.

BERJANSKY: When you say huge, 4 feet, 5 feet?

BERMAN: Oh, no. Oh, no. We are going up maybe at that time, I was young, sizes were relative but I recall them maybe 20 feet high or so. It was a large pile of oysters.

BERJANSKY: Did you smell anything like low tide?

BERMAN: Oh, we had some tidal problems. This was before the storm drain system of Annapolis was put in. There was some famous blizzards and floods down here. I recall one of them, I can document the year really. Maybe '36, '37. There was a flood, and we had pictures somewhere in our archives of people rowing right past our house [LAUGHTER] and the water didn't go down until you pass Randall Street high tide and flooding.

BERJANSKY: In my note, it says '33. Does that sound...

BERMAN Sounds good.

BERJANSKY: Ok, because there was a hurricane in '33.

BERMAN: That was the flood, and there was the blizzard too. I don't recall the blizzard, but we have pictures of that trying to shovel out the blizzard. Are you trying to relate that to smells?

BERJANSKY: No.

BERMAN: Or just events?

BERJANSKY: Just events.... smells.

BERJANSKY: What about vendors coming through, maybe a fruit stand?

BERMAN: We used to have hucksters come up and down the street. There would be horse pulled carriage, usually a very colorful black man, who almost became part of the neighborhood and just how he hawked his goods isn't a sound you here today. I'm not going to attempt to imitate him.

BERJANSKY: Almost like you're at a baseball game?

BERMAN: No, no. Better then that. [LAUGHTER] He would say "Watermelon, Fish, oranges, corn getcha creamed corn", and he had all the fresh produce and he would up and down the street and we, very often I know my mother used to buy from the hucksters because she knew it was fresh, and we would also have we would call him the "Egg Man", and it was a Mr.(Wayson) would go up and down our area and he would sell eggs, and if he didn't have double yolked eggs he was in trouble. [LAUGHTER] So yes, those were some of the things you jogged my memory on. We haven't touched upon the Market space. That's another part of Hell Point, where we used to do a lot of our shopping.

BERJANSKY: Ok, we can continue on that topic if you want.

BERMAN: Well, as you go around Market Space of course, there was Manderis, which is where Middleton's is today, I'm orienting you, Ok?

BERJANSKY: That's ok because I have no clue.

BERMAN: I'm staring right at it out this window at Market space.

BERJANSKY: What about the Gap? You mean the Gap wasn't there? [LAUGHTER]

BERMAN: Nooo, that was not there [LAUGHTER]. That originally was Aaron Goodman's building and then for many many years as I grew up it was a, I don't remember what it was... It was Murphy's Five and Dime, Ok? Aaron Goodman preceded, he rented it out anyway. That was part of the shopping there was as I grew up. There was a meat market, which is know Rookies today. On the corner where Riordan's is today was, as I recall, a dry-cleaning establishment. Across the corner from Pinkney was a, not Pinkney but, oh God, I know that street, I knew

my memory would go.

BERJANSKY: Is it Fleet?

BERMAN: Yep, Fleet where Griffin's is today. There was a bar there, was a bar run for many many years by the Hyatt family, and then there was an under-selling store which sold in those days, I guess you would call it discount closing, operated by another character Ellis "Himself" Ossry, and that was a clothing store. One or two stores down was the only kosher meat market in Annapolis. It was located elsewhere but it was there for many years, and then there was a small grocery store operated by the Lotts. And of course the Market House was there, but the Market house was distinguished from today because they had not only stalls inside. When you talk about sounds and smells, you had to be rather brave to walk through there. It was odorous, but ringing the market, particularly on the weekends, Friday and Saturday, were truck farmers. They would come in with their fresh produce and so beforehand they would totally ring the market, and that's the original and the best use of the market house, that's basically where we shopped, and as you get up further on Main Street, you're getting out of Hell Point, but that's where some of the finest stores were located, the clothing, they had one or two restaurants on the street. My family had a store on that street for many, many years.

BERJANSKY: What kind of store?

BERMAN: Clothing, Clothing. I myself had two clothing stores on Main Street there and we had a theater on Main street. On Saturday night people would come in stores and we wouldn't close until 11:00 at night because everyone came in their clean overalls and shopped on the weekends.

BERJANSKY: You mentioned that vendors walked around...

BERMAN: Not vendors. Hucksters.

BERJANSKY: Hucksters not vendors, I'm sorry. What about police or cops did they walk around any?

BERMAN: They were all walking beats. I never recall anybody in a car, and you got to know Chief of Police, the police on the beat, and not nearly as many as we got today. Everyone knew the mayor at the time he grew up here, I recall many of the mayors, worked for some of them on volunteer committees that...no, there wasn't a hell of a lot crime, it was safe. I don't ever recall my parents locking my house.

BERJANSKY: You mentioned "John the Fender Man" and Campbell. Were there any other neighborhood characters?

BERMAN: I might be unkind, but they probably aren't here today. There was a fellow named Hipkins who used to like to drink a lot, but a very gentle man, I recall. But when he drank, he used to get a crying jag, and that was one of the sounds of the neighborhood when he had his crying jag. There was a huge man, probably the fattest man in Annapolis. He lived down the street from us, we used to call him FATTY Wabb. Other memoirists will be able to remember these stories. There was a character, I'm not sure he hung around Hell Point a lot, or maybe it was the court house. There was a Oscar Warmcastle, that name might come up in some of there other stories. He was the lovable town bum. In order to get him a good night's rest they used to put him in jail, that's all I can really recall at the moment.

BERJANSKY: What about something like Halloween where you had to go door to door?

BERMAN: Yeah, we used to be rascals. Those were the days when you walked around, when you said "Trick or Treat" and they didn't treat you really did trick them, you know. We would do something with the trash cans, we used to hang gates up on the telephone poles, just pranksters, but it was always celebrated the kids always celebrated Halloween. The 4th of July was always marvelous. That's when fireworks were allowed and we used to set off the firecrackers right in front of our house, sparklers, Roman candles, and so forth. The holidays were not missed in the area.

BERJANSKY: What about the Christmas spirit or the Hanukkah spirit?

BERMAN: The only recollection I have, Hanukkah wasn't celebrated in a public fashion the old synagogue was on the corner of East and Prince George two blocks up for us, but at Christmas the Kiwanis club always had a Christmas tree on the lower part of Main Street, not where the flag you're seeing is, because that used to be a Amoco gas station [LAUGHTER]. And they used to have also bordering the city dock, there were a lot of marine-related activities.

BERJANSKY: What was your favorite place to play?

BERMAN: My backyard and the Naval Academy.

BERJANSKY: Were there any place you wouldn't go because you were to scared or never went there?

BERMAN: No, not at all. That was the nice thing about growing up in Annapolis, I recall no fear. We had no compunction about walking at night, no compunctions about walking a mile and a half to school. Houses were left unlocked, it was a pretty safe town.

BERJANSKY: You mentioned school, What elementary school did you go to?

BERMAN: Right here, we are within a stone throw of it from here. The Maritime Museum on Green Street, the Green Street Elementary school.

BERJANSKY: Did all your friend go there?

BERMAN: All the people around here sure.

BERJANSKY: Was it a segregated school?

BERMAN: Yep. Sure was.

BERJANSKY: Where did the blacks go to school?

BERMAN: They had their own school, I'm trying to think where it was, I don't recall where the elementary school was but of course when they go into the higher grades it was Bates High School where they went. No, unfortunately, I never went to a school in Annapolis with any of my black friends. Not until I got to college University of Maryland did I matriculate with any blacks. We grew up with segregated bathrooms. They had this Amoco station at the base of Main right here they had these terrible bathrooms in them, "White Men", "White Women", "Colored Men" and "Colored Women". Gold (?) Street is really basically in Hell Point, the Elementary school, and at one time the building across from that was the old high school before being located out on Constitution Ave.

BERJANSKY: Did you have any friends outside of Hell Point?

BERMAN: Oh sure, yeah. People who lived in what I like to call the Murray Hill section, that would be Franklin Street, South Gate, etc,

BERJANSKY : Did they come into Hell Point often?

BERMAN: Oh sure, yeah. We didn't have any barriers or any invisible fencing. No, it was just part of the community, it was a very nice part of their community. No, there was no fears at all .

BERJANSKY: they didn't have a bad attitude towards Hell Point?

BERMAN: The name is a misnomer.

BERJANSKY: The Jensen article, I don't know if you read the Jensen article,

BERMAN: No, what was this about?

BERJANSKY: was an article saying how Hell Point got its Name and the some of characters.

BERMAN: Do you have any recall?

BERJANSKY: No, I'd rather show you after the interview.

BERMAN: Let's put it this way: in my time frame it was an affectionate name for a place, and we were always proud to say it- "Yeah I came from Hell Point". Maybe it was a bit of bravado, but it also reflected a nice part of town.

BERJANSKY: I'm going to jump to your family. You mentioned you were brought up by your maid.

BERMAN: Well not brought up, but she was a.. we were very fortunate to have her full time, and my parents would work and they had no compunctions about it, leaving me in the care of our maid, Eleanor. She would clean the house, cook us whatever we wanted. What a wonderful way [laughter] to live. She lived right behind us in Block Street.

BERJANSKY: Who lived with you?

BERMAN: My mother, my father, and my brother, who was older than I, who is now deceased, and until I was 7 yrs old my grandfather lived with us then. It was just a grand old house.

BERJANSKY: What ethnic group do you belong to?

BERMAN: Jewish.

BERJANSKY: Did you have a lot of relatives in the area that were Jewish?

BERMAN: Relatives, not a lot, no. We had a relative on West Street, we had a lot of people in the Jewish community who lived in this particular area, or had businesses in this particular area, and lived elsewhere. None I recall lived there, except the Goodman family.

BERJANSKY: How did you celebrate or go about celebrating the Jewish holidays like Passover or Rosh HaShanah?

BERMAN: Well, it was always celebrated in our home. We were one block away from the synagogue, Kneset Israel Synagogue on the corner of East and Prince George. As a matter of fact, we were so close on the High Holidays, the days of fast during the break all of my parent's friend would come down to the house and hang around until the services resumed. Now this was one of my memories that I remember. People came down to break their fast.

BERJANSKY: Was the Jewish community real close in its self?

BERMAN: Yes.

BERJANSKY: How Were the relationship between, I guess the Jewish people and the non-Jewish people?

BERMAN: Well, during my time frame there was an excellent relationship, there was a certainly a minority of Jewish people in Annapolis and most of them were in business for themselves, and they held distinguish positions in the mercantile community. I don't recall any, I grew up with no prejudice, I don't recall any at all.

BERJANSKY: What about any from Blacks or Filipinos?

BERMAN: Not at all, no, I don't recall any prejudice. The only thing existed and it is documented in history, is that there was segregation, this was a southern town.

BERJANSKY: Did you belong to any clubs or anything or Little League or anything of that matter?

BERMAN: There wasn't any Little League as I knew it, no, the only clubs I belonged to was in later life, but you're more interested in knowing what I did in Hell Point.

BERJANSKY: How did your family deal with the Depression, or you don't really remember?

BERMAN: I don't have too much recall. I know times must have been tough but at that time my father was in business and obviously was a survivor so I didn't really suffer too much. I was fortunate. I don't know if Annapolis suffered. I don't really know.

BERJANSKY: I'm sure we can find out.

BERMAN: I really don't know. I'll tell you one of the things that helped during a recession or Depression is that we had a lot of stable economic jobs from the Naval Academy and the so-called Experiment Station which was across the river at Greenbury Point.

BERJANSKY: What were your views of the Naval Academy, before 1941?

BERMAN: The views of it? How do you mean?

BERJANSKY: Like did you enjoy going there...?

BERMAN: Oh gosh.

BERJANSKY: Did you like it ?

BERMAN: I used to use their tennis. We used to play on their grounds, play kid ball, it was really marvelous, it really was and we always enjoyed a great relationship with the Middies. They thought we were cute generally, and I recall some of the relationships with the Navy coaches. They were very tolerant with us. We were very polite too, we didn't go where we weren't supposed to go. When we got into trouble you would see the Jimmy Legs, the Naval Academy Police. They would patrol the Naval Academy on bicycles.

BERJANSKY: Do you know if everyone got along with Naval Academy like you kids did?

BERMAN: No, I'm sure there were some locals that had some problems with the Midshipmen. There are some legendary stories about some of the people who lived in Eastport and the Midshipmen that used to fight. The locals didn't particularly care for the local girl going out with a Midshipman and they had the same problems with St. Johnnies who did the same thing. No, there was element of conflict I'm sure.

BERJANSKY: Did you have any um friends whose parents were in the Naval Academy?

BERMAN: Not that I know of, no we had some Naval Officers that were friend with my family that would visit us, I don't remember.

BERJANSKY: What was your parents attitude towards them?

BERMAN: Oh, great. As a matter of fact, my mother for many many years would rent rooms on weekends to the Drags, or the dates of the Midshipmen, and we always had Middies and their drags staying at our house on weekends, some of whom became prominent Naval Officers in the Navy. Matter of fact, my mother, it's from a 1922 "Lucky Bag", which is the year book of the Naval Academy, knew of and had visits from the late Admiral Riko, used to visit our house. And one of the Midshipmen, as I recall, who was dragged from a house, as I recall, was Jim Calvert, who later became the Superintendent of the Naval Academy, full circle around.

BERJANSKY: What kind of activities did you do on the Academy, I know you mentioned sports and played?

BERMAN: We had a boat and we would go sailing and a lot of times on the water, we would fish and crab. It was a great life, other than reading comic books and eating candy what could be better?

[LAUGHTER]

BERJANSKY: How did you feel when the Naval Academy expanded?

BERMAN: It really didn't effect me, maybe because I recall there was a problem I was a little to, what year was that?

BERJANSKY: '41, December. Just after the war started.

BERMAN: I was old enough to know what was going on, I was in high school at the time. I do remember there was a problem and I think they did take it by condemnation because the people whose property was being taken weren't happy with the price, that obviously, I couldn't relate to it at the time. But I know it was condemned and

it didn't take any of our property , yes it did, it took a very small bit of the back of the property as I recall, not much, just to even it off, but I don't recall any problem, maybe my father had a problem.

BERJANSKY: Do you remember any of your friends that lost their house?

BERMAN: I remember the Short Family and the Florenstano family, they were real unhappy about it. They were there for a real, real long time, particularly the people in the lower end on the water side of Holland Street I don't recall them to well but they lost it all.

BERJANSKY: Where did they move to from there?

BERMAN: I have no idea where they went.

BERJANSKY: How do you feel about the purpose of what they did knocking down Hell Point and built a field house and a parking lot?

BERMAN: Well I would have to look at it through today's eyes mind and I would have to classify it as progress, I suppose it beat the alternative losing the Naval Academy, and we would resent that because the Naval Academy had to expand. That was just one of their expansions and it moved in other directions. It put in landfills to expand its size. I will say, as the years went on, it gave a very nice neat appearance in the back of our yard. You didn't have the so-called slums we had before, but there was a bit of charm about what was there before.

BERJANSKY: You said the Naval Academy needed to expand or you would lose it?

BERMAN: Well, that was one of the threats that I recall, was that if we can't expand where we are, we will have to move because there was no place for the academy to go.

BERJANSKY: Were there any protests in your neighborhood?

BERMAN: I don't recall anything organized at the time, I was much too busy with my high school life to even think about..that was in the hands of the parents.

BERJANSKY: Do you know if they gave the Shorts so many days notice before?

BERMAN: Oh I'm sure they did. Well, I don't know , I can't tell you, but I'm sure they gave them proper notice. There is no question about that. I'm mean, it was an ongoing thing, they didn't tell you in January you had to get out in March. They did a lot of planning and I guess that was one alternative. You know they had to destroy their own stadium as well and they did this field house which today backs up where Hell Point was as I knew it.

BERJANSKY: After they knocked down Hell Point they let it sit for ten years .

BERMAN: I recall it being vacant for a long time. I really do.

BERJANSKY: Did you think anything about it?

BERMAN: No, because we are talking '41. A couple a years later I went to college and then the service right after that, so I wasn't involved , put it that way. But I do recall vacant ground for a long time.

BERJANSKY: So you're saying overall, your view of the Naval Academy was a good one?

BERMAN: Excellent, I had no beef with it. [LAUGHTER] It was all good. There was some interesting sidelights they had at the Naval academy stadium at Thompson field. I recall there was a water shortage, maybe it was an annual shortage during the summer, and I remember they had an artesian well, and they would let the people come in and pour water into jugs and bring containers to the Naval Academy, and let you bring it home through Block Street. On Holland Street, there were two great memories of Holland Street towards the top of Holland Street , near Prince George, there was a candy store which sold snow balls and candy, called Mrs Mary's. I will never forget it.

This ends the transcript

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

INTERVIEW WITH : THERESA NEWMAN

INTERVIEWER : AARON AUMILLER

DATE : JULY 9, 1993

The memoirist recalled once hearing that the name Hell Point was used to describe the times when the naval ships would come into dock and as she put it "all hell would break loose!". The memoirist was certain that this was not meant in a derogatory way and only described the havoc which followed the arrival of a boat full of sailors.

The memoirist commented that the sailors today were more "well educated" than the sailors that attended the academy before and up to the time which she had lived on Prince George Street.

The memoirist described East street, King George Street, Randall Street and possibly parts of Main Street as portions of what was once Hell Point. She also elaborated that beyond the wall towards gate one there had also been neighborhoods which were included in Hell Point.

NEIGHBORHOOD

The memoirist described her childhood home as a three story brick house. The bricks for the residence were brought over from England and apparently the structure was beautiful. The downstairs was described as having a living room with a fireplace, a dining room and a very large kitchen with a large brick alcove with a cooking stove inside it. The memoirist guessed that it may have been a fireplace at one time or another. There was an icebox with a compartment for ice on top with a space below for food which sat in the kitchen until a refrigerator replaced it. The back side of the home accommodated a "summer kitchen" which the memoirist mentioned but could not recall many more details about. The side of the home accommodated a structure which housed a horse and buggy, a luxury which the memoirist claimed a minority of the people in the city had.

The second floor of the home had several rooms including one with a sitting room and a master bedroom which looked over the street. The memoirist was unsure if there were fireplaces in the upstairs bedrooms. The third floor was converted into an apartment which the family rented out to "nice couples". The memoirist stated that advertisements were not made for the apartment , it was only leased to individuals which the family knew needed a place to stay.

The memoirist had no knowledge of what families lived in Hell Point and stated that she knew nothing about the streets or alleys.

The memoirist recalled that milk was delivered right to ones house and that in the winter the cream would pop the top off of the bottle.

She also mentioned that fresh bread was baked by a local baker and delivered to the homes on Prince George off of the back of a horse and carriage.

The memoirist spoke about a man with a speech impediment who delivered fresh vegetables from a cart in the street. He would drive around yelling which vegetables he had for sale every day. One day the memoirists mother asked for potatoes and got the reply "I've been yelling taters all day long and I don't have one potato".

The memoirist described her family sitting on the porch in the evening and watching the children playing in the street. She mentioned that she felt that the streets and neighborhoods in Annapolis, especially such a busy street as Prince George street, could never be the same, today, due to automobile traffic.

The memoirist mentioned that the ferry could be caught from Prince George Street. The ferry took automobiles, produce and passengers and could get to the eastern shore in a little under an hour.

The memoirist mentioned two trains which could be caught in Annapolis. The first train, the WBA, travelled down West street, around Church Circle to Main Street and finally stopped at the end of Randall Street(today where the wall to the Naval Academy is). This train travelled to Baltimore and Washington and apparently there was a large number of people who caught it to go to different schools or jobs in Baltimore. The memoirists sister attended the Baltimore Business School and took the train for several years.

The second train leaving from Annapolis was the Short Line to Baltimore which boarded close to where the Legislative/State building stands. According to the memoirist, the tracks remained in the ground until fairly recently when new asphalt was laid over them.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Children in the memoirist's neighborhood enjoyed jumping rope, playing jacks, skipping and playing in the street. The memoirist recalls there being many children in the streets at the time. There was no backyard activity, the action was, for the most part, restricted to the front of the house.

When asked about alleys and streets in hell point, the memoirist stated that she did not go there and had no recollection of any stories or scary experiences regarding the area.

The memoirist listed her friends from school as her neighborhood playmates and made references to "neighborhood schools" which basically consisted of territorial school districts with little or no interaction with children from other schools.

The memoirist went into great detail regarding the shops and markets on the waterfront. Apparently there was a seafood stall at the end of the dock where fresh seafood could be purchased. The memoirist spoke about being able to smell it anywhere in the dock area. The memoirist recalled an ice house on Prince George Street where people, including her mother, would buy ice for their ice chests. The old marketplace was split into a fish market on one side and a vegetable stand on the other. The vegetable stalls were provided for farmers or gardeners who wished to sell their crops to anyone who wished to buy them. A butcher, "Mr. Basils Meat Market", sat facing the marketplace and provided cuts of the meat for the memoirists family.

The memoirist described bars and taverns as being different from those seen today. She described them as being more family oriented and even told stories about sending children to the local bar to buy a pitcher of beer to drink with dinner.

OUTSIDE HELL POINT

The memoirist mentioned how different the dock was today as compared to the way things were when she was growing up. The water was described as being very clear, in fact children frequently went swimming in the water directly in front of the marketplace. The memoirist mentioned that many people owned rowboats and most people left them tied to a stake somewhere on the dock. There were no fees or reserved spots and things apparently worked pretty well that way.

The memoirist briefly recalled that Johnsons Lumber Co. was once where the field house now stands on the Naval academy. She observed that the company has now moved to West Street but lost interest and had nothing else to say on the subject.

SCHOOL

The memoirist attended the Peabody Conservatory and referred to this institution as a "neighborhood school". The memoirist confessed that most of the students who attended the school lived on and around her street and therefore, naturally, were her playmates. When questioned about minority schoolmates, the memoirist simply stated that the Jews and blacks attended the Green Street school and she saw little of them.

FAMILY

The memoirists lived with her mother, father, grandfather(on her fathers side), sister and brother. The memoirist mentioned that her aunt lived at the other corner of her block on Prince George Street. On pleasant summer evenings the memoirist recalls that she and her family could hear her cousin playing the violin halfway up the street. In fact, the memoirist claims that her whole family was musical and could remember long hours practicing the piano. The memoirist made several comments throughout the interview regarding her Italian grandfather. The memoirist recalled being able to understand but never speak Italian and regretted never learning the language.

CLOTHES

The memoirist remembered very little regarding any differences in the clothing among her classmates. She did on the other hand remember the clothes she wore on Sundays. The memoirist said that she enjoyed dressing up

in her special Sunday dresses for Sunday school and mass.

COMMUNITY

Most of the immediate community and the memoirists interactions within the community were described in the section entitled neighborhood. The memoirists recalled attending a small sewing class run by Jews. This thought reminded the memoirist of seeing the Jewish children filing into Hebrew school at a synagogue on Green Street. This was one of several times when the memoirist expressed regret for not having learned her native tongue.

The memoirist stated that the people who lived on her street and immediate community all got along well and had no problems with one another.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The memoirist clearly recalled the hurricane of 1933 and even had pictures to show of her walking around her neighborhood before the water became shoulder height. The memoirist recalled a story which entailed her brother tying a piece of string to a stick and pretending to fish from the upper balcony of their house. As she put it, they "took it all with a grain of salt".

The memoirist remembered hearing stories about moonshine coming from Baltimore to Annapolis during Prohibition. She clearly remembers asking about a local man who was blind and being bluntly told he became that way from drinking bootleg moonshine.

The only two fires the memoirist could remember were the Colonial Theater on Conduit Street and a fire on the dock. She could not recall any more details about either event.

NAVAL ACADEMY

The memoirist recalled girls from Baltimore being "dragged" to the dances at the Naval Academy . When inquiring about the meaning of the statement I was told it was "before my time". Apparently there was a good relationship between the Naval Academy and the local communities, the memoirist in question herself married a Naval Academy graduate. The memoirist recalls that Naval Academy dances ended at 11:30, leaving the midshipmen enough time to walk their dates home and sprint back to the Academy in order to make their 12:00 curfew. The memoirist also remembered how some girls would then leave to go out with "St. Johnnies" , something that she denied ever doing herself.

Previous to 1941, the year the Naval Academy acquired the land from Hell Point, the memoirist was living in New England with her husband. She returned to Annapolis to stay with her family after seeing her husband off on a voyage to England. Upon arriving in Maryland she was told that her husbands boat had hit an outcrop of rocks and sunk, her husband had died. The memoirist remembers little about the acquisition of her families home and those of her neighbors, but does think that her parents would have fought much harder to save their house if they had not been so busy consoling her in her grief.

This ends the transcript

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

Interview with Robert Campbell

Interviewer: Erica Martin

Date: June 28, 1993

Interview with Robert Campbell on June 28, 1993. 119 Prince George Street Annapolis, MD. Mr. Campbell is a former resident of 121 Prince George Street, which we are acknowledging as being in the former neighborhood of Hell Point. The interviewer is Erika Martin, and the interview is being conducted for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project, which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, College Park, Anthropology Department, Historic Annapolis Foundation, and the U.S. Navy.

Erika: What are the geographical boundaries of Hells Point?

Mr. Campbell: Let's get one thing straight missy, before we get started. It's Hell Point, not Hells Point, and it's a specific geographical point, it's not all of the downtown area. I'll pinpoint it for you. In front of Bancroft Hall there is a statue of Tecumseh, well, Hell Point is Tecumseh, and the high ground at that point. The statue faces east-west, but from this point you can look north across the Severn River. Several hundred yards away is the superintendents quarters, where the former governors house used to be.

At this point I asked Mr. Campbell, again, if he would be tape recorded, and he replied, " You know, even a fish wouldn't get caught if he wouldn't open his mouth."

Erika: Why is this point called Hell Point?

Mr. Campbell: In my grandfather's time, and he was born in 1856, the toughs of the town went to this point. There were fights and gangs down there. They used to have sham battles. Do you know what sham battles are?

Erika: No, would you explain it?

Mr. Campbell: They were fake battles. Oh, but people used to get hurt. You know this was in my grandfather's and father's time. These are stories they told me. My family has lived here for over 250 years.

At this point Mr. Campbell told a story about his relatives arriving here in the 1600's, and how, he thinks there is documentation that a Campbell was captain of one of the ships that sailed here during that time period. He also went on about the early history of Anne Arundel county and told me it used to be part of Howard county, and when the two split, Anne Arundel county lost about half of it's population.

Erika: How long have you lived here?

Mr. Campbell: All of my life. I was born right next door.

Erika: Where?

Mr. Campbell: At 123 Prince George Street. Well, actually I was born in the hospital. You know, not many people had babies in the hospital at that time, but my mother was part of the Avant Guard, so she had me in the hospital. That was in 1919. My grandmother was born on 118.

Erika: Did she live there while you were growing up?

Mr. Campbell: No, she moved to Holland Street.

Erika: Tell me about what you childhood neighborhood looked like.

Mr. Campbell: Well, there used to be a Ferry Boat, and a Lumber Company down here. It was the Lower and Middle working class. We were working people. The colored people lived down here too. The Naval Academy condemned some property down here in 1941, but they didn't do one thing about it until 1954, not one thing. They threw the people out too.

Erika: They threw the people out?

Mr. Campbell: A Naval officer wrote this letter about the low class people that lived there. He said they were lowlife, drunks, watermen, that didn't count for anything. They did throw the people out in the street. Even my grandmother and grandfather, who were in their eighties. They condemned their property. They gave them 1600 dollars for a two and a half story house. They were in their eighties and had nowhere else to go. My Aunt had

to take them in.

At this point Mr. Campbell told a story about his Aunt taking in his grandparents, and the Aunts house.

Erika: So the Naval Academy acquisitioned this land?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, and there were other acquisitions by the Naval Academy before this one.

Erika: When?

Mr. Campbell: Prior to World War I. A Mrs. Kealey. She owned the lot next door. She was a widow, she lived there alone, but she had Kealey's Coal and Wood Yard. She refused to leave her house, and the Academy was afraid to kick her out because it would look bad, so they schemed to get her out.

Erika: How?

Mr. Campbell: One day the marines hid in a secret place and they had boards and hammers and nails, and when she went to the store they nailed up her doors and windows so she couldn't get in.

Erika: Were all her things still inside the house?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, all her furniture was still in there, but I guess later they unboarded it just to give her furniture back, then they boarded it back up.

Erika: She lived in the lot next door?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, she used to do her laundry in a laundry pit outside, because in those days you didn't have washers and dryers.

Erika: Laundry pits?

Mr. Campbell: Yes every house had one in their back yard, my grandmother had one too.

Erika: And the Navy just threw her out of her house?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, the Navy has such a low regard for civilians here.

Erika: Did you ever have any relatives that worked for the Naval Academy?

Mr. Campbell: Oh yes, yes. There was John Mullan, who was born in 1801. He was my great, great grandfather. He was an orderly, a Sgt. postmaster around 1845 or 1850ish. He died in 1863.

At this point Mr. Campbell started to give me an extensive family history, starting with John Mullan.

Erika: What other relatives worked for the Naval Academy besides your great, great grandfather?

Mr. Campbell: There was Robert Eugene Campbell, he was a roofer for the Naval Academy.

Again, Mr. Campbell started talking about his family history, in which time he told me about Catharine Randall Campbell, who married a naval officer named Nichols, and Sarah Ella Campbell (his grandmother) who was a seamstress noted for her fine stitching, and at one time worked for the Randall family. Also, Ralph Earle Campbell, who was named after Admiral Ralph Earle.

Erika: You said there was an acquisition of land by the Naval Academy in the 1940's. What streets did this acquisition include?

Mr. Campbell: Well, Water Street, lower Hanover Street.....

Erika: What about your grandparents on Holland?

Mr. Campbell: Oh, yes, Holland Street, and the lower end of King George, Joyce Court, Block Street, and Johnson Row.

Erika: Who lived on these streets?

Mr. Campbell: Well, the colored people lived on Block Street, in row houses. These were the ghettos, only black people lived here. On Joyce Court there were poor white people. There were row houses on one side and garages on the other. There was another street, but I can't remember the name.....

Erika: Terry Court?

Mr. Campbell: Oh yes, Did I tell you that?

Erika: No, I saw it on a map.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, it was Terry. On Terry there were also row houses that went back to a garage, where John the fenderman worked.

Erika: Who was John the fenderman?

Mr. Campbell: He worked in the garage, did all kinds of handy work for people. He dealt with my father. He

worked on my father's Model T Ford. I think he was a general merchant.

Erika: How did the Naval Academy view these people whose property they took?

Mr. Campbell: There was always a bad attitude toward the Naval Academy, and they had a bad attitude towards the people. They thought the people were poor white trash, nothing more, just poor white trash.

Erika: What about the black people that lived there?

Mr. Campbell: You know, the problem with people today is that everyone speaks a different language. Do you know what I mean?

Erika: No

Mr. Campbell: I mean your generation and my generation speak different languages. In my day it was O.K. to call a colored person "boy", hell, I used to call my white friends "boy". You have to watch what you say today because you might offend someone.

Erika: So, how did white people and black people get along?

Mr. Campbell: Colored people and white people got along much better then than they do now. We played together, and worked together. We got along just fine. The only difference was that we didn't go to school together.

Erika: You were segregated?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, there was segregation, but we respected each other. Today when white people and colored people talk to each other you can see the hate in their eyes, back then, if a colored person tipped his hat to my father, my father would tip his hat back. We would respond in kind. There was much less animosity than there is today. I'm not going to sit here and tell you that white people thought black people were equal, they didn't, and in my opinion, they still don't think they're equal.

Erika: Was there another ethnic group that lived in this area?

Mr. Campbell: Oh, yes there was the Filipino, ah, how can I say this, ingredient, element, that's not the word I'm looking for, but anyway, the Filipino's were there too, but in a different way.

Erika: What do you mean?

Mr. Campbell: Well, there were two captured Spanish American War vessels that were used for training ships for the midshipmen, and station ships for the sailors. Now, Bancroft Hall was served by enlisted men. Everything was here for the convenience of the midshipmen.

Erika: What do you mean?

Mr. Campbell: Everything in Annapolis was here for the midshipmen. The hospital, the pharmacy, the military-the marines, who used to, and still do, man the gates to the Academy.

Erika: You were talking about the Filipinos....

Mr. Campbell: Oh yes, well, Bancroft Hall was served by colored and Filipino mess attendants.

Erika: These men were enlisted?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. The Rena Mercedes was for the midshipmen to train on, unless you were married, then you lived ashore. I met my good friend Lou Robert Shaw on the Rena Mercedes. We used to sneak aboard the ship because they showed movies there, and we would sneak aboard, and when the lights went out we'd sit on the floor and watch movies.

Erika: Just you and him?

Mr. Campbell: No, me and the other poor kids from town. We'd also get dinner there on Sunday afternoon.

Erika: You would sneak aboard for dinner?

Mr. Campbell: No, they would feed us. They always had great, great amounts of leftovers. They never used it all. So, the town kids would go there for a good dinner on Sundays.

Erika: So, black and Filipino mess attendants would serve you?

Mr. Campbell: Well, the Filipinos and the colored's lived on the Cumberland, on the first and second decks. The Filipinos lived on the first deck, and the colored people lived on the second deck, unless they were married, then they lived ashore.

Erika: So, the blacks and Filipino sailors who were married lived in town?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, the Filipino's could claim American citizenship if they were sailors back then. We called them the "Filipino boys". Some of them would marry white girls. This was a big problem.

Erika: What do you mean?

Mr. Campbell: Well, those white girls were looked down upon. We had no problem playing with those mixed kids though. They went to our school, and so did the Chinese. But, if a colored person and a Filipino had kids, those children were segregated, they went to the colored school.

Erika: Where did these people live?

Mr. Campbell: The mixed people lived on Holland Street, and some in Eastport.

Erika: Didn't your grandparents live on Holland Street?

Mr. Campbell: Yes

Erika: So you saw these children a lot.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, we saw them, and played with them.

Erika: What did your father do?

Mr. Campbell: He was in the wholesale-resale seafood business. He set up people to fish for him, and he also, fished himself, he was a waterman.

Erika: Were the Filipino's accepted here?

Mr. Campbell: There were some problems. Do you know where Middleton's Tavern is?

Erika: Yes

Mr. Campbell: Well, it used to be Tydings Bar or the Mandress Restaurant. There was a Filipino\American club on the second floor. There were some pretty bad fights here.

Erika: What were the fights about?

Mr. Campbell: Well, there was always hostility because the Filipino sailors would shower the white girls with gifts, and the white boys generally didn't have enough money to buy the girls gifts, and they would get upset.

Erika: Did this happen alot?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, there were always drunken sailors walking around at night, and alot of fights, all the time. There was even a death on Holland Street. It was a white marine that died.

Erika: Tell me about it.

Mr. Campbell: Well, the marine was going with a girl in the area who also dated a local. They got in a fight one night, and well.... the local got off, I even knew the man. He claimed self defense.

Erika: So, was this the rough part of town?

Mr. Campbell: Oh yes, but after the navy acquired that land, the toughs moved up Martin and East Streets, right by the Fire Company. You know where that used to be?

Erika: Yes, I think so.

Mr. Campbell: That area became known as Hell Point, and the people there were called Hell Pointers, but this wasn't the original Hell Point.

Erika: The people there were called Hell Pointers?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, but some people didn't like to be called Hell Pointers. Like my aunt. She would get very upset if someone called her a Hell Pointer. She would cuss them up and down, and deny it. She resented being called a Hell Pointer.

Erika: Why?

Mr. Campbell: Because she felt it was demeaning. No girls liked to be called that, especially girls. It meant they were poor white trash. I rarely went to East or Martin street, I wanted to stay away from the fights, stay out of trouble, but I didn't mind it when people called me a Hell Pointer.

Erika: Why?

Mr. Campbell: Because it made you feel like you belonged, you were part of something, but I wasn't really from there. There is alot of talk about Hell Point today, they even put a plaque down by the waterfront, have you seen it?

Erika: No, I'm not sure.

Mr. Campbell: Well, that's not even where Hell Point was, where that plaque is, is all fill, that used to be water. Other people say that Hell Point is downtown Annapolis, from about East Street to the water, but this is a myth.

Erika: So, your Aunt didn't like being called a Hell Pointer?

Mr. Campbell: No, she would deny it. She married a sailor, John Nichol, alot of girls married sailors. John was in charge of the Naval Dump.

At this point, Mr. Campbell went on to explain that the Naval Dump was a munitions\explosives yard, and he told a story about this and some more of his relatives.

Mr. Campbell: You asked me what relatives worked for the Naval Academy, well my aunt did, that's where she met her husband, John Nichol.

Erika: What did she do?

Mr. Campbell: She worked for the Naval Academy laundry. She worked with colored and whites alike. It was hard hot work. It wasn't a pleasant job, but that's the way she was raised, to work hard, and she did it for a long time too, well into her seventies. She started as a laundry girl, and worked her way up to floor lady. That meant she was the boss, of the women, the men had a different boss named Sullivan. But everyone respected her. They called her Miss Cate, for Catharine. This was a good job for a woman in those days. A very good job, because women just didn't work back then, not like they do now. They were supposed to get married and have babies, and do housework, that's just the way it was.

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

Interview with: WILLIAM GOODMAN

Interviewer: VALERIE K. BANKO

Date: June 28, 1993

BANKO: Describe to me how Hell Point got it's name.

GOODMAN: Well Hells Point the way I remember got it's name was , they was hell rampin', hell raisin' people, I mean they were good people um, people that ah if you had a problem if you weren't working that week other people would come over an give you food, give you clothes, any holiday if they knew you had need for things they would come over an help ya. I mean they was just good , like I remember an instance, I believe the people's name was Collins, that lived on Hanover street, and they had a fire and my grandfather got in his car and went over an got those kids, in all, and they stayed at our house an my grandfather fed 'em and clothed 'em until they could get their self back together.

BANKO: That's really really nice. So you lived with your grandfather then?

GOODMAN: Yes, you didn't have to lock your doors, never locked the doors. Never had to worry about anyone.

BANKO: What um, did your front yard look like, if you had one?

GOODMAN: We had, we didn't really have a front yard there because the house set more or less to the street. And the Salvation Army came in an they needed to expand an the expansion part was for the neighborhood. Because we had a lot of young kids. And they put a gym there, they took the houses an put a gym, we were able to go in there and play basketball, rassel (Phonetic) an carry on [Laughter]

BANKO: So, you did a lot of fun things. And what did the front of your house look like, if you were walking up to it?

GOODMAN: It's an old Victorian house, ah I don't think it was anything fancy as I remember. Not like some of the colonial houses in Annapolis an then restored (Unclear).

BANKO: And you had a porch on it?

GOODMAN: Yes, and if I'm not mistaken, ah Bobby Campbell owned the house, if I remember correctly, I think he still owns 123 and further down to the end of the ah, where the museum is which used to be the A&P store.

BANKO: Another student is interviewing him (Robert Campbell) today.

GOODMAN: Oh, Bobby? Yeah, well Bobby knows a lot. He's a very knowledgeable person, very good hearted person. He's gettin' up in age [Laughter], but he's been around. He's been a politician, you name it he's been there. He came from the other side of the track, an he knows so, just a good person.

BANKO: And the other houses on your street, were they all like yours?

GOODMAN: Yeah, our houses were pretty well kept up um, we were considered ah, I guess the people with out money of course you can't say Bobby's considered that way [Laughter]. He's done well for his self. Ah, were had a lot of people come from 'ere like Al

Hopkins, who is the mayor of the city now, I believe judge Learnered (Phonetic), ah judge Hyatt , no not Hyatt, just can't remember. Another judge came from there, Hyatt realtor, Hyatt lawyer, ah he's from that area. So we've had a lot of very important people that have ah come from Hell's Point.

BANKO: Very interesting. Um, let's see, were there any particular smells or sounds that were always in the area, that you knew you were home...

GOODMAN: No, smells no, I don't remember any smells that occasionally the city dock overflow, an you would get a lot of stuff from out of the bay or out of the channel would come in and you'd get dead fish that would be the only time. That was mainly after a storm. The neighborhood was pretty well kept, as far as I'm concerned. The smell wasn't there like it is today I'll put it that way an, I think the reason that the smell is there today, because you have the number of tourists come into Annapolis. You have more ah, places to eat an they set their garbage outside an what-have-you, but you need to grow. The town needs to expand an I do believe that ah, I can live with that as long as other people can live with it.

BANKO: And ah, well, what did your parents do for a living?

GOODMAN: Well, my dad is a retired sergeant major in the Air Force. My mother was remarried again in, I was six years old, so that would make it , I guess about the 50's, '52 and ah, he was a plaster his name was Albert

Lamb. I guess my mom was just a housewife so...

BANKO: So did you enjoy having your mother at home?

GOODMAN: Yes I did, um, she passed away about 5 years ago. An she had a hard life. A lot of, my stepfather, an I don't mind sayin' this on record, was a person that believed in beating women he was a that type of person. But I learned, I got educated out of it. She lived with him for thirty some years so apparently she didn't mind, but I left there when I was around fifteen and moved up in a place on Main street where I stayed until I was about twenty. I met this girl here that I'm married to now, I been married to twenty-eight years. Which I wish I'd a met her ten years prior to that [Laughter]...

BANKO: That would have been nice though right? [Laughter] What about the other families...

GOODMAN: Well I had one other brother, who I had a, well let's see my aunt Hazel's still living, she's the only Drewry that's living, a, no it's my aunt Hazel and my uncle Bobby are the two that's still living. I had a ah, my aunt Bootsie (Phonetic) just died of cancer, my aunt Ebbie (Phonetic) died of cancer. Ah, an Bootsie's daughter who's forty-nine Peewee (Phonetic) she just died of cancer. And Ebbie's son who was thirty-two he died of cancer. My uncle Billy Drewry died of cancer. My aunt Shirley died of cancer an we had another relation Duggy who lay in the Hospital from the time he was seventeen until he was twenty-one an I think he may a died from cancer. So I think it has something to do with the kidney's or something that they found that there's a problem. Yes, we have a, a problem in our family of people dying, its only two of 'em of the immediate family left now, that's my aunt Hazel and uncle Bobby. She still lives in Annapolis, but Bobby lives in Goldsborough North Carolina.

BANKO: Did either of them ever live in Hell Point ?

GOODMAN: Oh, yes they both were form Hell Point, oh yeah.

BANKO: So, basically all your family...

GOODMAN: Oh yes and I'll give you aunt Hazel's name before you leave an her phone number. She could tell you a lot. She lived right in Hyde's Alley, and you can't, Hyde's Alley was a kind of a borderline there, ah they extended it past the Hyatt's house so that could be part of Hell's Point, but that was the border line.

BANKO: What was her street like?

GOODMAN: Ah, it was kind of run down, the houses up in that area, an they finally tore 'em down they need parking area and that's what they did with it, they had a parking area.

BANKO: So those homes were taken over then, by the Naval Academy?

GOODMAN: No, this was a, you go up Main street and make a right up that alley there, you make a left there's another alley that you turn into now which is the um, parking garage. That used to be the little tavern that sit there on the corner on the left hand side. But that little alley was called Hyde's alley, that's where the Michaeljohn's, the Cantler's, the Alton's, Eucare's an those people lived. That was another family, I don't know you've...

BANKO: Oh, that's a familiar name. Um, and the other families on your street were, did any of the mother's, were they employed?

GOODMAN: No, I think most the women in our time were just housewives and the guys were the ones who went out and worked. Of course times have changed. Unless you have a family like I have, I have six grandchildren and a boy in college and another starting college, and a daughter going to college, no there's not much room for my wife to worry about going to work. And those kids age from five to eleven. So she has a lot to do.

BANKO: That's quite a house hold there. Okay, well then around the corner from your street was Randall street. How did the houses on Randall Compare to yours?

GOODMAN: I believe Randall was an area that had fairly decent looking homes on it. They did a paint job every now and then, the houses of course set right to the street. There was no front yard to 'em. Um, they had a little restaurant on the corner, called Maderses's (Phonetic) who was, his name was Apostol that owned the place. That would go on the weekends, you know and drink a few beers [Laughter]. Did a lot of that in those days [Laughter].

BANKO: So, where did they drink beer, so was there a local tavern?

GOODMAN: Well, we had a couple places. Sam Lurey, I'm sure you heard of him, he had the cheapest beer in town up until he died, I think he was still only charging thirty to thirty-five cents a beer. And he had so many people in there that a they would actually have to stand at the door. And my aunt worked for him for a long time, her name was Catlin (Phonetic), that was my grandmothers maiden name was Catlin. I remember her tellin' me stories about how many people in there, she could hardly move to serve the beer. And then they had another little place called John's Tavern. John's Tavern was a right next to the Mill's Spirit and Wine store, there was, I think, Hazards

Paint store, there was a barber shop and then there was John's Tavern. So a that was another place they went. And the John's moved from there up next to the little tavern on Main street. People started going up there. I think

originally, I really remember the place that we really went, out at the Old Evening Capital, that they had a bowling alley that's called the pub at the time. That's where they'd go and they would drink out West street. If you went any farther than that you'd be...Unclear...

once you went past Taylor avenue. So, yeah it was interesting though. Annapolis was a nice quiet town, it's not like it is today. Black people got along. White people got along. Everybody was just happy. You know I don't know what's happening today, is that I think you have a lot of people that are trying to get ahead by using a racist basis in life and that's not where it's at. I mean, this guy Wes Ridgely I told you about, you'll never find any better person than him. I mean, we were just good decent people to each other, we have any trouble in them days.

BANKO: So, basically everyone on your street would feel the same way you did toward blacks that you did?

GOODMAN: Sure, I mean because down at the market space used to be the old town bar. That was a black bar. We were only like maybe forty feet apart. And we moved away from there when my brother Ralph was born, down next to the a, down town bar was also a poolroom and they would play pool. We lived up stairs, and that's where my brother was born and a lady by the name of Miss Annie she was a midwife. She delivered him I can remember like it was yesterday. We could walk up there any time, there was no problem I think the biggest problem we have in this country today is this drugs if we could stop the drugs from coming in and getting people back on the right track. I really think this country can go a long ways.

BANKO: I agree with you there. Alright, then so you had friends that lived on Randall?

GOODMAN: Yeah, I can remember Wallace Ford was a sergeant for the Annapolis police, he lived there for a long time. The Collins lived on Randall there was like only 1-2-3-4 maybe five houses that people really lived at.

BANKO: Then were there other businesses?

GOODMAN: Not at the time it wasn't, no. Now there was a barber next to the Salvation Army, um I believe there was a little candy store and I don't remember the name of it. I think a guy by the name of Vince Paskaluski (Phonetic) is the one who still has a barber shop there. Um, no, because there was the old market and you could just about get anything you wanted in the old market. Then we had a IGA which was over by Green street. Then they had Dave's bar that was another watering hole. Dave's bar was a place that everybody went to in the evenings after they got off. At that time you could be eighteen, but if you weren't of age you didn't get served I mean everyone knew everyone. And the old A&P store which is the museum now, I believe. The house that's across the street from that on the corner Bobby Campbell owns that also. We lived in there for a while. Um, then they extended, of course, the water, the land has been extended out in that area, where the reception area is now. To the right of the reception area was the old oyster house. I can remember that as if it were yesterday. People would come in with their oysters and deliver them, they would buy oysters there. I remember going swimming in the dock [Laughter] so um, Annapolis has changed and we had on Compromise street Sholes Welding shop (Phonetic) I don't know if anyone's told you that was a welding shop there for many, many, many years I think they have the theaters there now. And then next to Sholes was a guy called Sid Snidley's Cleaning Service [Laughter]. Jerry Smith is a battalion chief with the Annapolis Fire Department

he was born and raised there. And they've changed that, that's some kind of gift shop now, and next to that was Manhattan, Mills liquors, Hazards Paint store, the barber shop John's Tavern. And on the corner was a little nickel, dime or penny, nickel and dime candy shop. And I believe the guy's name was Blum that had it for many many years. The building was running down 'course after he passed away they came and they restored the building. Then the old gas station which was in the middle there and they had the public bathrooms. That was the only place to go to the bathroom, unless you went into buy beer or went in to buy a sandwich. They would let you come in to do it [Laughter] it was somethin'.

BANKO: Then, let's see, Randall connected with King George. What was that like compared to your street?

GOODMAN: Um, I would say they King George street was an area where you were kind of starting to get uptown a little bit. Um, there was a lot of people that lived on King George that had money. And further up Prince George street people had money. If I'm not mistaken and I think Doris DeLucia (Phonetic) could tell you, I think Hell's Point stopped at East street. Pretty sure that was at east street and went all the way up to the circle. Yeah, I can't really say much about that, only that I know when I was a kid we used to talk about the train that would bring the materials down for Johnson's Lumber co., down the Naval academy. I remember the old Guard house if it were yesterday. Going in gate 1 there was a guard house on the right hand side. And sailors would have a few too many and they'd bring them in there and even have the cells in there and lock up and take 'em over to north Severn, so.

BANKO: So, the train was just a very familiar sound to you?

GOODMAN: I can remember it um, I think it went out around the 50's I believe, if I'm not mistaken. And you have to realize I was around six then. Steam Boat Warf, I'm sure you heard of that at the end of Prince George

street. No I can't think of much more to say about King George street or East street as far as that's concerned for any businesses except the um, that's terrible I can't think of the old guys name, he had the um, grocery store on the corner of East and Pinkney street but I remember my parents talking about when they had the black plague that hit this country , there would be a mortuary. They would have people hanging up from the ceiling in bags, they had these big hooks in the ceiling, and they would have people hanging up from the bags, that's how many people had died from it.

BANKO: When did you say that was, or did you?

GOODMAN: The Black Plague, I believe was in 1917, but you know it has been passed down from generation to generation about it and they had talked about it. That story was still there in the 50's. I think he finally passed away in the 60's, and I think that's when they closed the store up.

BANKO: Then a, what other activities were going on during the day or at night?

GOODMAN: Well a, we all, we were poor people of course, the younger kids would get together and go swimming or we would make a sock up. Take a couple socks and roll them together, take a broomstick and go down to the school ground and play ball that was our ball. We didn't have any hard ball or soft ball, we had to use a sock. Some of the guys and I wasn't one of them was really good at it, I mean the could knock a home run over the fence. It was incredible to see 'em do it. We had a game called "Caught Caught Caught," I don't know if you remember that, but a it used to be a very popular game to us. You would go off and you go hide and you'd have a base and you'd have to catch everybody and take back to base, and would be like jail. Somebody could sneak in and free them all you just have to be quick. We would play that for hours at a time at the community service building. It was a good game, we all enjoyed it. And that and the movies. The Old Republican Movies , the Circle Movies, the Capital Movie. And I even went to the Star Movies a couple of times. Like I said I never had any trouble anyone,so.

BANKO: You mentioned, you said you were poor, Prince George, Randall, and King George, um, you said King George was a little more upper scale....

GOODMAN: A little more upper scale officers and what have you.

BANKO: So, what kind of a, was there any kind of reputation about your street at all?

GOODMAN: I don't say it was a reputation but I can remember if you wasn't from that area you just didn't come down and fool around. It just was simple that was a taboo to come down to that part of the town and fool with anyone. And the way I used the word hell raisin', the hell raisin' part was good times. I can't remember people fighting against other people, I don't remember that. I remember some sailors gettin' in a fight comin' down there and trying to push there way, my dad was a sailor, tried to push their way around into the bars and it just didn't work.

Banko: So, Prince George street, What did the dock look like?

GOODMAN: Well, you didn't really have much of a dock, because at the end of there its only as wide as the street, about thirty feet. And really wasn't much there where Steam Boat Warf used to be. And I would hear my uncle and my mother talk about how they used to come in and throw money. That's where the boat used to come from over the Eastern shore and all that. They used to throw money off and dive in and get money out of the water that's when you could see the lower part of the water. Lots of sludge and algae.

BANKO: Was there any other activities going on?

GOODMAN: We had the community service building. It had eight pool tables in it. And up stairs um, we had mats and things we could take and rassel and carry on and play basketball there. As years progress Buddy Dean, Mill Grant (Phonetic) and those guys, they would come in and throw dances up in there. On that street alone, were the faucets (Unclear) that used to be the old Acme. And next to that was a gas station named Winegardeners. Of course the fleet and reserve club is there and that used to be the old sand and gravel pit, where they used to bring barges in and unload the gravel. Next to that was a place called Eddie Leonard's. Eddie Leonard's was I think one of the biggest distribution places around that sold athletic wear. And he owned, and I'll never forget this because he owned a big part of that block. In the back of him and in back of fleet, that whole area was falling down. Finally they came and replaced it ,looks real well now. Next to him was a Texaco station and there was a pole setting there and I think I was around fourteen years maybe fifteen years old. I had just left the community service building I was headed back down into town. And I heard this noise and I ran up the street I saw this car and this guy had hit this car and actually killed his self. He come around the corner. They took some of the corner out of it. The old play ground, that's where all the carnival's used to be. Green street elementary school, in the back they got a big area kids can play. well they would come in with carnivals for many many years. Finally the people got tired of it because the carnival people were comin' and taken advantage. Literally taking peoples money.

Then Saint Mary's would also would have a carnival every year. And they finally got away from that. There's a lot of good activities in this area. I can remember one year on easter we all went swimming and by twelve o'clock we had to get out of the water 'cause it started snowin'.

BANKO: [Laughter] That's amazing. So, let's see, where did most of your play mates live?

GOODMAN: Different areas. I would say Cornhill street, Fleet street, East street... We would have a lot of guys come up from Murray Avenue and which used to be called snob hill. That's where all the people with money lived. We had big families six to eight to ten kids. I think the Hubbards were in the eighteens. I think the Michaeljohn's also had nine.

BANKO: So, when you were younger were girls aloud to play with you?

GOODMAN: Girls always played. They were always in the game as well as boys. If we played football they played football. If we tackled they tackled. No, there wasn't any feminism.

BANKO: Describe a typical summer day?

GOODMAN: Get up about day break go down and get a crab net, get a basket or a box and go down and catch some crabs. Around ten or eleven o'clock we'd have three or four dozen and I'd take 'em up to my uncles. He'd cook 'em up for me. We'd either go fishin' or swimmin'. If somethin' was playing at the movies, cost fifteen or twenty-five cent, we'd go to the movies later on that day. In them days if you went to the movies you were aloud to stay all day.

BANKO: Where was the most popular place to play then?

GOODMAN: I'd say the community service building. We'd also go up to the state house and play "King of the Mountain" up there. They used to have pillars we'd try to jump off. They stopped us from doing that. They said because the Governor's mansion was over there.

BANKO: What kinds of neighborhood activities went on in the summer?

GOODMAN: There really wasn't many neighborhood activities. We, my brother and I my cousin Peewee and Nicki Polumbo (Phonetic) who really got a teen club started at the recreation center and at the Moose on West street. That's when we started having clubs.

BANKO: Describe your club to me?

GOODMAN: Typical tennis shoes, dungarees, t shirt, I had hair at the time [Laughter]. Carried a comb or brush. I guess that's what happened to me. I combed it away [Laughter].

BANKO: What did your parents do in the summer?

GOODMAN: Went to the bar and did their drinking. My mother was a very moderate drinker. And after a while she just stopped drinking altogether. My step father, drinkin' was part of his culture I guess. The majority of Hells Pointers I say at least 75% of them were drinkers. I don't drink any more. Anything that happened was all clean fun. I can't ever remember of hearing of a murder, of a robbery, of an assault, not in that area it just didn't happen. So we must have had something in our genes or our culture. Morals is another thing, that's where we have lost it in this country. There are no more morals in this country. When they come in and say you can't spank your child, I can remember my mother talking on Main street one day and I walked up and I interrupted her and she slapped me. I cried and all, but you know I learned a lesson. I don't care who it is, if I walk up I'll say excuse me. She put something in me I'll never forget and that slap did it. Today you can't slap your child.

BANKO: You said earlier that you had relatives living on the street, how many families lived in the area that were related to you?

GOODMAN: Only a couple, only a couple. and I say the reason for that is, Back street and Prince George, we had four families living there. It was a big house, it was huge house. My grandmother, grandfather, Shirley, myself, my brother, mother and step father, uncle Billy Drewry, Gary, David, Patricia, ..., we must have had twenty people staying in that house. And my grandfather was taking care of most of them because most of them weren't working. And he worked for the city for thirty some years and took care of the dump. The dump was originally on Sparh Road they moved it form there out on 450. But he took care of everyone. They'd set there all hours of the night and play cards and he would never complain, never...(the cassette ended on the first side). He was the type of guy that would give you the shirt of his back and never complain about it. And a, just work an work an work, that's what he was good at, he was workin' and raisin' his children.

BANKO: So, you all spent a lot of time together then?

GOODMAN: Yes, a lot of time, yeah. Yeah, I would say out of a twenty-four hour day we, I would say at least sixteen hours.

BANKO: A lot of time with the folks, that's for sure. What kinds of winter activities did you do?

GOODMAN: Winter activities? Ah, the City of Annapolis would block off Newman street, they'd actually take

a dozer and put a mound of snow there and we'd use Newman, they'd close Newman street off, we could, able to sleigh ride. They'd get all the cars off of it, an that's where all the kids would go sleigh ridin'. That and Saint John's College, they have that hill that goes down over Saint John's College, also we'd do it there and a lot of times the creek would freeze up and we'd go back there and go ice skating. But we were a little leery gettin' out on the ice, the majority of us, because we knew if you fell in the ice you'd be in big trouble.

That's what we really did in the winter time.

BANKO: So, winters around um, it doesn't seem to snow much very often...

GOODMAN: No, no, and I believe that's because of the water, where we are located. We live in a really a good area in the United States. I think that's for weather wise and winter wise. We just, off the bay, the bay just doesn't produce a, 'course if it comes... unclear... I think that's when it comes up and catches all that moisture we get hit once a while. But no, it's a good area to live in.

BANKO: And the cold didn't stop you from...

GOODMAN: Oh, no, no, I can remember walking out when I was a kid with, I had holes in my shoes, and couple times I remember goin' out gettin' kerosene, didn't have any shoes. So, you know that's the way my stepfather was, he said "Go get me some..." I said "I don't have any shoes" he said "That's not my fault" and I'd walk across to the Amoco station and get the kerosene. That's what we'd burn with, kerosene.

BANKO: What kind of stove would that be?

GOODMAN: That's a pre-standing stove that just blows, and it's tied into the chimney and the heat would come out of it three, four ways, two sides, front and the top. They were very dangerous a, I can remember many, many cold nights. I 'member many times not havin' food, but only good times. I have to say in Annapolis, I had good times in Annapolis.

BANKO: And what were some of your favorite holidays, or your families favorite holidays?

GOODMAN: I would say a, ha that's a bad question to ask me {Laughter}.

BANKO: Well, you don't have to answer it.

GOODMAN: Ah, no, I don't mind answering that. I, I guess Christmas was the biggest holiday, and, Easter. And I wish I had all these days to go back to. I found my life in Jesus Christ and I feel much better about myself and if I was to leave this earth in five minutes I'm at peace with myself. I couldn't have said this three years ago. But I have some bad memories because of my step father and what he did and that would be his day of being a tyrant I guess that would be a good word to use. That he would actually tear the tree down and tear the toys up, and beat our mother and but like I say, I've learned a great lesson in life because of that. And I'm a good person by it. My mother must of liked it because she stuck with him for thirty some years. It was hard, and she had all those she couldn't leave and I understood that. And that's why I left home, because he beat her one day. My brother and I jumped in she said "Leave 'em alone, you'll hurt 'em, you'll hurt 'em." I said "Ma, I can't handel this" she said "Well you can leave if you want son." He said "No you can't" and she said "Yes you can." So I got my clothes and I left, but I, I learned a great lesson from that. That was a good lesson in life.

BANKO: What about the fourth of July, or Memorial Day, were there any things going on?

GOODMAN: Well, not really we didn't have any, any big fireworks. They would shoot of a few down at the dock and all. But, nothin' big, no, no big fireworks. Not, like there are to day.

BANKO: Today holidays are pretty much taken for granted aren't they?

GOODMAN: Taken for granted, yes yes. They sure are. Well I can remember though, forth of July, families used to get together we'd have picnics. You know we did do that. And of course they drank their beer and had their good time. Yeah, I would say forth of July was probably one of the bigger holidays for families in this area getting together. Or down Dave's bar or down John's Bar or some place some bar they'd get together.

BANKO: What was a typical weekend like?

GOODMAN: Um, no, I would say a typical weekend was goin' to the movies, or going up on fifty and flagin' cars and, If you know what flagin' cars are. You stand there an you say get ready get set go. and you let your hand down that was the flag. And they'd take off. I remember last time I did it, state police come by and said "I saw you flagin' these cars" and I said "Yes, sir I guess I did flag 'em." He said "I'll tell what I'm gonna do, Instead of runnin' you in I'm gonna let walk back to Annapolis." So, he got in his car and I walked back to Annapolis and he followed me all the way back. Needless, to say I stopped flagin' cars [Laughter]. The skating rink was another place. Which was considered at the time in the county, 'course it's in the city now and its gone. But that's another place we'd go a lot even though wasn't right in the city. That and the a, drive in theater, I don't know if anyone told you about that. Well, the drive in theater is out a, where Heckingers is out at Parole is now. We'd spend a lot of time in drive in theaters and a lot of time at the skatin' rink out on west street, by Hudson street out there.

I think it's a Nissan car dealer or sometin' there now. Yeah, we used to spend a lot of time there .

BANKO: Well, let's move on to school. Where did you go to school?

GOODMAN: I went to school at Green street. Ah, I did my six years in Green street and then went to Annapolis Junior High. Which is now Bates over here. And I quit in the eighth grade, because I needed to go to work, and try to make some money for the family. Of course that might of been a cop-out at the time, I'm not sure. But I went back, I went back and got my GED, about twenty years ago. 'Cause of my wife. She's been the one who's instrumental in me, where I'm at today if it wasn't for her, I don't think I'd be here today. And I went back and got that and I took a couple of classes in cardiac arrhythmia and I got real good at that. And I was a paramedic for Annapolis Fire Department for fifteen years, and that was probably my call card, but I wasn't smart enough at the time to realize I was going to hurt myself in a way I wasn't goin' to do the paramedical field anymore. But, I got my GED, and I'm very pleased with that part of my life. But if I had it to do over again I'd a gotten the education and a, I'd went to eight years of college and become a doctor or lawyer. Instead of out here breakin' my back and gettin' callouses and so, and so on. But we can only go ahead we can't go back.

BANKO: Was elementary and junior high segregated?

GOODMAN: Um, junior high was yes.

BANKO: Do you know why junior high and maybe not elementary?

GOODMAN: I really don't know why, really don't know why. Maybe it was the times.

BANKO: Was it hard for you to go to junior high and you had black friends and you knew they'd be going to another school?

GOODMAN: Ah, no, but they started comin' there. I think I was in the eighth and, when I hit the ninth grade they started comin' they were comin'. And I just think it was the times had changed, had started changing. And I think the times could have changed a whole lot faster, if certain people would have just let things go. It's like Barn's, Barn's Restaurant. I don't know if anyone had said anything. But that was a place up the top of Main street goin' out Rowe Boulevard on the right hand side...Unclear...he had a restaurant there. He wouldn't let black people in there, but I never went there to eat so, it didn't make any difference to me. I said if they wasn't gonna serve them, I wasn't gonna cater to 'em. And a, he finally closed his doors because of that, said he wasn't gonna serve blacks. I never understood that. And I hear people saying...Unclear...well, blacks went all the way in the back and the whites sat in the front. I always sat in the back of the bus. You know that's...

BANKO: The backs more fun.

GOODMAN: That's right, bounces around. But no, I just think a lot of people are makin' a lot to do out of things today. And it will come around. This country's gonna come around, it's gonna take a lot to do it, but I think were all gonna come around and be good Christians, because hard times are comin'. I mean we haven't seen hard times yet. I a, I been readin' and I been listening and I just think there's, I don't want to be a pessimist either, but I think we're do for a terrible earthquake on earth. And it's coming soon, and I think maybe we'll all unite as good Christians and get rid of all this crime and what have you. I hope so anyway.

BANKO: ...Unclear...Let's move on to family. You said there was about twenty people in your house. Did you have your own room?

GOODMAN: Oh, no, [Laughter]. We normally shared and with four of five of us. And we slept, I remember now when we lived on Prince George in Bobby's house...Unclear...four of us slept down on the day bed. Day beds were ol' type metal beds at the time that's where we slept down there.

BANKO: And at that time when you lived in that house, was your, had your mother been remarried at that time?

GOODMAN: Yeah, she married him. He just couldn't hold a job. I mean he was good at his trade he just couldn't hold a job. And we'd stay in a house for thirty days and he'd owe money and move. Just went on and it was just like a cycle.

BANKO: So, you mentioned, you basically quit school because you needed to work. Did your brother...

GOODMAN: My brother Carl, had one brother, my real brother he worked for the Sun papers. He's been there for thirty years. He lives in Brooklyn, he doesn't live in Annapolis anymore. But he never had a problem learning. He just never studied but Friday, and Friday morning he'd take a book a...Technical difficulty...

BANKO: What were birthdays like?

GOODMAN: Ah, we'd have a cake and we'd have a card, and they'd normally get you one toy or something if you wanted and that's all. That's what birthdays were like. One year my brother and I, we got a little cowboy suit with a gun, two guns, and a hat, leather vest and the reason I remember that so vivid is that my uncle Duggie died that day, the day we had gotten it. He was the one I said laid in the hospital from seventeen until he was twenty-one. And my grandfather wouldn't let 'em autopsy, put a autopsy. That's why everyone thinks now maybe that's

where the cancer originally was and we could have had 'em autopsy...Unclear...kidney's and all, maybe some of the other ones in the family might of been here today, but that's past tense too. But that's all, we didn't have any big big parties at McDonald's and what have you [Laughter]. Was just a simple cake.

BANKO: Did you ever have a vegetable garden at all?

GOODMAN: No, we had rabbits out in the back, I remember rasin' rabbits. And we'd raise rabbits sometimes we'd eat 'em. I wouldn't eat 'em they were my pets and I'd remember him killin' 'em and we'd eat 'em.

BANKO: How did you handle something like that?

GOODMAN: Well, you know you had no other choice in life but to handle it. You were out there, you know that was just one of he things in life you had to deal with.

BANKO: Who did the cooking in your home?

GOODMAN: My mother, my mother.

BANKO: ...Unclear...

GOODMAN: They'd share, they all worked together. All the sisters were really close. Sisters and the brothers, they were all real close they really were. They worked real hard together.

BANKO: And what was a typical holiday meal like?

GOODMAN: Big. Turkey, ham, corn, bread, potatoes, you name it. If it were on the menu we had it.

BANKO: And your clothing what did you wear to school?

GOODMAN: I just wore mainly dungarees, loafers, and a shirt. We didn't have and you had to buy what you could in them days. And there wasn't a whole lot of money to buy clothes, so we didn't really have a whole lot to dress up.

BANKO: What did you wear on Sunday if you went to church?

GOODMAN: Sunday we had to wear a suit or tie and a white shirt. Especially a tie and a white shirt. We went to Salvation Army at the time. My mother wouldn't go, but made it a point that we got up and we'd go to church...Technical difficulty...

At this point, the tape recorder malfunctioned and the rest of the manuscript is from notes.

BANKO: Were any of your family members employed at the Naval Academy?

GOODMAN: Yes, my aunt Hazel worked and retired there, she was there about 18-20 years.

BANKO: What did she do?

GOODMAN: She worked in the laundry. She lived on Holland, they looked like cardboard houses.

BANKO: So, then the houses were still there and occupied after 1941.

GOODMAN: Yes, until probably 1950 or so.

BANKO: You mentioned earlier that the sailors would come into town.

GOODMAN: And they would fight with the locals and get hurt. At that time gate 1 had a building on the right with a cell in it and they (the academy) would ship them up to North Severn.

BANKO: What kind of an attitude did you have toward them?

GOODMAN: I got along with them. Really I get along with everyone, I don't bother any one if they don't bother me.

BANKO: Did you ever participate in activities on the Naval academy?

GOODMAN: No, there wasn't anything for people to do if the weren't from the academy. Al Hopkins wrote about sports, I believe.

BANKO: What is your feeling about Hell Point Today?

GOODMAN: I miss it, for the security. You could sleep through the night and leave the doors unlocked. You wouldn't have to worry about someone coming into your house.

BANKO: I understand your a member of the Hell Point association.

GOODMAN: We were having meetings, about 3 or 4 times a year, but they have slowed down I hope we can have another one soon.

This ends the transcript

ARCHEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER, 1993

Interview with Louis Phipps, Jr., Louis Hyatt

Interviewer: Simone Key

Date: June 30, 1993

KEY: I'd like to start out with sort of a basic description of Hell Point, start out with where and when you lived in hell point.

PHIPPS: Well, I was born at 124 Prince George Street in 1927, in fact delivered in the house by Doctor Oliver Pervis, who was a family doctor, lived in a stucco house, with a barn in back of the yard. Adjacent to us a couple was a apartment rental house. Across the street the Campbell family lived who also worked and had a stall in the city market-Robert Campbell, Sr. To the left of the Campbell house was the Frown (phonetic) house, Gertrude Frown who lived there for years. That area has not changed much from the time of my remembrance.

Next to the Frown property, um, I remember a Safeway being built, but former to that there were houses that people lived going down as far as Craig Street. Jack Taylor family lived on the corner. Hard to remember who lived next to it. Next to them, directly across the street from them, the Patterson family lived there, Pat Patterson, for years, then the Berman house, Stanley Berman and Lenny Berman. The Berman's had a haberdashery store on Main Street, then it was the Sands house which had rental people and then I really don't know who owned that property, but that's about the corner. You go around the corner, on the corner was the Florestano property, which I believe probably is still there. Sands house is still there too, OK, so, they basically stopped at the Patterson house and took behind, took some of Randall Street.

KEY: OK, OK, and you were born in 1927?

PHIPPS: Twenty-seven.

KEY: OK, OK. I guess I'd like to have a brief discussion about your ideas of where the name Hell Point might have come from. If you have any...

PHIPPS: My recollection is that Hell Point and Eastport were just old names that were, were you know, that were just given by somebody, why, what have you, maybe because we had so much fun in Hell Point. I know we had, uh, well, it was a very close group of people lived in Hell Point. Holland Street, I believe, had some black families, I'm not sure how many, but it was very few, but we all played together. The Newells (phonetic) lived on Dock, on Holland Street, also Al Hopkins I believe lived on Holland Street. We used as our play-grounds, the Naval Academy, because we used to get chased off the school ground properties over in (unclear) grammar school, where we all went to school, and walked to school, which is now a buildings, where the parking lot is on Compromise Street. That was a play-ground we played up on, and we used to have teams. We used to play the Navy Juniors, we used to go over and play in an area called Sleepy Hollow. They'd have a Navy Junior team, and we'd, I don't know we'd call us Hell Pointers or Annapolis, I don't know what we, but uh...Craig Street was a area that everyone seemed to skate and we used to have hockey games there with a hockey puck and, with roller skates, play it on roller skates. The Purdy (phonetic) Seafood place was at the end of Craig Street toward the dock, the city dock, which is now the city dock. The Michaeljohn (phonetic) family and numerous people lived in a group of houses, um, I guess where part of the parking lot is now, for the city downtown and also's a Esso tank farm that was there with large, I guess, fuel storage tanks. I remember a lot of presidents used to come and get on a boat at that dock and go to a place called Popler (phonetic) Island where they had a lodge, the Jefferson Club. I remember Harry Truman comin' and I remember Roosevelt coming. Roosevelt came to Annapolis in 1933, when I was a young man and my father was the mayor at the time. I had the privilege of shaking his hand, ...(unclear)...the fact they were looking for me to find me, I kept, I ran up to the Governor's Mansion, and, this is very unique, his car that he was in, platform just turned out and he rolled out, very dynamic man, seemed to get around on his own. He was here campaigning, I believe, for one of the United States Senators, it might have been Tydings or it might have been Lewis who was running against somebody, (unclear) this is just from memory, could be wrong. I believe Harry Nice (phonetic) was governor, was a Republican governor and I think he, I remember, was being told that he came aboard a boat at Crisfield and then drove from Crisfield up to each little city and stopped, and stopped in Annapolis.

KEY: OK, that's wonderful, as far as the houses, just a physical description of the houses in Hell Point. Can you

give me some idea of what your house looked like?

PHIPPS: Well, our house was a stucco house, not changed to much from the present structure, except we had a porch across the whole front. And the barn in back and the loft is gone, (unclear). The Berman house looks pretty much the same. The Smalls lived next door to us and their house hasn't changed much and then the Averys (phonetic) lived there. But I remember as a kid we moved up to College Avenue, in '39 or '40, maybe '40, '39 probably and I thought that was a long way up-town. I used to remember that, I used to go down to Hell Point and play, and I'd run up the middle of the street to go home at night, run home after dark.

KEY: Wow, that's neat. Now, were there ever any problems walking around...

PHIPPS: No, no, no problems whatsoever. Everybody knew everybody. Every...I guess the greatest thing that I can remember so much during the Depression Years, I guess I didn't think about it too much, but there was no Welfare in Annapolis at that time and everybody helped everybody. I mean it just seemed like to me that each family helped each other. Groceries were given out. I remember that there used to be several grocery stores there where Middletons tavern was Mandris restaurant. Family still owns it, Cleo Apostol is the (unclear) of Mandris, Mary Mandris and I just remember going there and gettin' five cent popsicles or five cent ice-cream cones and that was a big thrill in those days. And we used to have a little football team and we used to, Louie Lott (phonetic) was a grocery store, Shanker had a shoe store and Manny Shanker is still living too, and Sam Shanker. They could tell you something about downtown Annapolis. Emmanuel Shanker and Sam Shanker, they had a shoe store, their father had a shoe store there. There was a meat market, well, my memory is George Graif (phonetic) owned it, I think Lou remembers somebody else that owned it, but that old football team used to have a son (?) of Louie Light and Jake Greenberg and something Hike (phonetic), we had...(unclear)...stores. I can remember the people. Where McGarvey's is now was a black saloon owned by a fellow named Smith. I guess the alley going up by the McGarveys was predominantly black, but they were all people that, you know, we all played together, worked together and, um, Gray's (phonetic), Mrs Gray used to have, sell crab cakes, and I believe up until her death she still sold them somewhere in Annapolis, but they were good crab cakes. That was, I believe, on the corner of Craig Street and Dock Street, little, little...

KEY: So she had a, like a vendor, it was like a street, were there...

PHIPPS: No, no, just a little, little shop, little store and I can remember it was painted white and screened in and she'd sell crab cakes. The seafood house was right across the way. The boats were, harbor at dock was, in the wintertime, always filled with boats, oyster boats. Captain Harvey Avery ran a fishing party boat from right on the corner of the seafood place, which was, uh, Purdy finally ended up with it, but it was his father's, but that, you know, they used to unload oysters there. Johnson Lumber Company, which I previously mentioned was down next to the ferry channel and they usually get all their lumber shipments that came into Johnson Lumber Company, that place. I remember, as a kid, I had a little Moth (?) sailboat and I backed up, the John M. Dennis, the ferry boat came in and I caught some hell from my father, that night when I got home.

KEY: [laughter] Oh my goodness!

PHIPPS: Yep, I remember that very well. (unclear) come to land there and of course you know sail boats have the right of way so I'm like a little smart little kid, I'm sailing out there, [laughter] and the damn boat, you know...

KEY: Wow! That's wonderful. You mentioned the oysters, I had read some reference to large piles of oyster shells.

PHIPPS: Yes, yes, behind the seafood house, I would venture to say, oyster shell piles would probably, oh, 20 or 30 feet high.

KEY: Oh my goodness.

PHIPPS: Yeah, yeah and really, I guess the street where the Michaeljohns lived, I think both of those people are still living too, it's uh, I'm sure if you find them in the phone book, Wampy (phonetic) Michaeljohn and Newy (phonetic) Michaeljohn are the two that I remember, that's probably not their formal names, but that's the names that we had, my name was Buster really, that's whatcha...

KEY: How did you get that nickname?

PHIPPS: Well I guess they said that I was delivered at home and Doctor Pervis (phonetic) said, "Here comes a busting baby boy!" or something like that so, and I was, was a long while before I was really, I guess, named. In fact I remember being baptized down at country where the preacher ringer (?) dipped up the water bucket, lifted up that little ladle over my head and so, a little bit of water, so...

KEY: That's wonderful, OK, and you had mentioned, you spoke briefly about the depression, and how people had worked together, there was a couple other episodes during that time that I wanted to bring up to see if you remember them. There was a hurricane in 19...

PHIPPS: Yep, yep,

KEY: '33?

PHIPPS: '33, '32 or '33, the same hurricane that, I believe, the inlet in at Ocean City, water was up to our front steps. The Burtis (?) property which, where the, and the dock where the state yacht now lies, the water was high there. But the water itself at that time was up to the tree in front of our house on Prince George Street.

KEY: Do you remember damage that it might have caused?

PHIPPS: Well, uh, all I remember is basically high tides and having a fun going around in a row boat [laughter], you know.

KEY: [laughter] Did you really?

PHIPPS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Had a row boat tied to the tree in front of the house.

KEY: Oh my goodness. It's a wonderful image. And there was a fire at Carvel Hall also during that, that time.

PHIPPS: Yeah, yeah, well that happened, that wasn't

too, wasn't really late...um, it burned most, yes Carvel, that wasn't really way back. That was fairly recently. Carvel Hall was owned by the Armbruster family, changed hands several times and then I, well, the last owner, the Naval Athletic Association (Louis Hyatt enters), the last owner, I believe who sold it. But the Naval Academy athletic section tried to make a hotel of it, but that's in the '60s, that's the really late, that's not me. Doesn't go back too far.

KEY: OK, um, (cut-off)

PHIPPS: But it's interesting though at that time, you know the school, the school property, we as kids couldn't use it. We used to have to climb, and get chased off. We spent more time I think playing at the Naval Academy than we did on our own school property lot.

KEY: My goodness, and what was the name of that school?

PHIPPS: Annapolis Grammar school.

KEY: And you mentioned that you and your friends played in the neighborhood, how often did you ever venture outside of the neighborhood, or did you?

PHIPPS: Uh, well, you know, when I moved to College Avenue, that was a long way uptown, uh, Main Street and the Naval Academy. We used to go over and play, the Annapolis team played the Navy Juniors in a place called Sleepy Hollow, I believe I might have mentioned this before, over by the Naval Academy boathouse. And we used to like to go play them, because they always had permission to play on the good field [laughter], huh?

KEY: Oh, yes, OK, OK. And um, so you went to Annapolis Grammar school, um, were your friends predominantly from school, or was it the people you lived near, um...

PHIPPS: Well at that time, people came by bus. Of course the Newells, the Rauches (phonetic) went to school with me, you know, Mildred Pastraner (phonetic), I can think of. They lived on Main Street, lower end of Main Street. If I had that picture in front of me, I could probably identify most of them.

KEY: Ok, Ok, and this school, it drew obviously kids from all over Annapolis...

PHIPPS: Oh yeah. John Sheckels was a member of my class, Miss Jones class 2B, and he lived down Horace Creek, he came by bus, so actually, I would say the whole, within five-ten mile radius of Annapolis came to school at the Annapolis Grammar school.

KEY: And do you remember what it was like to talk about where people lived, and the fact that you lived in Hell Point, and did you ever, you know, did kids ever talk about where they lived?

PHIPPS: I don't think that was really, I think before my time, Hell Point was kind of an issue with Eastport and they used to play football or, I mean play baseball. Good baseball teams in Eastport. Newby Catlin was a great pitcher. Another family that lived in Hell Point were the Catlins, and Bip and Flea Catlin. I remember when I was a little kid, probably seven or eight, Flea used to always take me to all the Naval Academy sporting events. Everything was free then, except the football games. I used to go, I guess, every Saturday, go from one o'clock to go see the wrestling match, then go see the basketball game, or see boxin' on an evening. But I think the relationship with downtown, with the community, the kids, we had practically the use of the Naval Academy. Every now and then the Jimmy Legs would chase us around, but that, that didn't bother us, I mean, they used to ride on bicycles in those days.

KEY: Really, Ok...

PHIPPS: Rode the patrol on bicycles.

KEY: Now to get back to your family, how large a family was it?

PHIPPS: Well, my sister Doris, my sister and I. She still lives in Annapolis.

KEY: Ok, and what did you parents do?

PHIPPS: My father was the automobile business.

KEY: And your mother...?

PHIPPS: Housewife.

KEY: Alrighty, how would you describe some of the activities that your family partook in, specifically at home?

PHIPPS: Well my father was in politics, and he was usually pretty busy, he was mayor of Annapolis in '39, he was state senator, you know. On and off he was in politics most of his life, adult life, served in the senate twenty years, so lot of our life centered around politics. Not me too much, I really wasn't that involved as a young man, but my mother had lot of political organizations, political clubs, and that sort of thing. I think, you didn't have TV, and you didn't have much to entertain yourself, and I think there's lot of organizations, lot of clubs that used to do things together. Craig Street was another area where we used to play hockey on roller skates and, between playing ice, not ice hockey, but roller skates hockey with a puck on Craig Street, was, it had a little short street, and it had curbs on both sides, and open ends. Jack Taylor lived in a corner house right next to Craig Street and the place where Bob Campbell now has his T shop, T-Shirt shop, Roland Brown lived there, who was a Republican and very interested and involved in Republican politics. Right across the street from Roland Brown, I believe, Tootsie Carroll (phonetic), she's still living, and her family lived there, she lives in Eastport now, I believe.

KEY: That's wonderful, Ok, so as far as that, do you remember any functions that you were around for, that your parents might have had?

PHIPPS: Well, my father used to have lot of political gatherings. I remember when he was elected mayor the fire trucks and the, I was just a young kid, that was '37, '39, one or the other, and I just, I remember, you know, they had flares and what have you. I think there was lot more interest in politics in those days, than there is now. It was more local involvement. No TV, you only had one little newspaper, the Capitol.

KEY: Alrighty, let's see here, what have we covered, now you mentioned the Naval Academy...

(Louis Hyatt enters and sits down)

KEY: About the Naval Academy, you had mentioned obviously that you went to lot of functions at the Naval Academy as far as sports, do you remember any activities that you ever went to?

HYATT: Well, I worked, I sold Liberty magazines for five cents, and I sold them at the ball game. I mean on King George Street, outside the number one gate, which is where Thompson (phonetic) stadium was. So I sold newspapers and primarily Liberty magazines and newspapers. The other thing I did, I parked cars in the, what we call, now call, Green Street, the Annapolis Elementary, it was called Annapolis Grammar school at the time, on Green Street. We were kids parking cars, because at the time, they had the, where it's been demolished now, ...(unclear)..., it was a vernacular (?) of a park that we had there, on the circle. We would catch the traffic coming, came down Main Street on, it was a two way street, but you came down Main Street to go around the circle to head into the Naval Academy, up Randall (?) Street, make a right turn into King George ...(unclear)... and the number one gate down there. So, we used to grab cars as they're looking for parking spaces and get a buck out of them, which was big money in those days, to park, sometimes might get less, but to park on the Green Street (unclear), you remember that, that's what we did.

PHIPPS: No, I parked in my father's back yard. [laughter]

HYATT: [laughter] Ok, we used to park cars and do things like that so we got the benefits of that.

KEY: Ok. As far as other social, I guess social activities, that happened on the Navel Academy, did you ever take part in those?

HYATT: I didn't.

PHIPPS: No, they were, we played with the Navy Juniors, but as far as any social, my father used to go lot when he was mayor, that sort of thing, but I, there were more kids I think in the Naval Academy than now, maybe I'm not associating with them.

KEY: You did just mention the fact that there were kids there...

HYATT/PHIPPS: We call them Navy Juniors

HYATT: They were, they went to school with us, they lived inside the gates, because the houses that run along the wall, that's where the kids grew up and they were usually pretty nice, clean cut kids, compared to some of the Hell Pointers down there.

PHIPPS: But all the Hell Pointers, I never, ...(unclear)... hell, those were tough times.

HYATT: Well right, but, ...(unclear)... a little different area, now, where I was more exposed to as a child, as a child this is probably going back when I was probably a teenager or less, was all the excitement of when they had football games and also June Week, because that's when all these activities going at the Naval Academy, but that's when the sailors used to unload the ships in downtown, they discontinued (?), so downtown was a hub-bub of

activity and it was hard-fire entertainment watching the fights between the sailors and the marines and fighting with the local population. They had bars like Captain Dans right on the corner of Cornhill and Dock and Market Space, which is where Riordans is today, that was Captain Dans Tavern and then they had another bar called the..., it was Beenie Williams' bar, which was a black bar, we were a segregated town in those days, so there was a black bar right where Mums (?), where McGarveys is today, that was a black bar.

KEY: What was that called again?

HYATT: It was called, well it was various things, later years it was called Downtown Tavern, but it was Beenie's Bar, reason for it was Beenie Williams...

PHIPPS: Beenie Williams...

HYATT: Guy named Beenie Williams owned the bar, back when I was a young boy, I would say right in the forties or maybe late thirties.

KEY: Now, you mentioned that it was a segregated town, did this affect schools?

HYATT: Segregated, right, there were segregated schools.

KEY: Ok, and Annapolis Grammar school, was that a segregated...

HYATT: Annapolis Grammar was a segregated school.

PHIPPS: Where'd the black kids go?

HYATT: Went to Stanton school...

PHIPPS: Stanton school, that's right...

HYATT/PHIPPS: On Washington Street.

HYATT: That's still, the building's still there. We played together...

PHIPPS: That's right...

HYATT: But we didn't go to school together.

KEY: Ok, Ok. I was going to ask you, Mr. Phipps, your house on Prince George's Street, the back of it backed up against Terry Court, Joyce Court, Block Court, do you remember any impressions of living close to those courts.

PHIPPS: I remember the houses, I guess on the lower end of King George Street, were like Holland Street, not, just clapboard houses. As I said before, I think the Newells lived on Holland Street, so did Al Hopkins live on Holland Street, Carroll family lived on the corner of Holland Street, uh, I forget what was cross on the other, uh, (unclear) comes close to the Patterson house, I guess.

HYATT: Patterson, yeah, and that was, in other words, if you were to look at say Paisley (?) Street today, or Fleet Street, ...(unclear)...poverty there, coming down the hill off State House, but it was a flat parcel of land and they had like, you mentioned all the streets like Johnson Place, with just oyster shell streets, see, and that was a bustling, we refer to things as townhouses, they were row houses and the rents in those days were as low as six dollars a month, in our time, in my time, (unclear). So, a funny thing, I don't know if this fits in or not, but I was asked to speak at the Civic (?) club a few, a couple of years ago, when Al Hopkins was running for mayor (unclear), so I said, "Al, don't get angry when I tell this group how prices have changed, and I can remember when you were paying 15 dollars a month, or your father was paying 15 dollars a month rent." and he says, "Lou, I'm going to have to call you a liar if you say that." I said, "You lived right behind me in old man Harry Elliot's property." he said, "We were only paying 12 dollars a month!" [laughter] So that was the rental, and that was in Hydes Alley which was not as ...(unclear)..., but it was all the same the image that most of these people were waterman, worked for the government, tradesman, carpenters, worked with the tools, lunch boxes, and that was a very major part of downtown. You do your research and come up with the names like Parkinson. You go to West Annapolis there are all kinds of Parkinsons. I grew up with them as Hell Pointers now they are West Annapolitans.

PHIPPS: (Unclear) Gilbert...

HYATT: As you go over to Eastport, you got Campbells, they were Hell Pointers, you go over to where Canters (?) are, over in St. Margarets, lot of the Canters lived in Hell Point, these were just, Michaeljohns, they are all the names that you still got in downtown...

PHIPPS: (unclear) Craig Street...

HYATT: In Hell Point. Holland Street, Craig...

PHIPPS: Did Joe Eucare's family live there too?

HYATT: Eucare, sure.

PHIPPS: Eucare, yeah...

SIDE TWO

HYATT: All of that land, starting at Dock Street, where Harbor House Restaurant is now, from there all the way over to the commercial of King George Street, where you had Kotzens (phonetic) was on the corner of Holland

Street and King George, that was Hollin (?), that was a soft drink bottling, with wholesale candy, tobacco. It was a big complex there and that, so everything else other than the commercial was, except for some of the fancier houses on King George and some single family detached on Prince George, most of them were row houses. And it went all the way up to where Carvel Hall is, where the bus station used to be, right on the corner of Market Street, that was a Greyhound bus station, right next to Carvel Hall, not right on the corner but, that's where the Greyhound bus station. So most of the activity was, you know, it was a very major part of the business support. In other words, all the little grocery stores and liquor stores and taverns, they fed on each other, that was a big part of coming to the city market and that whole area was...

PHIPPS: ...(unclear)...Was Smith's bar open then? Smith's bar was there, right, where McGarveys is.

HYATT: Joe Smith's is the Downtown Bar, that was called the Downtown Bar, that was Joe Smith's...

PHIPPS/HYATT: ...(unclear)...

HYATT: Up until the time, now it was Beenie Williams had it before then.

PHIPPS: Ok, Ok (unclear)

HYATT: Beenie Williams was the one that had it in my earliest days, it was Willie Bloom and Beenie Williams owned it.

PHIPPS: Ok, Ok.

KEY: Now, can you give me some idea of those, you mentioned a couple of taverns, I know on some of the maps, um, I was having problems finding out where people went, tavern wise, as far, in Hell Point.

HYATT: Well, you had a well known tavern on Holland Street, right on the corner of Holland, well, may not have been on the exact corner, but right near the corner, 'cause there was a restaurant on the corner, the guy that ended up in the bus station had a restaurant on the corner, Geo's...

PHIPPS: Gino's...

HYATT: Gyno (phonetic) or whatever his name was...

PHIPPS: Gyno, Max Gyno...

HYATT: Gyno, but that was a restaurant which also had a beer license and then one of the well known taverns was Connell (phonetic) had a tavern there, on, right on Holland Street...

PHIPPS: Ray (?) Connell?

HYATT: Bill's brother.

PHIPPS: Bill's brother.

HYATT: Bill and Frank Connell's brother. Remember, Frank was a policeman, and then Pip Connell's father had the bar.

PHIPPS: Yeah, yeah.

KEY: Alrighty. What haven't we covered yet...

PHIPPS: Who, on the, where the tavern is now, that you used to own, Dockside, what was there?

HYATT: That was, that was...

PHIPPS: Where was Gray's, was Gray...

HYATT: That was Captain Dan's, his name was Sands, that was Captain Dan Sands, that started right after repeal, so that was before my time...

PHIPPS: Ok, Ok...

HYATT: That was on, that was a, that was a local place (unclear) sailors on the corner of Cornhill and Market Space, I mentioned that, 24 Market Space...

PHIPPS: What's next to that, was it Graif (phonetic), or what was it?

HYATT: Graif had...

PHIPPS: Sam Shanker shoe store...

HYATT: Well, Shanker had that, but now that was further down, but then you had Peebles (?) meat market, ...(unclear)...

PHIPPS: That's right, that was before Graif, ...(unclear)...Peebles meat market, Ok.

HYATT: And then you had, where Rookies is, in that same block, which was, lot of the Navy People used to, the Navel officers, lot of them used to buy there, was a kind of a gourmet grocery it would be called today, but that was community market, Banker's (?). He sold, he sold and delivered food to peoples houses, he delivered and he had his own bakery and it was a fancy grocery store, everything from chocolate covered ants, on [laughter]. 'Cause all of these were (unclear) navel officers, they were looking for all kinds of fancy foods, and it was a real, it would be like Sutton Gourmet. It was a grocery store, but the people who called in for (unclear)...

PHIPPS: Banker's ...(unclear)...bought it...

HYATT: Banker's bought it and then Rookie Lowman (phonetic) bought in later years from them, see.

KEY: I just wanted to continue on just a little bit about the Naval Academy...

HYATT: Course I was less involved than him, I was the other side of the fence.

KEY: Ok, both views are definitely things we are interested in as far as, um, how, I realize you were kids, but how the community in general, related to the Naval Academy, that it was so close to, proximity wise.

HYATT: Well, in my opinion, they realized that the Navy and the Naval Academy were big importers. Many of the people that lived down there, worked there. The average teenager wasn't probably too happy with the midshipman, 'cause they seemed to take all the pretty girls out of the highschool, ...(unclear)...we used to resent them.

PHIPPS: Well we used to, when we got old enough, used to date them afterwards so, (took them up to?) Carvel Hall [laughter].

HYATT: [laughter] That was the attitude. They used to call them, the midshipman, bellhops, the local boys downtown...(unclear)..., and there was a certain resentment because they had these fancy uniforms for taking out the highschool girls and that's who they were basically taking out.

PHIPPS: That was ...(unclear)...later (unclear).

HYATT: Well, but that, but that was in the forties.

PHIPPS: Yeah, that's right.

HYATT: Holland Street was gone. I don't know, what year did they take away Holland Street?

PHIPPS: I would say about in '39, '40.

HYATT: Yeah, just prior to World War II.

PHIPPS: Well, no...

HYATT: It was before WWII.

PHIPPS: Yeah, just before WWII

KEY: What are some of your, I guess, impressions of what happened? How did you hear about that the Navy was going to take over a great part of your neighborhood?

PHIPPS: I heard the conversation, my father was mayor of Annapolis at the time, when they were just talking about, um, taking over. I think what saved the area that they did save was the Patterson house which is a historic home and the Sands house, which is...

HYATT: What I would say, from my opinion, I was always kind of interested in what was happening down there, I heard lot of things is, there was lot of negative reaction to it because of the number of homes...

PHIPPS: Displacing so many people...

HYATT: Displacing so many people, and I remember hearing about it, and I don't know the exact time frame, 'cause I was working round that area pretty early and I don't know whether I was...(unclear)...shoe store clerking at the time...

PHIPPS: You probably were...

HYATT: But the merchants were a little bit apprehensive about losing their customers, because they had a, in other words, if you, you have to look at it in a perspective that you had Annapolis, and you had Glen Burnie. The rest of the places like Arnold, Severna Park, Gailsville (phonetic), Shady Side, they weren't where they are today, they were, most of the people, and it doesn't fit in (unclear), downtown Annapolis was the shopping area. People came here on Saturdays, it's the big shopping day, and the downtown was a very viable business area, there weren't shopping centers and there were (unclear), once you cross the South River bridge, once you cross the Severn River bridge, you are out in open space, so Annapolis was the booming hub of commercial activity. When you came in, that was a part of the labor force, the customers took (?) a big chunk of downtown Annapolis. Because, like, where we are out here, this is farm land, where we are sitting here right now, what you see today, this has all happened in the last 20 years out here. So it was a substantial part, the people that lived there, that worked in the businesses, the clerks, the, it's just a very. Eastport, as you see it today, if you look at an aerial of Eastport, was primarily, when you got down to the intersection of Bay Ridge and Chesapeake Avenue, you were out in the...

PHIPPS: Farmland...

HYATT: Woods. I mean you either go to Eastport shopping center ...(unclear)...Annapolis, but that was a cornfield 25 years ago, so you, once you went beyond that close, old Eastport, it just had a 125th anniversary, if you went, once you went past old Eastport, so when you take, whatever it was, a hundred and some houses, I don't recall how many it was, but a good hundred or more, that's a big chunk of the downtown business economy.

KEY: Definitely. Now, Mr. Hyatt, where did you live during that time?

HYATT: Cornhill Street.

KEY: Cornhill Street, Ok.

HYATT: 39...

PHIPPS: Nice, big house...(unclear)...I know it more than you.

HYATT: 39 Cornhill.

KEY: Ok, where is that in relation...

HYATT: You come off the State, you know where Cornhill is or anything? State House, you go around State Circle. One of the main spurs that goes down to the city docks, to the market, Cornhill has, most of the houses have been rehabed or restored, but at that time it was primarily a blue collar area and the house we lived in happened to have been built in the seventeen hundreds, but it had nothing to do with us. My father didn't get it until 1922, but it was an old house with dirt floors...(unclear)...some of the slave quarters where the hooks were where they cooked in the basement, imagine it's still there.

PHIPPS: I remember the basement with the dirt floor...

HYATT: Dirt floor, yeah, ashes...

PHIPPS: Yeah...

HYATT: But that's numbered, but 37 and 39 are, were one house in the seventeen hundreds, so what it is, it had (unclear) wood floors, didn't get, didn't have central heat in it until I went to high school in the forties, but it was an old, eighteen inch brick wall house and that was the sort of area that we grew up in. And incidently, that they talked about integration, we didn't go to school together, but we lived on an integrated street...

PHIPPS: Played together...

HYATT: Played together, grew up together, were friendly, but we didn't go to school together. For that matter we couldn't, we used to go and grab the money to go into Mandris', and get our ice cream soda for ten cents or Reeds, we couldn't go together to get ice cream soda on account cause they didn't serve blacks in there...

KEY: Yeah, yeah...

HYATT: It was a southern town out, I know you look at the Navel Academy, but people don't believe it, they had...

PHIPPS: It was still segregated more than we were...

HYATT: Yes, that's right...

KEY: On the Naval Academy?

PHIPPS: Yeah, more than our (?) town...

HYATT: But the same thing with the mess boys in the Naval Academy and most of the Filipinos in those days...

PHIPPS: Yeah, right, lived aboard Reina Mercedes.

HYATT: Yeah, yeah, and they used to come into town, and they'd married lot of the wealthy women in the Holland Street area. Many of them today still around this town, they're, that I grew up with, well, you had like Adie Deminskys (?), like Fat Annie right there on the corner of Courage (?) Street and Dock Street...

PHIPPS: You'd better watch what you're saying...[laughter]

HYATT: [laughter] What?! Fat Annie?

PHIPPS: [laughter] Yeah!

HYATT: [laughter] Well that's what they called her, Fat Annie.

PHIPPS: I know, is she still livin'?

HYATT: Oh I'm, she must of been dead...

PHIPPS: Ok...

PHIPPS/HYATT: ...(unclear)...[laughter]...

HYATT: ...(unclear)...come down from New York, and she was married, big monster woman, thick wool sweaters, she used to sell chocolate candy on the corner but, she was married to a mess man, mess attendant, a Filipino mess attendant, see?

PHIPPS: One other thing that's, I guess was, at the time we, in the thirties and up until I guess right after the second world, up to world war, or maybe a little after, but all employees at the experimental station used to come park downtown and get a boat, Navy boat, over to work and this is where Goddard started, first started his space center and...

HYATT: I think, not to cut...(unclear)..., it's interesting that you call that the experimental station, see, now that Severn River, Naval Command and all these other new initials it got, everybody called that the experimental station, that's an old term that's going to you, that's the old-timer...(unclear)...

PHIPPS: Experimental station, lot of local people worked there. Used to ride the boat over and a lot, most of them walked of them walked downtown, 'cause there wasn't to much to park unless you could find a place to park unless

you could find a place to park sometimes. They'd walk, they lived downtown and walked to work, got on the boat and went over...

HYATT: Lot of them didn't own a car, Buster, like Bill Nutwith (phonetic) the electrician worked with Larry, didn't have a car and he didn't need a car, he forgot (?) that he didn't need to park [laughter].

PHIPPS: And I remember that every now and then real loud noise used to go WHOOOOOOOomm and us kids used to say, "There goes Buck Rogers again."

HYATT: Well they were doing that sort of...(unclear)..., yeah...

PHIPPS: That's right. And this, and you know, and later, Goddard, that was where he started over there, in fact his secretary was, what's the gal, Bill Flood's wife, Fleet girl...

HYATT: Oh, Fleet, I never, you mean the one at the dentist (?) school or the daughter?

PHIPPS: Yeah, yeah, the daughter was his secretary years ago, but that's where he started over there...

HYATT: It's an interesting thing that if you look at the newlies (?) of Annapolis today, that was the, that area is, was mostly old time families that had lived there, the Hubbards and the Altons and they were around, now, and that was the hub of the activity. And, if you look between Main Street, Main Street and the Naval Academy wall, which King George Street went straight down, so if you looked from the city dock over to the wall on King George Street, that was all a hub of activity. In other words, they used to have carnivals, you know city carnivals where lot of the locals (unclear), well they (unclear) carnivals right down between, on the Dock Street side, which they had oil tanks, in other words you see the dock with the boating and all, but they had the Esso, not Exxon, Esso oil dumps were there, right, and oyster shell piles forty feet high. Right at the head of the city dock, in front of Harbor House, which you see today with the black top and the parking, that was just oyster shells...

PHIPPS: Harry Luturner (phonetic) lived where the...(unclear)...out...

HYATT: Where the Harbor House...

PHIPPS: Where the Harbor House is now, Luturner and family. Some of them are still living...(unclear)...

HYATT: Harry Luturner, I think, died.

PHIPPS: Yeah.

HYATT: Yeah, Wilson Maizee (phonetic) is Eastport, no Maizee is the west, nah...

PHIPPS: Yeah, right...

HYATT: (Unclear) lived in Hell Point too...

PHIPPS: You talk about the circle, Lou mentioned where the Amoco station was in the circle, that was built and...(unclear)...Amoco at that time, American Oil Company, and they provided a black and a white toilet...

PHIPPS/HYATT: Ladies white and ladies colored...

PHIPPS: And I remember...

HYATT: Nice big (unclear) building...

PHIPPS: One side was the ladies side, and one would be black and one with white and the men's side, like this, one would be black and one black [sic], that was a public toilet downtown and that was built when my father was mayor, this goes back to 1937, '38, that's right...

HYATT: I remember when it was done, because I remember the park, there is still, is that, uh, like, flower pot, is that still down there, or did they move it?

PHIPPS: Yeah, yeah, that's still there.

HYATT: It had like a granite sort of base...

PHIPPS: Yes, that's still in the middle...(unclear)...

HYATT: Flower pot, that was...(unclear)...that was there, and then, that was a part of a little city park there. And then they built the gas station, now they tore the gas station down. But the gas station was brick and nice slate roof and it was a very attractive addition to downtown...

PHIPPS: What about Gibson Walker?

HYATT: I didn't know Gibson Walker...

PHIPPS: He was a baseball player, 'member he was a great pitcher for us when we was kids playing, he had a good curve ball...

HYATT: I knew Newby Catlin...

PHIPPS: Yeah, I knew Newby Catlin...

HYATT: Now, another interesting thing is the downtown area was loaded with all kind of crazy names, you know what I mean, nicknames, I'm sure they had them everywhere...

PHIPPS: Wampy, Wampy Michaeljohn...

HYATT: Wampy Michaeljohn, Newtsy Michaeljohn, all those local people seemed to pick up names...

PHIPPS: Flea, Flea Catlin, Bip Catlin...

HYATT: Bip Catlin, he was sporting (?) and well-dressed...

PHIPPS: Newby Catlin...

HYATT: Newby Catlin...

KEY: Now, did you have a nickname, Mr. Hyatt?

HYATT: No, no, I never had one, couldn't afford one [laughter].

PHIPPS: Pokey Frown (phonetic)...

HYATT: Pokey, that's right, Pokey Frown.

PHIPPS: Buster Phipps.

HYATT: He was Buster. Moody Tyler, Pump Collins, Pump had the (unclear). Now, incidently, what I started to tell you with the city dock, it may not be appropriate, but you got to look at the city in perspective. We used to have people say, "Where do you think you are, Mississippi?" We had minstrel shows coming into Annapolis on barges...

PHIPPS: Barges...

HYATT: Naval Academy PV's (?) come see them. They would have a barge that went to all the water...

PHIPPS: Communities...

HYATT: Communities along the Chesapeake Bay. (unclear) Crisfield all the way up. They would come into town and they would have a show, wooden benches and popcorn and lemonade, but it would be right in the heart of...(unclear)...corner for the show. I remember going as a kid, but that was some of the (unclear)...

PHIPPS: Herr's (?) auto building, auto parts building.

HYATT: Right...

KEY: And did everyone in Hell Point attend those minstrel shows.

HYATT/PHIPPS: ...(unclear)...

HYATT: And then in the evenings hour, the Indian medicine man come to the town, back of an old Buick and they had a black guy with black face put on and they called Stovepipe. Came every year, 'cause used to sell like rubbing lineament and special kind of soap and it was like, but it was, these are the things that you had in downtown Annapolis and the same (?) things well, what's that got to do with the Navel Academy. It was right at the head of the city dock and you saw plenty of midshipmen on a Saturday and sailors, it was a big activity 'cause guys playing a banjo, and selling lineaments and soaps and things like that.

KEY: How do you think the Navy felt about all that?

HYATT: I would think that the Navy was generally supportive, the only thing that they probably had trouble with was the enlisted men, 'cause midshipmen couldn't drink in the state of Annapolis in those days. I think now they can, but up until recent years they couldn't drink...

PHIPPS: Against the Maryland law...

HYATT: You couldn't serve a midshipmen within a seven mile radius of Annapolis...

PHIPPS: That was up until recent years...

HYATT: That's right, yeah, 'til recent, but I would say that how it related to the Navy, because the midshipmen were a very strong part of the business community. On Saturdays, I worked as a clerk in a shoe store, and we used to sell like these scuffies (?) and the midshipman would be buying stuff and sending them to their sister, their girlfriend, their mother and they'd buy like at Christmas time all kind of bedroom slippers, they were on sale for like \$1.99 in those days, but the midshipmen were a very important, important part of business. They may have had a store, but we used to sell lot of shoe polish. The midshipmen all like Kiwi shoe polish, you know, and I could...(unclear)...[laughter]

PHIPPS: Well, the Navel...

HYATT: Ten or fifteen midshipman coming into the store, and I was clerking then, as a kid, starting about eleven years old, and they used to buy shoe polish, and I don't think they bought shoes from, they probably got them at the midshipman's store, but they bought all kinds of food, they were big eaters. They, I mean Mandris and Little Campus on Maryland Avenue, Ward (?) Room on Main Street, the Capitol Hotel, all those places you couldn't get in on a Saturday...

PHIPPS: Some of these people on (?) here the Bounelis family owned the Ward Room on Western...(unclear)...Main Street...

HYATT: Yeah, well, Angel Bounelis owned the Ward Room and Charlie Bounelis, his father, owned...

PHIPPS: Capitol...

PHIPPS/HYATT: The Capitol Hotel...

HYATT: Which was, you couldn't, you couldn't see anything but midshipmen uniforms and their girlfriends, or whatever, on a Saturday. All the places on Saturday were busy.

PHIPPS: The Naval Academy was the lifeblood of Annapolis in those years. Everybody there at the Naval Academy had steady incomes, I mean it was kind of irregardless (?). The employees that worked there, they were government checked (?). I guess, who was, Mr. Newton used to be the head of the civilian force down there...

HYATT: Turby (?) Newton's father...

PHIPPS: Yeah, used to be head of the civilian...

HYATT: Personnel...

PHIPPS: Personnel. I remember I went to work there as a apprentice back in probably 1943 or 4, or just '42, no '39 or '40, but everybody worked at the Naval Academy...

HYATT: My brother Bill worked there right out of graduating high school for about a few months before he went in the Navy in '43. He worked there as a carpenter's apprentice...

PHIPPS: But they had money...

HYATT: So it was a big source of employment.

PHIPPS: Big source of employment. Big source of money. The Naval officers bought things out in town. The young Naval officers, you know, they had money to spend...(unclear)...

HYATT: Well, another thing you have to look at, you have to look at it in the perspective that midshipmen today have automobiles, they didn't have, the majority of them didn't have automobiles even if they could have because of money. They were most, they didn't have it. So, everything that was done, was substantially done from Church Circle down. In other words, if you went above Church Circle, you were uptown. That's what they call, but you run up the top of Main Street, and around the circle and a unit block of West Street, you were uptown. But, I would say the majority of midshipmen did their business on Main Street, City Dock and Maryland Avenue was a very, with the Naval uniform stores and it was...

PHIPPS: And we all walked to school. I would walk from downtown to Annapolis highschool. Now the kids ride the bus. We walked every damn morning.

HYATT: Yeah, that's right.

KEY: Now, let me ask you this. Now I'm interested, sort of noticing the fact that on one hand we talk about the Naval Academy being, you know, just a big thing, a center of activity etc., on the other hand we look at the fact that the Navy, when they took over that large area in Hell Point, obviously you had mentioned that there were some merchants, merchants in general were very, do you remember protests...

PHIPPS: I think that was short lived...

HYATT: It didn't go very far because I think that...

PHIPPS: They didn't take that much...

HYATT: They didn't, they, let me say this to you. Other than the people being displaced, say the people in Maryhill or suburban areas of Eastport really didn't care that much, I mean...

PHIPPS: Most of them got their money and relocated to other houses...

HYATT: Yeah, but the renters were the ones that were...

PHIPPS: Having trouble...

HYATT: Having trouble, and that was where the protest was from the people being dislocated, but even that was somewhat muffled because lot of them worked for the government, see, so, but the thing about it is, what it did, it helped make West Annapolis, Annapolis Street and West of Annapolis, and you can go over there and look right now, Mrs Guare (?), she was a Parkinson. And I went to school with some of those Parkinsons that originally were born in Hell Point that would be my age or a little older, but they were forced out from that area.

KEY: Where did all these people go to?

HYATT: They went to Eastport. The majority of them went to Eastport and West Annapolis...

PHIPPS: West Annapolis...

HYATT: And maybe some out here in Germantown...

PHIPPS: Germantown...

HYATT: But see, they were too, they were not a part of the city. Eastport was a, was not, was just a neighborhood of the county and so was West Annapolis...

PHIPPS: Has a lower, lower tax base...

HYATT: They were like the equivalent of suburbs. You know, they were not in the city...

PHIPPS: But they had city water and city sewer and conveniences and that sort of thing.

HYATT: Right, and there were also a number of older houses out there. You know, if you look into West

Annapolis area, you look at Annapolis Street.

PHIPPS: What I remember as a...

HYATT: Melton (?) Avenue...

PHIPPS: Kid, I guess, when I was what, twelve, what, twelve, old enough to ride a bicycle, I used to be a postal, postal telegram...

HYATT: Right [laughter]!

PHIPPS: There was a guy up on Maryland Avenue who had a, it was a Western Union Postal telegram, I used to work with postal telegram, and I used to go take telegrams down to Bancroft (?) Hall and used to sit there to wait to take televisions, I mean telegrams back, ride the bicycle around to deliver them. Used to sell Liberty Magazines, same as Lou said. I guess everybody sold those in those days. Five cents a piece. I don't know what we made, a penny a piece...

HYATT: We made a penny and they gave you a little shopping bag to hang over your shoulder with maybe 25 magazines in the bag. Well, the other thing about it is that you have to evaluate the fact that there was no movies that I'm aware of in the Naval Academy. They had two movie theaters right on the corner of Cornhill and East. The one on State Circle was the Circle theater and on Main Street was the Republic Theater. Now they had other theaters, but that was before my time. The only two that, I don't remember any before that. There were other theaters on Main street and they had, where the Community Market was, they had live entertainment in town. Maybe (?) people who are a little older than I am, they had like Vaudeville shows, but that's before my time.

PHIPPS: Phil Miller owned one of them...

HYATT: Main Street...

PHIPPS: Main Street...

HYATT: But, it was only movies, movies had just, I don't recollect the year movies came out, but I remember seeing movies, ever since I remember they've been out. But they must have come out in the early 1900's...

PHIPPS: And the Circle Theater, when I was ten or eleven, used to have Saturday morning matinees. It was cowboy shoot-em-ups, what have you. I used to love to go see those.

PHIPPS/HYATT: ...(unclear)...

HYATT: On Saturdays, midshipman, on the matinees, crowded all the theaters in town, too. 'Cause they were out on Saturdays and Sundays, generally, so, they were a very basic part of the business support. Not as much today, because today you go out to Fuddruckers, or Shelly's or where ever you see them, because they either got cars or get on a bus. I walk in the mall quite a bit keep my heart kicking or something, and it's loaded. I was there walking last night and there was half a dozen midshipmen up in first class (?).

PHIPPS: Now, Hell Point was generally described as where, I guess from the dock to the Naval Academy? How about Compromise Street...

HYATT: Hell Point went from...

PHIPPS: Was Hell Point...(unclear)...

HYATT: ...(Unclear)...and Green Street too. Green Street all the way up. It stopped at Duke of Gloucester, when you make (?) on Marvin Street...

PHIPPS: Ok, that was the Silk Stocking...

HYATT: That was the, when you went up to Conduit and, when you went off of Main Street, it went up Main Street on the right side and then Green Street was counted (?) and Compromise.

KEY: Now, you were talking about the theaters and I had read somewhere that someone had said that in the theaters there was a section set aside for people who lived in Hell Point. I don't know if you remember anything about that...

HYATT: I know they used to have to watch us because...

PHIPPS: Each had white and black, (unclear) black theater was the Star Theater...

HYATT/PHIPPS: ...(Unclear)...

PHIPPS: Was that back in the thirties?

HYATT/PHIPPS: ...(Unclear)...

PHIPPS: Star Theater, the black theater...

HYATT: Sure, 'cause Anna, Anna...

HYATT/PHIPPS: Greenberg's was Eisenstein (?)...

PHIPPS: Eisenstein...

HYATT: But the point is, I went to school with her, we were the same age, and I remember as a kid, even though it was a black theater and she had a, say a sixth or seventh birthday and invited all the kids into a movie, see. But

the thing about it is, in regard to, I don't remember a separate Hell Point, maybe back earlier than my time...

PHIPPS: I don't either...

HYATT: But, generally there was a little bit of unruliness maybe where one guy would get the time (?) and let the ten others in the back door. You took the chance, that's for sure. [laughter] I guess they did that everywhere. Now the other interesting thing was where lot of midshipmen used to be and sold good stuff (?), I've mentioned the Circle Theater, another busy place was a confectionery, still remember how good it smelled, called Weigards (phonetic), were Tillman's Jewelery store, right on the corner of Cornhill, they made, it was an old German bakery and they made homemade ice cream and candy and that was another stop...

PHIPPS: Across the street was Gilda's Pharmacy, right?

HYATT: Gilda was on the other side...

PHIPPS: Yeah right, across the street on the other side...

HYATT: Yeah, that was on the corner, yeah...

PHIPPS: And I put his name, Gilbert Grandall...

HYATT: Gil Grandall is also...

PHIPPS: It's on the list...

HYATT: ...(unclear)...sort of a P.R. man, he's probably a good man, and he's probably about 75...

PHIPPS: 80...

HYATT: 76, got us a little better (?), so that the thing is, there was always on Saturdays, midshipmen buying ice cream and candy 'cause I live right down on Cornhill Street, so I knew it. Another thing was, I don't know when Reeds Drugstore came to Annapolis, but Reeds Drugstore, where Crown Books is on Main Street today, it came all the way through to Francis Street. That was another place that, it went under the floor of Wilson's Sheet metal, it was like a built under floor. Same owner. The upstairs was a sheet metal shop and underneath the basement, on a different elevation, an that's another place that was a modern soda fountain in those days. Now I'm going back into the early 40's, I know for sure and maybe about that time, that was another place on Saturdays and Sundays, they also had Sunday matinees too, that was another hangout for dozens or hundreds...

PHIPPS: We had no crime in Annapolis, either. I mean, we didn't lock our house...

HYATT: I didn't either. I never had a key to my door at 39 Cornhill Street. Never knew what a key looked, never (unclear)...

PHIPPS: ...(went to college once...lock their doors?)

KEY: Now, did you and the midshipmen hang out together? I mean did you...

HYATT: Well, I never did. I mean I never got friendly with the midshipman.

PHIPPS: The girls got friendly with the midshipmen because...

HYATT: Boys didn't...

PHIPPS: That's right...

HYATT: That's right. Basically I would think it's not like today. In other words, today you have all this tutoring and volunteerism, you know, through the various churches or...

PHIPPS: To adopt (?) a midshipman, that sort of thing...

HYATT: Yeah, in those days, I would think that there was not that much camaraderie, as far as I'm concerned with the midshipman. I know I never got friendly with any midshipmen.

END OF TAPE ONE

This ends the transcript

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
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Interview with Mary Thompson
By Beth Cherry
July 1, 1993

CHERRY: This is tape one, side one of an interview with Mrs. Mary Joanne Thompson, who is a former resident of the neighborhood called Hell Point. It's now July first, 1993, and this interview is being conducted at Eastport, Maryland for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project, which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, College Park Anthropology Department, Historic Annapolis and the U.S. Navy.

CHERRY: Mrs. Thompson.

THOMPSON: Yes.

CHERRY: Your daughter has told me that you lived in Hell Point. Could you tell me where and when you lived in Hell Point.

THOMPSON: Where?

CHERRY: Yes.

THOMPSON: Oh my, I lived in several places. Ah, I lived on Martin Street, and on Holland Street, and there was a little street called, off from Holland Street called Johnson Place. And then I don't know how far Hell Point extended, but I lived on Cornhill Street for twenty-eight years.

CHERRY: What years did you live in Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well, I say, I don't know how far Hell Point extended. Some people say it's one side a Main Street, I don't know. But anyhow, I know I, uh, altogether it was about forty-seven years down on Hell Point.

CHERRY: Oh, okay. When did you first live on Martin Street?

THOMPSON: Ah, I was just a small child. I don't, I ah really don't remember that. We moved from Eastport when my father, soon after my father died, and, uh, I was a small child. I really don't remember that. Just what my mother told me.

CHERRY: Yes. You mentioned that you weren't sure how just how far, just what constituted Hell Point.

THOMPSON: Yeah, ah-huh.

CHERRY: What did you, Where do you feel the neighborhood existed?

THOMPSON: I really, how far what. I can't hear ya.

CHERRY: Where do you think Hell Point was, in Annapolis?

THOMPSON: Well, I as I say I considered Main Street, you know, one of the boundaries, I don't know. I might be wrong about that.

CHERRY: Why do you think the neighborhood was called Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well, in the first place, it wasn't right. I don't know why they gave it, cause I'm tellin' you one thing, they was some of the nicest people. Some of the most friendliest people, and caring people that ever lived on God's Earth that lived on Hell Point. But it was some, some people, but I don't know how to describe 'em, but they ah, they, I guess you could call, they were trouble makers, I don't know, but it's like everyplace else, you're going to find good and bad, but to me on Hell Point the good out numbered the bad. Because I'm telling ya, if anybody had any sickness or, during the flu epidemic of 1918 you could not find better people, or caring people than those people there. I lost my brother in the flu epidemic a 1918. And of course my mother was terribly upset over it. He was only 18, 18 years old. An you have never in all your life seen people outpoured there, of course they wouldn't go in, in the houses that had, people that had the flu. Because, it was ah, well I don't know how, just how to describe it. But they just didn't do it. But the women down there cooked and baked, and they brought everything and put it right on our, our, our porch. And I'm telling you one thing, it was just an outpouring of love, and affection. It couldn't have been any better. But as I say there was some people down there that, they uh, I don't know if they were jealous or what, but, but they, they tried to make trouble, but they, they didn't succeed very far. But I told my daught, one of my daughters this morning, I only wish I could relive those days on Hell Point, and she sai', her, she answered, two daughters, and she said her oldest daughter said that she wished she had been born in that generation. Cause it was a happy one.

CHERRY: The women that cooked and brought the food to your house, where were the women from that were bringing..

THOMPSON: They were from down on Holland Street.

CHERRY: On Holland Street?

THOMPSON: Yeah.

CHERRY: Was that where you were living at the time?

THOMPSON: Yeah, when my brother died I was living on Holland Street.

CHERRY: What were your neighbors like on Holland Street?

THOMPSON: Wonderful. Wonderful people.

CHERRY: Can you remember any other times when, when they helped each other out?

THOMPSON: Well, regardless of, well I, I tell you in those days they didn't have funeral homes. And if anybody died my sister and one of our neighbors, would go around and they would prepare the body, the, you know, for the undertaker. And it's just little things like that, you know, that made such an impression.

CHERRY: The trouble makers that you mentioned, these trouble makers that you talked about, where were they from in Hell Point.

THOMPSON: Well, some of them lived on Holland Street, and some of them lived, I think it's on King George Street, and I don't know how far or how far it went up from King George Street because it was a lot of the streets that ran North from there. But I don't know if it went up to Martin Street or up to Maryland Avenue, I don't know where. And there was some people on Prince George Street that tried to make trouble, but, because they lived on Prince George Street they thought they were better than we were. But, ah, but they weren't because they was snooty.

CHERRY: How would they try and make trouble?

THOMPSON: Well, may sound funny, but, ah, I guess you would think they weren't satisfied unless they were stirring up trouble. And another thing, they, some of the town boys resented the fact that the girls preferred the enlisted men to the town boys. And they didn't like that.

CHERRY: Who are the town boys? The town boys?

THOMPSON: Yeah, you know the, the ah, how's we would say, the Hell Pointer.

CHERRY: Ohh. You preferred enlisted men?

THOMPSON: No, Oh yes, almost all. My husband was in the Navy, and most all of my friends married men in the military.

CHERRY: How did you meet the enlisted men?

THOMPSON: Well, I said, I just can't remember. Oh, they used to have dances up at the, ah, at the armory. I think that was on, uh, I think it was on, I don't re, it was up by where the old shore, Shoreline Station (phonetic) used to be. And, ah, we used to go there, and that's how we met them.

CHERRY: Was this in Hell Point? The Armory?

THOMPSON: Oh, no, no the Armory wasn't in Hell Point, that was up by the Governor's Mansion. They had a train station called the Shoreline (phonetic), and ah the armory was across the street from there, I guess, maybe that would be Bladen Street (phonetic), I don't know.

CHERRY: You mentioned..

THOMPSON: It was Bladen Street (phonetic) alright.

CHERRY: You mentioned the difference in the people on Prince George Street and Holland Street. What were those differences?

Thompson: Well, they ah, for one thing, they didn't want their children coming down on Holland Street and playing with the children there. But, I've been trying to think of this woman's, I can't think of their names, but anyhow her mother used to invite me around and I would go and play with her daughter. And then she, you know, she never, she didn't act like that. But I, but I can't think of what woman's name. I can picture the daughter's face, but I can't remember her name.

CHERRY: Who would you play with? Who were the kids that, that you played with?

THOMPSON: Just the kids on Holland Street.

CHERRY: On Holland Street?

THOMPSON: Always a lot of kids there. We never want for kids to play with.

CHERRY: What sort of things would you do?

THOMPSON: Whatch you mean, playin'?

CHERRY: Yes.

THOMPSON: Oh, the ordinary things. Jump rope, jacks, and ah, just what an ordinary child would do.

CHERRY: Where would you play?

THOMPSON: Sometimes we'd play on the sidewalks, but the streets were very narrow, 'cause you didn't have an automobile unless you were ,ah, very well off, and we could play right out in the street.

And another thing I want to say. I was tellin' my daughter this morning, we used to have what they're called block parties. 'Cause Holland Street was only one block long between Prince George and King George Street, and we used to,ah, well they would have a phonograph for music, and we would have dancing, and the women would prepare refreshments. And we would, we just have a wonderful time.

CHERRY: Ah huh. When would you have these parties?

THOMPSON: Mostly on Saturday night.

CHERRY: Oh, it was every week?

THOMPSON: Well, I don't remember if, I don't think it was every week, it was just so often.

CHERRY: Would you ever help out?

THOMPSON: Oh no, I was just a small child, we just , we let the others do the work, and then we enjoyed it. I was married when I was 18.

CHERRY: Who did you marry? Your husband, you said your husband was an enlisted man?

THOMPSON: Yes, ah huh.

CHERRY: How did you meet him?

THOMPSON: At the Armory.

CHERRY: At the Armory.

THOMPSON: Let me see, where did I meet him? Well, ah, I . Let me see. I was going to, to Baltimore to a dance with another fellow, another enlisted man, and when we got off the train. No I think when we got to where the dance was going to be. When we stepped off the elevator, my husband and another fellow were there and that's where we met 'em. And of course the fellow that I was with didn't like that idea. Because when we, when we went to the dance, why, I was a, was another girlfriend with me. And of course we had four fellows to dance with and, our escorts only had the two girls, and they , they didn't like that idea. From then on we just started dating.

CHERRY: When did you move? Where did you live after you were married?

THOMPSON: Well, ah, we lived with my mother, my sister, 'cause my husband was transferred to Charleston, South Carolina. And I didn't go. I stayed here. And I stayed, I lived with my mother and my sister. In fact, we lived with them until after our fourth child was born and then we just moved right next store to them.

CHERRY: On Holland Street?

THOMPSON: Yeah.

CHERRY: What were the people like on Holland Street?

THOMPSON: Wonderful.

CHERRY: Could you give examples.

THOMPSON: Well, as I say when my brother died, there, it was so many different things that they did. That, ah, I really don't know how to describe it, but I will say that with the name they gave Hell Point, but to us, we thought it was good. We thought it was a big joke. But I would say that at least 95 percent of the people on Hell Point were good people. And maybe 5 percent were troublemakers. But you find that wherever you go.

CHERRY: Yes. What was the reputation of Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well they tried to run it down, but they didn't succeed. 'Cause now when we had the Hell Point Night recently. When we, we just thought that was an honor that we were celebrating the Hell Point Night.

CHERRY: What did your street look like? Holland Street?

THOMPSON: What did, I beg your pardon..

CHERRY: What did Holland Street look like?

THOMPSON: Just an ordinary street. They ah, the people kept their houses looking real good, and it, there was a narrow street, and ah, but all the people there took pride in taking care of their property.

CHERRY: Did the people rent?

THOMPSON: Now some of them owned, but we didn't. We rented. There wasn't too many people owned their homes then.

CHERRY: Where did the people work, that lived on Holland Street?

THOMPSON: Well, some of them worked down on the Naval Academy, and they.. And this little street that I told you called Johnson Place. That went right down to the water's edge at the end of that street there was a. In the summer time they called it the crab house because they had a place there where people picked crabs, and then in the winter time it was an oyster factory. Not an oyster factory, but they packed oysters and sent them all over the

country.

CHERRY: Can you remember going down there?

THOMPSON: Oh, well I lived on Johnson Place. I had a niece who was born down there.

CHERRY: When did you live on Johnson Place?

THOMPSON: Well, it had to be before. Well see my niece was born in 1913. I don't know how long before that, but I know we were, she was born in 1913.

CHERRY: What were the people like on Johnson Place?

THOMPSON: Very nice. Very nice. I think it was on the right hand side going down toward the water, I think it was only about 8 houses. There were two houses and a yard then. I think it was a 8 houses. On the other side there was only one house and that, that was near the back entrance of the Johnson Lumber Company.

CHERRY: You mentioned a crab house and the oyster factory, I've heard that there was a very large oyster pile.

THOMPSON: Yeah, oh yeah, the oyster piles. O my goodness yes.

CHERRY: Where were the oyster piles?

THOMPSON: Well, I guess at the end on the street, but they used to haul them away because. It was something, I don't know, fertilizer or something that they used to make. They used to crush them and make some sort of fertilizer.

CHERRY: What was that like, being so close to the oyster pile?

THOMPSON: It didn't pose any problem. Because they were very sanitary, and the reason I know about that. The manager of the place, my mother used to serve him his. Well in those days we called it breakfast, dinner, and supper. And he used to eat his dinner everyday with my mother used to serve him his dinner.

CHERRY: What did your mother do?

THOMPSON: My mother didn't work. Well she.. I don't know when it was. But any how, she worked in the sewing room down at the Naval Academy. She was an excellent seamstress. My father died, I was only three years old. My mother had six children she had to. Cause she, she didn't go to work until after we were old enough to.. she could leave us.

CHERRY: When did she, how often did she serve dinners to people?

THOMPSON: She served a dinner everyday to, just to him.

CHERRY: Oh, just to him?

THOMPSON: Ah hum. She was an excellent cook.

CHERRY: I've heard that there was a boarding house on Holland Street.

THOMPSON: A what?

CHERRY: A boarding house, or a hotel, run by Filipinos.

THOMPSON: Yes, yes, it was. When you were going from Prince George Street to King George Street, on the corner on the left hand side. At one time there had been a saloon. And then that was when I was small, and then, I don't know how small I was, but anyhow. Then I don't know if it was right after that or not, but my youngest brother took it over. And he had a saloon there. But then when we moved from Holland Street to Cornhill Street the place was occupied by Filipinos.

CHERRY: How did people in the neighborhood feel about the hotel?

THOMPSON: About what?

CHERRY: About the hotel.

THOMPSON: They, ah, it was run orderly.

CHERRY: How did they feel about the Filipinos?

THOMPSON: Well, in those days, you know the races didn't mix, like they do now. I guess there was a little bit of resentment, but they, ah, the Filipinos didn't cause any trouble.

CHERRY: You said that the races didn't mix.

THOMPSON: No,no, they ah. You know, like they. Well one thing they didn't intermarry like they do now, and if you, if you married a Filipino, boy, you were, you weren't exactly an outcast, but you just wasn't according to order (?).

CHERRY: What about the blacks, where did they live?

THOMPSON: Well, they ah. Was a little street right across from the number one gate. I can't remember the name of that street, but that was, um, black all lived up there. But they didn't bother anybody. They were all decent people. And they. I just can't remember other places where they lived. Course they didn't mingle with the whites like they do now.

CHERRY: What about the street behind Holland. Um, Block. Um, let's see.

THOMPSON: Behind what?

CHERRY: Behind Holland Street. I think there was. I remember hearing there was a street called Block Street.

THOMPSON: Block Street? Yeah, that ah, let me see. I can't remember where Block. I know there was a Block Street, but I can't remember where it was. I do. The name does ring a bell, but I can't remember where that was.

CHERRY: What about school. Where did you go to school?

THOMPSON: St. Mary's school.

CHERRY: St. Mary's?

THOMPSON: Ah hum.

CHERRY: Where was that located?

THOMPSON: Up on Gloucester Street. Same place it is now. I guess it's been changed drastically, but it was in the same location.

CHERRY: Is that a Catholic school?

THOMPSON: Yes, ah-huh. Yeah, I got all my education at St. Mary's. I went through, I graduated from eighth grade, and then I was fortunate enough I graduated in 1920 that they started a business school that lasted two years. And ah, that was the equivalent of four years high school. Because they just concentrated on business subjects. So I graduated from that, too.

CHERRY: Who did you go to school with? Who were your school mates?

THOMPSON: Oh, I had a lot of.. Well the classes then weren't too big cause our graduating class from grammar school only had thirteen. And then our business school was only seven. And all my girls graduated from St. Mary's. But they went to Annapolis High. Cause they didn't have a high school. St. Mary's didn't have a high school then.

CHERRY: Where did the kids on Holland Street go to school?

THOMPSON: It was a school on Green Street. They called it the Green Street school.

CHERRY: Was there anyone from Hell Point with you at St. Mary's?

THOMPSON: I can't remember. I just don't remember. Oh,oh, yes there was. Let me see this one family. I think they were named Campbell (phonetic). Was, ah, a boy and a girl. They're brother and sister, they went there. I can't think of anybody else. The enrollment at St. Mary's then wasn't very high. Just the classes were small enough they had two grades in each room.

CHERRY: What was it like with other kids at school who didn't live at Hell Point?

THOMPSON: They were alright.

CHERRY: Were there any differences?

THOMPSON: I don't think so.

CHERRY: Where did the blacks go to school?

THOMPSON: They, now they, I don't know where the public school was for them. But St. Mary's had a school solely for the black people, black children. It was right next to the other school. But I can't remember where the public school was.

CHERRY: What was that like, going to school and having the black children in another school right next to you?

THOMPSON: It was alright. END SIDE ONE, TAPE I

SIDE TWO, TAPE I

CHERRY: Ok, we were talking about, the nuns and ,and St. mary's. What were Sunday's like?

THOMPSON: What was what?

CHERRY: Were Sundays?

THOMPSON: Sunday.

CHERRY: In Hell Point?

THOMPSON: I don't know what you mean.

CHERRY: What did you do on Sundays in Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well, the first thing, the Catholics went to mass, and I guess the other denominations went to their churches. And, of course Sunday wasn't open like it is now. We, ah, I really don't remember what, just what we did.

CHERRY: You mentioned that your mother was a good seamstress.

THOMPSON: Was what?

CHERRY: Your mother was a seamstress.

THOMPSON: A what?

CHERRY: Seamstress. She sewed.

THOMPSON: Ah, yeah, and she worked in the sewing room down at the Naval Academy.

CHERRY: Did your mother sew, sew clothes for you and your brothers and sisters?

THOMPSON: Oh yeah, she made most all of our clothes.

CHERRY: What about the other families.

THOMPSON: The what?

CHERRY: The other families on Holland Street, where did they get their clothes.

THOMPSON: I guess they bought them. I don't know who could sew and who couldn't, but I do know my mother was a beautiful seamstress. She was very. Ah, I don't know what to say, talented or what. But, I don't know. She was a good cook, a good seamstress. And she was a wonderful mother. If God ever put an angel on Earth, she was one of 'em. She had to be mother and father to six children, and she did a wonderful job. She kept us all together until we got old enough to take care of ourselves. And she, she couldn't have been any better than what she was. She was, ah, well she had the most patience. I had four brothers and one sister. She ah, she never had a problem with the boys, they all behaved themselves. And it ah, she really just did a wonderful job of raising us.

CHERRY: What was that like, having four brothers. What was that like living with your brothers?

THOMPSON: Having four brothers?

CHERRY: Yes.

THOMPSON: Well, I guess maybe I felt a little proud. My sister was the oldest, and ah, it really never. I never really paid too much attention to it. I just ...(unclear). 'Cause I was the youngest in the family.

CHERRY: What did boys do in Hell Point? What did your brother and other boys do in Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well, when they ah, when they got old enough.. I was the only one in my family to graduate from school, simply because my when my brothers got old enough, they ah, they quit school to take jobs to help my mother. And ,ah, in the beginning, when they first,ah, started they used to go to, over where Purse Circle (phonetic), now the Naval Academy. I don't know if they use that now or not. But anyhow, they, it was the golf links over there and they used to go over there and they used to go over there and ah and I don't know what kind of work they. I know one thing, they'd take dandelions and they did it to make money, to help my mother.

CHERRY: What did you say, they picked the lines?

THOMPSON: Dandelions;

CHERRY: Oh, dandelions. They sold flowers?

THOMPSON: No,no. I think. It seems to me that. They're must have been doing something to the golf course. I don't, I don't know. But they picked them to get rid of them.

CHERRY: How long did your mom work at the Naval Academy?

THOMPSON: I really don't know. She had an accident there. They,ah, they were short of the help in the laundry. And the women in the seamstress, in the sewing room weren't busy, so they took them over and my mother got her hand caught in the mangle and it crippled, I think it was her left hand. And ah, but I don't know how long she stayed there after that. And then, when they built the Annex to Bancroft Hall. See, I don't. That must have been in the summer of 1918, I don't know. She and the neighbor that lived across the street. They ah they didn't board with my mother, but my mother and this lady prepared meals for 33 of the workers who were workin' on the addition to Bancroft Hall.

CHERRY: What was that like, living next to the Naval Academy?

THOMPSON: Well, we didn't think anything, anything different from it. We knew it was just an institution. And we were proud that we lived in the town with it.

CHERRY: How often did you go on the Naval Academy?

THOMPSON: I don't know. We just took it as a matter of fact.

CHERRY: Was there any place on the Academy you weren't allowed to go on?

THOMPSON: I can't remember. I don't think so. I never even thought about that.

CHERRY: What kinds of activities did they have on the Academy?

THOMPSON: Well, they were, I guess the same almost as... they might have been modified some, but they,ah cause they didn't have the freedom that they have now. Because I don't know, you had to be an upper classman before you could have liberty in the city. But now they, you know they have more liberty. [pause]

CHERRY: Do you remember seeing the midshipmen in the neighborhood? In Annapolis?

THOMPSON: Oh, yes. We used to like to go down and watch them march. Now when my children were born, some friends of mine and I used to take our children down to the Naval Academy every day.

CHERRY: What would you do there everyday?

THOMPSON: When we take these kids?

CHERRY: Yes.

THOMPSON: Well, we would go. I can't remember, it was someplace we used to go, we could sit and then the children could play. And then it was safer then to play there. And my friends and I, we'd just sit there and watch the children play. But it was a safe place for 'em. [pause]

CHERRY: You mentioned the parades, where were the parades?

THOMPSON: I think they called roar(?) and fields(?). That was up from. Up by, let me see. One,two,three, that was up by number 4 gate.

CHERRY: When did they have these parades?

THOMPSON: I think it was about, maybe about twice a week. I know it once or, maybe just once. I don't know. They called 'em dress parades.

CHERRY: What did they look like?

THOMPSON: Well, the uniforms, then weren't classy like they are now. They used to be, I think just, to tell you the truth, I don't even remember. I know when they'd have a dress parade used to, I think wear white pants. I think it was blue jackets. Navy blue jackets.

CHERRY: How did the girls in Hell Point feel about the midshipmen?

THOMPSON: Well, I had, let's see, one, two... I can think of two of my cousins that married midshipmen. I think one of them, my one cousin, she um, her husband died. And then I don't now how long after that she remarried. And she married a navy man again. We didn't feel any different toward 'em, 'cause they were very friendly.

CHERRY: Do you remember if they would ever come into the neighborhood?

THOMPSON: Oh, yes,yeah. Before this one cousin was married, why, they only lived in two doors from us. The fellow she met, why he was there every time they had liberty. And,ah, cause I knew him, he was, no I had. Let's see there was two cousins. And then I think it was the second cousin that married a midshipman. One of them I think is, I think the second cousin is still living up in, up in Maine. And I have a cousin and her second husband, they live down Gingico (phonetic). I've been, I was supposed to go down there so long, so lot a times, but I never got down. But it's no use going down, I don't know anything. This is a terrible affliction I have now. [pause]

CHERRY: I wanted to ask you, as a young girl,um. Were you,um, was it considered a good thing to go out with a Navy man?

THOMPSON: No,no. Ah, in those days there wasn't too many to call it a current(?). We didn't. . I guess we just didn't think anything of it. My next youngest daughter dated midshipmen. And my youngest daughter dated, but she, ah, this fellow that she dated, she just did it as a convenience to really get him off her back. And she told him that she, as a person she liked him, but she didn't like his uniform.

CHERRY: Oh. She didn't like the fact he was in the, he was a midshipman?

THOMPSON: Yeah, ah-huh.

CHERRY: How did people in Hell Point feel about the Navy?

THOMPSON: I don't think I can answer that. It's... some liked them, some didn't.

CHERRY: When did you find out about the Navy plans to..

THOMPSON: About what?

CHERRY: About the plans the Navy had to purchase part of Hell Point.

THOMPSON: I don't, I really don't know.

CHERRY: Did the purchase affect you in 1941?

THOMPSON: Well, no we had, we had been away from,.. some time. Course the time they dropped that name, they didn't keep it up.

CHERRY: They dropped what, what name?

THOMPSON: Ah, Hell Point.

CHERRY: Oh. Could you explain that to me? I don't understand.

THOMPSON: Well, I. It's hard for me,explain. It doesn't, course the time, it's like everything else, it wears, you know the novelty wears off and they just dropped the name Hell Point.

CHERRY: Oh.

THOMPSON: Because I was surprised when I was approached about, to have Hell Point Night to celebrate, I guess you say our heritage. But we , let's see, I think I've been to three Hell Point Nights, and we had a ball. We had, we held it down at the Fleet Reserve.

CHERRY: Are there people that you didn't know growing up that you meet now at these Hell Point Nights.

THOMPSON: I didn't hear what you said.

CHERRY: Who are the people that come to these Hell Point Nights?

THOMPSON: Well, it was the, ah, the old timers, and of course their descendants. And, ah, the last one I went to, it wasn't too many of the old timers. I was one of the older ones.

CHERRY: So when the Navy purchased the land in 1941 it didn't go by the name Hell Point? Is that it?

THOMPSON: To tell you the truth I don't know. You said when they purchased it, in '41?

CHERRY: Yes.

THOMPSON: Ya see, we were away from it by then.

CHERRY: On Cornhill?

THOMPSON: Yeah, ah-huh. We moved to Cornhill Street in '28.

CHERRY: How did you feel about the Navy tearing down the house that you and your mother lived in, and your family?

THOMPSON: Well, we just figured, I guess, it was progress. But they, they tore a lot of 'em down. But we had been away for almost I don't know. It really, I don't think it affected us.

CHERRY: Do you remember how other people felt about the neighborhood being torn down?

THOMPSON: I really don't know. I never, I don't think any, you know talked too seriously about the subject. 'Cause the people had maybe relocated, I tell you I really don't know. See what it was is the children grew up and got married when they moved to other sites, and I guess it didn't make any difference. [pause]

CHERRY: I've heard that the, after the Academy purchased the land they let it sit.

THOMPSON: They let it what?

CHERRY: They didn't do anything with it for several years.

THOMPSON: I really don't know that.

CHERRY: Ah-huh. Just to go back to you, um, taking your children to play on the Academy, do you remember playing on the Academy at all when you were young?

THOMPSON: No I don't.

CHERRY: Were you permitted on the grounds to play like that at your, when you were younger?

THOMPSON: I don't remember. To tell you the truth, I think we stayed mostly on Holland Street. We had all our friends, and [pause] we never wanted for someone to play with. There was enough children. In those days there wasn't no one and two family children, five and six.

CHERRY: You mentioned, when we first started talking, about the trouble makers.

THOMPSON: About what?

CHERRY: About the trouble makers.

THOMPSON: Yeah.

CHERRY: What did your mom say about those people?

THOMPSON: Well, as I was telling you before my mother was such a wonderful person that she, she didn't judge 'em.

CHERRY: Did she tell you anything about the things they were saying?

THOMPSON: I don't remember. My mother, she was 77 years old when she died in 1943, and never in that time did I hear her say a bad word or pass criticism on anybody. She always gave people the benefit of the doubt. [pause]. She was known all over town as Aunt Beck.

CHERRY: Aunt Beck?

THOMPSON: Aunt Beck. And when she died the Taylor (phonetic) boys told us that, for a private citizen, she had the largest funeral that they had handled. She had so many friends. And Dr. Bassel's (phonetic) her doctor. He told her, he came in and he told us that he didn't do that for his patients, but he said that he did for Aunt Beck.

CHERRY: What did he do?

THOMPSON: He came to the funeral home.

CHERRY: Oh.

THOMPSON: She was a wonderful person, I'm tellin' you.

CHERRY: Do you remember times when she helped out other people, in Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well, when ever anybody need any helpin' and she could do it, why, she was right there. She couldn't help 'em financially, but she helped 'em other wise.

CHERRY: Did you have anything you'd like to say, anything you'd like to add about Hell Point, or about Holland Street and growing up?

THOMPSON: Yes, I only wish that all people could have that kind of life that I had growing up. To me, it was a wonderful experience, and now my youngest daughter lives in Florida. They've been there, I don't know how

long, but anyhow, she was home one time. Course now she doesn't, she was only, she was just born before we moved to Cornhill Street. And she and her husband have been successful in life in regard to work, and they had their own insurance business and they did very well. And she told me, and she said " Mom, if I could, I would give up everything that I have to be living back on Cornhill street." She said 'they was the happiest days of my life.' And that made me feel good, you know, 'cause she felt that way. [pause]

CHERRY: What things made it wonderful, and a nice place to live?

THOMPSON: Well, I, that's hard to answer. Because, ah, I just don't know how to answer that. But it was, we just had a happy life.

CHERRY: Thank you very much for sharing that with me and for telling me..

THOMPSON: Well I hope I helped ya.

CHERRY: Yes, very much.

THOMPSON: It's hard sometimes to go back over all those years. Cause my youngest daughter was 65 years old in April. And she was born in April of '28 and we moved to Cornhill Street, that a, I think that I told her, and that to go back that far, but they always considered themselves Hells Pointer.

CHERRY: Do you consider that Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Do I consider what?

CHERRY: Do you consider them to be from Hell Point?

THOMPSON: Well, they're descendants of Hell Pointers. When we went to Hell Point Night, why, you would have thought that they were Hell Pointers, they were just as happy. I know if, I don't know if it was the first or second one we went to, but was a fellow came up to me. He grabbed, and hugged and kissed me and he said " Oh, I haven't seen you for such a long time." And I said no, I know you haven't, and I said, who are ya? [laughter] I didn't even recognize him, but we had name cards you know and ah, and I think the first time we were supposed to have it my grandson from Pennsylvania and his girlfriend ... END SIDE 2, TAPE I

****This ends the transcript****

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RAUSCH: On the other side there are a few single standing houses. That, uh, I would think there would be a boundary line there, and up to the top of East street and over to Cornhill street and down Cornhill street, uh, where it comes out at the city dock and that circle area of the dock... I would think that would be a good Hell Point classification- and up to the Eastport bridge.

BURLAGA: Up to the Eastport bridge... okay.

RAUSCH: Now this is my guess.

BURLAGA: That's fine. You feel that it's more a mental boundary than a physical one.

RAUSCH: Yeah. If you wanted to be part of it, you made yourself part of it. Like these people didn't want to be part of it- and they cut us off. And the other thing is... I'll tell you this, the other thing is that at that time, the Naval Academy had a lot of enlisted people here, and they had two ships out there. One was called the Mercedes... Mercedes, and the Cumberland. And on the, uh, Cumberland, they had all of the Mess cooks and all of the people that worked in the kitchen for the midshipmen- not all of um, but most of them were Filipino, enlisted people and then black employees from Annapolis. And the sailors that were there, they lived on that ship- the enlisted people. And then on the Rena Mercedes, um, that's where the white sailors lived, and we had a lot of sailors in town and when they infiltrated that area, um, (pause)...I lost my point again, we were talking about something.

BURLAGA: You were mentioning about the Naval Academy.

RAUSCH: Yeah, but anyway there was a lot of Navy traffic there, and when they got ashore and everything they went to (MANDRASSES-phonetic) and had a few beers and stuff. That's what we were getting into but I'll... maybe I'll come back to that.

BURLAGA: Let me ask you a little bit about the Naval Academy. Could you actually see the Naval Academy from your house?

RAUSCH: Oh yeah, yeah. I was only two houses from it. And then the wall then went all the way down to the water, you see, it didn't cut off that part. And my house was the first house on the left on Randall street, where gate one is now and the field house. And they took up to John the Fenderman's alley, see, and the Navy took all that in as there property.

BURLAGA: What alley was that? Do you recall the name?

RAUSCH: It didn't have a name. It was John the Fenderman's alley I would think.

BURLAGA: Okay, let's see... It sounds like a lot of the people from your neighborhood had jobs inside the Naval Academy.

RAUSCH: Yeah, inside and a place called the experiment station which is now David Taylors Model Base and of course they do Navy research. And that's where my father worked. In 1926, the experiment station had a big boiler room that heated all the steam heat for all the buildings and all of the buildings over there and my father walked in the door of that thing and the boiler blew up. And my father was killed there in 1926. That's a long time ago. And it rocked the whole town, they tell me. I was four years old at the time. And, um, so a lot of people worked over there, and a lot of people worked at the Naval Academy, yes. In those days they didn't have lawn mowers, and it was all that grass to cut and them things... you know they had a lot of jobs at the Naval Academy at that time... and I guess with technology and state-of-the-art, uh, they got less and less, but they still have a lot of civilians that work at the Naval Academy.

BURLAGA: Did you ever go inside the Naval Academy?

RAUSCH: As a kid?

BURLAGA: Well, as a child, or growing up?

RAUSCH: Yes, sure, we went to every time the Navy left to go to a football game, we gathered around Tecumseh and as they marched out they threw pennies at Tecumseh and we ran around and gathered the pennies.

BURLAGA: What is Tecumseh?

RAUSCH: Tecumseh is a big indian that's right at the entrance of, uh, Bancroft Hall. And it's the main entrance where they'd march out... Great big bust and he's got a quill on and uh, they'd paint him up and everything for

football games. And they still do, I think.

BURLAGA: Really?

RAUSCH: Uh huh, yeah. And, um, then the strange thing about all this...they would march out, and get on the train and go to Philadelphia, wherever they were going to the football game, but that train, one from Washington and one from Baltimore, came in behind houses and all, see the Parkway, and came into West street. There was one station on West street, West street and Calvert street, on that corner, it was a station there- a railroad station. And you could get trains to go to Baltimore, but at the foot of King George street, they had a ferryboat that came in... and they had no Bay Bridges. And so the line would be all the way up King George street for cars waiting to get on the ferry to go over to the Eastern Shore. And, uh, so, just imagine the cars on that bridge now, it could never handle it today. But, uh, they used to line up all the way from King George street all the way up to College Creek, you know, St. John's College sometimes on weekends and the Fourth of July weekends and stuff like that. And as kids we used to sell the Evening Capital, the local paper, we used to sell, uh, the Washington Post, and Liberty magazine...my specialty was Liberty magazine. I sold Liberty magazine, and Liberty magazine was a nickel. And I think we made a penny on each one, something like that. And, uh, Howard (DINGDEN-phonetic) who owns the barber shop in town, he did, he's retired now, but, he used to... we used to be friends, and we still are- all these years- and, um, Howard, used to shine shoes, the cars would have to... they would sometimes have a half and hour, hour wait. So he'd open his door, put their foot on this thing, he would shine there shoes, and that's how we made money.

BURLAGA: So you had little jobs here and there.

RAUSCH: Um hum, yeah.

BURLAGA: And earlier you'd mentioned that you helped out in the ambulance. Was that just volunteer?

RAUSCH: Yeah, yeah.

BURLAGA: It was volunteer.

RAUSCH: And then, and then, I wanted to finish about the train.

BURLAGA: Oh, I'm sorry.

RAUSCH: The train came out of that railroad station at Calvert street and came down the middle of West street, to Church Circle, and go half way around Church Circle and down the middle of Main Street, and then it would go around that circle, there now, and go up Randall street to cross Prince George Street to King George Street and turn right and turn right and go down and meet the ferry, and pick up the foot traffic that was going to Baltimore and get on the train.

And on the way back it would go all the way up... it didn't go back the same route... it would go all the way up to College Avenue, see, St. John's College, and turn right and go behind the governor's house and the post office... between the governor's house and the post office, and then turn back in West Street and go back to the station and then load up and then go to Baltimore or Washington... wherever it was going. And it was hard to believe that Main Street wasn't as wide as it is now. The sidewalks were wider- but now they've widened the street, uh, West Street was the same way, and um, it's just unbelievable that a train... the fact is I have pictures of that in some books here.

BURLAGA: Yes, I'd like to see them.

RAUSCH: I'll show you them when we're finished with this. But, um, the train used to come all the way down through there, and down Main Street, and they're weren't any cars though- there weren't many cars. I think in the late twenties and early thirties on my street, probably only three or four people had a car. And, um, not many people had automobiles.

BURLAGA: So, what were the dates you lived in this area?

RAUSCH: I lived there from 1923 to 1941... Uh, sorry go ahead.

BURLAGA: If you had something to say...

RAUSCH: At my age, ya get a thought and then it leaves you, you know.

BURLAGA: What other activities did you do with the Naval Academy, like inside the Naval Academy...

RAUSCH: We snuck into football games. Now the stadium was uh, where the fieldhouse is now, the Navy stadium. And, uh, now the Navy stadium is not owned by the Federal Government, it's owned by the Navy Athletic Association. And uh, but uh, at that time it was on government property, but it was a very small stadium, but not many came to... and I would say in the twenties and thirties, um, and this is what the other lady told me that you want to talk about- the twenties and the thirties. Um, and at that time, an average person in an average family, their world was probably in a radius of twenty five miles, and uh, and everything they did... and they spend

their whole life within that twenty five mile radius. And today, the whole world is your world, ya know. You can uh... she's (pointing up the stairs to where his wife was) September the first, she's going to California to her sister's uh, granddaughter's wedding and then she's going to Hawaii for two weeks. And it's uh, four or five hours to Hawaii, I mean to California, and another four or five hours to Hawaii. And uh, in those days, without air transportation, of course, it would take weeks to make a trip like that. Now people... I know when I lived in Hawaii my office was right at the airport, overlooking the terminal building, and I'd see people that I recognized coming in on Fridays. They'd come every Friday. They live in Los Angeles, but they'd spend their weekends in Hawaii. So, so... but in those days you had a very small area. You didn't go many places.

Uh, the Naval Academy, uh, had lots of opportunity to see games, baseball, and football... and the thing that I liked the best was uh, swimming and wrestling, and tennis. And you never needed tickets for that anyway. And uh, so, I liked, I liked... I used to go to a lot of swimming meets down there. And uh, then of course after everybody cleared out, we used to climb Tecumseh, cause uh, in his little place where he kept the (HOURS-phonetic) a lot of pennies would fall down in there, you could reach in there and get the pennies out. And the Naval Academy, I think, was good for kids, and nobody bothered you, you could come and go as you pleased. And, uh...

BURLAGA: I've heard stories about people getting clothes from the Naval Academy, and food maybe?

RAUSCH: I don't know, it's possible. I have heard... it's funny you bring that up, when I was a kid I remember the older people on the street talking- 'My gosh, they put butter on the table down there and if they don't eat it they throw it out,' or something like that. But uh, that has to be, but uh, whether anybody got any of it, I don't know. I hope they did if they needed it.

BURLAGA: What were the midshipmen like back then, did you have a personal relationship with them?

RAUSCH: Yeah, we knew a lot of um. Um... the fact is, since 1960, we... living in Hawaii, we sponsored, for years, we sponsored all the Hawaiian midshipmen. Sometimes it would be fifteen, twenty a year that we sponsored they'd sleep over here, sleep on the floor on the weekend... anything to get out. And of course they'd get a lot of mashed potatoes and down there and stuff. And they'd come here and she'd (his wife) fix meals for them, and they'd have rice and teryaki and different things, you know. And they just loved that, to get some home food. And uh, but during those days, they did the same thing. Jess Fisher, I talked about him being the fire chief, they all were... every weekend they were, they had eight or ten midshipmen at their house for the weekend. And uh, the same things happening today, I don't think it's any different. They're away from home, they want someplace to go and we had, God, we used to have a car- cars in the yard- the one's that could have cars in their last year, and um, we used to have them here every weekend, I think on the weekend we would have to buy uh, about two or three extra gallons of milk- they'd drink a lot of milk- and uh, um, they would do things, I miss a lot of it, we don't do it anymore cause we just don't have... since we both retired, we don't have time for anything, but um, it was... I'm glad that we did it. And we knew... the fact is the first midshipman was across the street uh, with Betty (HACKENPOLER-phonetic) for Thanksgiving and she says- 'Oh, the people live over here are from Hawaii,' (referring to Mr. Rausch). She didn't know he was from Hawaii, when she came here. And so she said- I want to take you over there and introduce you. So he walked in the door, and she said, this is uh, Danny (KALILI-phonetic), and I said- Is your father John (KALILI-phonetic)? He said- no, that's my grandfather... And right away, his eyes got big, and um, we got talking, and I did a lot of things in Hawaii, but I was in the newspaper quite a bit, but uh, I got out my newspaper clippings where his grandfather was involved, where I was involved with... in civil defense things. And uh, a lot of other things... air/ sea rescue things, things like that. And they, and they uh... and he couldn't believe it. And I had his picture, and I said- 'Is that your grandfather?' And he said- 'Yeah that's my grandfather.' And then come to find out, Rose, my wife, she went to school with his mother. And she was Japanese and his father was Hawaiian, but her name was Maura and um... at that time... I don't want to talk about Hawaii, we'll just stick with Annapolis.

BURLAGA: Okay, I would like to hear that some other time, though.

RAUSCH: But we sponsored midshipman, and we sponsored lots of um. And many time we would rush... uh, get um in the back of the car, cause they'd put on shorts and all, and be in the yard, and um, and when... they would be getting dressed in the back seat to make it to the six o'clock muster. And uh, they would have to just about get dressed and run up a... here.

BURLAGA: This is...

RAUSCH: This is uh, 1960, yeah, but we sponsored a lot of midshipmen.

BURLAGA: So you had a fairly good relationship with them back in Hell Point?

RAUSCH: Yeah, yeah. We had, yeah, and I'm sure that, well see most of those midshipmen, from the twenties

and thirties uh, gone bye bye already, I mean, so they're not around. But the one's we sponsored, they still, they get to Washington, they make a special effort to get down here.

BURLAGA: Did you interact with them at all, did you do any activities with them?

RAUSCH: Yeah, we did, Yeah. We let them have parties, we let them do things that they wanted to do. The fact is, when Danny (KALILI-phonetic) graduated- he's a full commander... probably captain by now. But he uh, he uh... we had a big luau here. And we brought in a cook from Hawaii, and uh, most everything came from Hawaii except the pig, we bought it from Rookies market. And uh, but uh, they brought everything from Hawaii, all the Hawaiian food.

BURLAGA: When you lived in Hell Point. Why would the midshipmen come into Hell Point- did they go to the stores, did they go to the bars?

RAUSCH: At that time there were lots of rules for the midshipmen. If their girlfriend came to see um, there was no kissing, there was no holding hands. They couldn't even walk down the street holding hands. Uh, they couldn't go in any place that sold alcohol at all. Uh, it was very strict rules. I think they're somewhat relaxed today, um, I'm not too sure, but I think they even can buy beer at the Naval Academy. I see them at the Officer's Club, I don't know what they drink, but... we were down there last night for dinner in fact... but uh, we see them in there occasionally and I guess today they can have a drink if they are first class, or whatever. I don't know I'm not too sure.

BURLAGA: In 1941, how did you hear about the acquisition of the land in Hell Point?

RAUSCH: I didn't even know about it until uh, my mother wrote me, and said she had just bought a house over in Eastport and um, she said that the Navy's enlarging and they're taking in part of Randall street. I think I heard about it through her in the letter.

BURLAGA: So your mother was still living there when they did take the land?

RAUSCH: Yeah.

BURLAGA: How many months, or how long did they give her to pack up and leave?

RAUSCH: Oh, there was adequate time...

BURLAGA: There was adequate time?

RAUSCH: Yeah, yeah, she was... she wouldn't have been under any pressure any way cause she didn't let herself get under any pressure, but she um, uh, she had plenty of time. And the house she wanted, she wanted anyway. And uh...

BURLAGA: How did she feel about that?

RAUSCH: Well, she lived on Randall Street uh, for many years, uh, sixty or seventy years, and of course when she got married she just moved across the street.

BURLAGA: So she was there all her life.

RAUSCH: Yeah, all her life, yeah.

BURLAGA: And your house, was that taken by the Naval Academy?

RAUSCH: Yes, yes, yes. They have our... and right now it's where the wall is, part of the wall. It's right across the street from Dr. Murphy's house.

BURLAGA: So your house used to be where the wall is now?

RAUSCH: Um hum, so the wall before went straight down King George Street. And then you could up and turn right, and you would turn into the number one gate, now. And then the right hand side that would be houses all the way down, and Johnson Lumber Company was at the end and they were on the water front because they couldn't deliver lumber... they didn't have those big trucks. So everything came in by ship, all of our lumber and everything... And then on the other corner was (KOTZIN-phonetic) and there was a soda... they, they had a grocery store, and the soda on the... now see we got down... we went... we covered uh, Prince George Street, I guess pretty good, but we, and Randall Street, and around the Dock area, and Dock Street, and then now, there's a... if you come down Prince George Street, uh, and go straight ahead, you'll go down to the end of where King George Street used to go, to the waterfront.

BURLAGA: That was called Johnson Place, am I correct?

RAUSCH: No, that was still Prince George. But there was a street that connected, like Randall Street connects Prince George and King George, this way... okay, there was a street below there, toward the water, which the Naval Academy has now, called Holland Street. And uh, and uh, Holland Street, if any place, Holland Street would be the original Hell Point area. Now half way up Holland Street, there was just a dirt road that went in there, and what did you say the name of the street you just mentioned?

BURLAGA: Johnson Place?

RAUSCH: Johnson, that might have been what that was.

BURLAGA: It went down to the water?

RAUSCH: But if you go...it was on the water, and they had a oyster shell pile, oh, it was as big as this house, I mean, you know. And when we were kids we used to play on it and everything and I don't ever remember... we were always barefooted, and we'd run across those oyster shells and everything, and it didn't seem to bother us... people don't believe it... but really, we did. And um, we played down there a lot, around there and... if you do any digging around that area, you gonna find lots of oyster shells. I mean piles of oyster shells. And uh, there was a crab house down there, owned by a black family- real nice people, um, called Grey's Crab House. And when we were kids, we'd go down there with a nickel, and she would give us a great big crab, and fill a bag up with claws, you know (laughter), and she made crab legs, and she made deviled crabs- oh, the deviled crabs, you've never in this world find it again what they used to make down there- delicious deviled crab cakes. That's where you take the shell, and cook the crab meat on the side somehow, and you pack it back in there and then you bake the whole thing- delicious. That was Grey's Crab House, and then all the way down King George Street on the right was Johnson Lumber Company. And that's where the Ferry came in, right next to Johnson's Lumber Company.

BURLAGA: Just for one minute, I want to go back to the Naval Academy. Do you recall, any protests about them taking your house?

RAUSCH: No, I don't think so.

BURLAGA: No? She just, she moved to Eastport...

RAUSCH: The war was on, they needed the property to fight the war, and I think everybody would pick up on that... I never heard of any protest, uh, about them taking their property, no.

BURLAGA: So, everyone pretty much just took it...

RAUSCH: At least... I think my mother would send me clippings in the paper, I think she would have told me through the mail something that the people are up in arms. Uh, but I don't think so...(PAUSE) and beside that they have the right of eminent domain to uh, repossess it if they wanted to anyway. I've never heard of any problem. I wasn't living here at the time, so, I wouldn't have heard of it unless somebody pointed it out to me.

BURLAGA: So you really don't have any negative feelings about the Naval Academy, or the Navy, for taking the land?

RAUSCH: No, no. My mother got a better house, she got a better location, she uh, was uh, almost on the water, or a couple houses from the water, on (BACK-phonetic) Creek, and uh, she had a big house, and uh...twice the size of what our house was on Randall Street.

BURLAGA: So it worked out okay?

RAUSCH: Yeah, um hum.

BURLAGA: I wanted to find out a little bit about...

RAUSCH: Can we go back to the Naval Academy?

BURLAGA: Oh, sure.

RAUSCH: Now, this is fiction, but even before I went in the Navy as a teenager, I had a thought one day that... all seaports, they had to have seaports because that was the only transportation they had in the old days... it was they only way they could ship bulk things into towns, is through sea ports. So seaports flourished, uh, in manufacturing, in the size of the town and the town growth and the grocery stores and schools...everything flourished around sea ports. Annapolis was one of the first seaports and I have thought about this many times... that had the Naval Academy not come to Annapolis, but went someplace else, Annapolis would probably be something like Baltimore. Maybe on a smaller scale- we didn't have the water, but it would have been dredged out to get the depth for the ships and all. But it was a terrific location to develop as a seaport. When the Navy came in and the Navy had the city impose rules on growth of businesses and manufacturing and things like that... they didn't want it. That's what I understand as a kid, and I've never heard anybody talk about this since then and I haven't thought about it since then. But uh, that's the only thing I wonder about sometime. I think that would make a good story in say... to say what would happen if the Naval Academy wasn't here. The Naval Academy claims that Annapolis would be nothing, you know, that everybody worked there, and it's true, and, but, there wasn't that many people here, you know, so they did all get jobs and everything. And the city itself protected the Naval Academy- they still do protect the Naval Academy. And they um, uh, and I'm not against that, no, I think it's great because it leaves Annapolis like uh, I have to be careful with this word- Historical Annapolis, I usually say Hysteric Annapolis (laughter). But it's good, it's all good. And uh, sometimes I think about that too, but uh, you know... a guy's got property he can't develop and stuff. I guess it's all good.

BURLAGA: Did you play with the children that lived on the Naval Academy?

RAUSCH: Uh, we went to school with them, and knew um, yeah, uh huh, we knew them well. And as far as school was concerned we were together, we played, we were friends with a lot of the uh, people who were Navy dependents, yeah, um hum.

BURLAGA: Where did you go to school?

RAUSCH: I went to Green Street Elementary School. Which is in Hell Point. And we haven't talked about Green Street, but uh, and I went to Annapolis High School. I think I was in the first or second class in the new high school, uh, when I was in Elementary school, the high school was that little tiny building next door. That was Annapolis High School. Isn't that crazy? Now it's a tremendous... they have a, a... two, an intermediate and a high school. So uh... so uh, they have uh six, three, and three. When I went to school, it was eight and four...

BURLAGA: Were the children outside of Hell Point allowed to come into Hell Point?

RAUSCH: Oh sure, yeah, a lot of them did. The fact is, I think most of my friends were out of Hell Point, except Earl (MANE- phonetic) he was my best friend, he had been all... since we were kids together- real little.

BURLAGA: What type of things did you do with the children?

RAUSCH: Oh, well, on Saturday mornings, when we were under teenage and up to teenage, we would go to the circle theater at the top of East Street, and for ten cents we would go in there at nine in the morning and stay in there till twelve. And they had about three series goin' on- Buck Jones and Tim (McKOY- phonetic) and all of the old cowboys- they were mostly western films. And it only cost a dime. And we would go there every Saturday morning.

BURLAGA: Where was this?

RAUSCH: At the top of East Street. It's on the circle. And the building now is being renovated for offices or something, I don't know what's going to be there, but anyway, across the street is the statehouse. On one side is Cornhill Street, and on the other side is East Street. Yeah. Oh, I never even thought about that, but (laughter).

BURLAGA: So, how did the water play into your activities?

RAUSCH: Okay, we were in the water all the time, uh, the Ferry boat would come in and we would run down there, take our shoes off- we wore swimming trunks all summer anyway, no shoes... take our T-shirts off and dive in and go next to the Ferry and they would throw nickels and dimes in the water, and we would dive for... when we bring it up and show it to them, and then they'd throw another one, you know. We did that in the water... we crabbed, and we crabbed mainly around the piles... piling of the peers and stuff, and uh, we would go around the shore soft crabbing, we would fish at the end of King George Street. There used to be a great big pavilion out there, and we would fish there, um, uh, me and a guy named Doug Henski, we built a canoe one time out of (CORIGATED-phonetic) roofing- tin... roofing, and we just got two two by fours and bent it up around and then pounded the sides out of it... and we used to go fishing... it- it would tip over easy, ya know, but we used to go fishing in that... go crabbing in that...

BURLAGA: Mr. Rausch, I'm going to have to stop, we're out of tape. Thank you very much.

RAUSCH: Well, we were just getting started (laughter).

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

Interview with Mel Hyatt
Interviewer: Daniela Suskin
June 29, 1993

SUSKIN: Why don't you start talking about your neighborhood?

HYATT: Well, I grew up on Cornhill Street, which is pretty much in the center of what we call Hell Point, which is now the market house area. Where the harbor house restaurant, down by the dock, where the naval academy field house is now, that was all a part of what we called Hell Point. They had residents, and there was a Johnson's Lumber Company was there, and as a youngster, we played down there. We also had a ferry boat that used to dock down there, near the lumber yard, which was really the only way to get back and forth to the Eastern shore, there was no Bay Bridge. Hell Point was, basically, a community of watermen, that made their living working water: oystering, crabbing, fishing, which, that's a dying industry here, now. The other people were usually employed by the naval academy, in service type jobs, or a few, like my father, who was a shoe maker, in service oriented type business: grocers, tailors, shoemakers. We didn't have the chain stores that exist here, now. And growing up here was, it was a fascinating place, you know, to grow up. I look back, I have to look at it with two sets of eyes, because the change in Annapolis helped me, financially, in my life. Because, the area changed, and the business opportunities changed, and I was one of the locals who stayed here. I went in the restaurant business. But, as far as the youth, we had the water. I wouldn't dream of swimming in this dock today (laughter), but then we swam in the dock. We didn't need a park; we played ball on the streets, traffic was, you know... It was a big family type of situation, and we had a mixed type of residence. We speak of integration, today; I grew up on Cornhill Street, that was an integrated street. Most of us were either moderately... moderate incomes to poor incomes. And it was good place to learn how to live and mix with people, but, times changed. And, we had neighborhood groceries stores. You could go to the grocery, and if you didn't have your money, he would say, 'you'll give it to me the next day.' So, it was an interesting area to grow up in.

SUSKIN: So, tell me about the house you lived in?

HYATT: I grew up on 39 Cornhill Street. And, it's been said that George Washington was supposed to have visited that home, but, according to everyone in this area, I think he visited every home here (laughter). It was a large home, and it still is. It's a brick home, and we never had air conditioning. Our summers, then, were just as hot as they are now. But, the ceilings were so high, and the bricks were so, you know, I guess they were eighteen feet worth of brick, in those homes, and the insulation was uh... And, I remember growing up, we didn't have a central heater, we had a floor type furnace. And, we used to sit around, that was the area that kept us warm, but, we all managed. They were homes that were solidly built. And, we didn't have, we had a family of what, let's see, seven grew up in that house, including my parents, and there was never a period of time that I remember growing up on Cornhill Street that we ever locked our doors. Now, I think today you just couldn't, no matter where you could live, you couldn't do. It was a nice street to grow up. Although, Hell Point, at the time, was considered the rough part of Annapolis; I would have to say, I would classify it as more of a blue collar type neighborhood. And, I wouldn't have given up that experience for anything in the world, because I think it prepared me for life. I know, when I went in the service, I wasn't intimidated; where I felt other, saw other people from other areas, that came from a more sheltered type background, they didn't adjust as well. But, we were used to the hard side of life, and it was a really experience that you can't buy it in an education, it's something you almost have to live. I went to Green Street School, which was, you know, close, walking distance, two minutes from the house, and my father's shop was around the corner from the school. And, I can always remember, my parents both being European, and with very limited educations, themselves, and sometimes I wasn't always the best student, or the best behaved child (laughter), and they would come to see my father, or send a note home, and they had a different philosophy than today's type parents. My father used to say, 'He's there to learn, do what you have to do.' And, I would get it at school, and I'd get it at home. My wife, being a retired teacher, I hear her talk that the philosophy is changed. Now, the problem, it's the teacher's fault, or this, or that. I found, in our generation, particularly the European types, they felt that if someone's

job was to teach you, they had the authority to teach you, and use the means that they ... My father used to say, 'You bring me shoes, I can fix shoes, but I can't teach, but I can fix shoes, so you teach him, you do whatever you have to do.' And, because of that, I think the kids of Hell Point were known to be tough, but in school, the teachers would always say they were no worse than any other community in the Annapolis area, or any other schools, because they had that hard core attitude that you take care of him, you do what you have to do. So, growing up down here was just a great place. Everybody knew everybody. The buildings were available to everybody. We used to go inside the academy, outside the academy.

SUSKIN: Did you play there?

HYATT: Yeah, we played inside the academy. Every kid that I knew growing up, they were either given, or they stole a Naval Academy sweatshirt, jersey, or a baseball hat, or something. We had a real good relationship with the Academy. They were good to the youths of Annapolis, all my life, with, as far as athletic equipment.

And, it was a real cooperative spirit. And, Annapolis has remained pretty much the same as far as the streets and the buildings, but people have changed. It's an affluent society now, compared to what it used to be. That's changed the whole area. In fact, we, my brothers and I, get together, periodically, and somebody says, 'why did all you leave Cornhill Street.' Well, we married, and with five children, and our parents got older and passed away, and we sold the home. But, now, we always say, we always tell everybody, see, when we left, it was different. My parents sold the house for eighteen thousand dollars, that was in the late Forties, or maybe early Fifties. The last time that the house was sold, it was in the three hundred thousand area. We always say, 'Well, we can't afford to go back, now.' But, basically, if you have an opportunity to ever come to Annapolis, those homes are on tour once a year. And, basically, we went through the home a number of times, they got a little more antique furniture in it, but the house is basically the same. I like the way my mother had it, but it had antique furniture, and that sort of things in it now. And, but, the room sizes are all the same, the ceilings are the same. I don't recall ever having seen them do anything structurally to change that house, because evidently when they built it, they built to last.

SUSKIN: How many rooms were in it? How many bedrooms?

HYATT: Well, we had three bedrooms, but one, the front bedroom, was a huge room. In fact, there were four boys in our family, and at one time, we had four beds in that room. Then, my older brother, he decided he wanted another room. Actually, there were three big rooms, and one small room that my older brother took. And, we had one room for my sister, there was only one girl. She had the one room, my parents had a room. The big room, it was like an army barracks (laughter). But, there was plenty of room, nobody got in anybody's way. It was, I wish they built houses like that today, because, really, growing up with my brothers, made us very close, because we're in and out of the same bedroom. It's, closet space, the only thing is, in those homes, there wasn't closet space that they put in new homes. But, in those days, nobody had the amount of clothes that we have (laughter).

SUSKIN: You were saying that you played in the Naval Academy. Are there any other areas that you played in, in Hell Point?

HYATT: We played down by the oysters, down by where the Harbor House Restaurant is, where the boats used to dock. And, there was a seafood house, it used to be called, in my time, it was Chesapeake Seafood, before that there was another. And, on the other side, there was an ice house, where the Fleet Reserves and that area sits, but I just vaguely remember what was there. And they also had some seafood types things there. But if you remember where the Harbor House is, where the oyster pile was, we used to play on that oyster pile. And, we used to take the oyster shells, throw them, and skim them across the, you know, watch them skim across the dock. And then, we used to crab, crab off the poles and fish down there, and swim down there. And in fact, some of the boys that were a little older than I was at the time, where the ferry boat used to dock, and they would load on. And, people would throw coins over, and the local boys, the Annapolis boys, that were really great swimmers, would dive for the coins. And, back in those days, some of the guys were picking up four or five dollars a day, you know, on a Saturday when there were people down there. Their dads probably weren't making four or five dollars a day, you know. So, you had some advantages by being down here in the... And, then we had football games at the old Navy stadium. And as boys, all the kids from Hell Point were always the ones selling programs, and hawking the bags. So, we had some advantages by living in Hell Point that other kids didn't. When I went to, when I left elementary school, and I went to high school, which was at the old Annapolis high off of (unclear) Boulevard, people said, 'Oh, they're from Hell Point.' I don't know what they expected. I think they expected it all to be rednecks, hard heads, and, because it was that end of town. It was a water-- you know, hard working people, watermen, and I still have, my heart's still in Hell Point. We have a reunion

every couple years. Some of the people that we grew up with that went on to be very successful in other fields, most feel that growing up in Hell Point influenced them, in a good way, because a true Hell Pointer can almost fit in anywhere, that's the way, you know, that's the way it was.

SUSKIN: Did all the kids in your neighborhood, pretty much go to the same school?

HYATT: The only schools that were, we only had the Green Street, we had segregated schools, at that time. The white children went to Green Street; and the black went to uptown, in an area, I think it was Adams Park Elementary School. And then, there was St. Mary's School, which was a parochial school. And then, not, it wasn't expensive, but most people didn't have the money to even think in terms of, if you lived in Hell Point, more than likely, you didn't have too much extra money for parochial schools. But, we had some of our friends that went to St. Mary's, but not many. But the amazing thing having grown up like that, when we all came home from school, it would be the kids from our school and the black children from their school, we played.

SUSKIN: So, there was no--

HYATT: No, no controversy there. We played, I played sports all my life, in back of the Green Street School. And, we played with the kids that went to the black schools and we got along fine, but we just didn't go to school together. That was what, and when I first went into business, I had on, where Griffin's Restaurant is, Nineteen fifties, early Fifties, my brother started a bar, and it was called Dave's Bar. I'd come home from the service, and I went in with my brother, Dave, and brother, Lou. And we, it was very difficult, having been a minority myself, being Jewish. Until I left Annapolis, and went away, I accepted not going to school with blacks, but then I went into the service, and I bunked with blacks. Then I came back, came back from Korea, and there it was, we were still, uh... There I'm in a business, and we didn't serve blacks. And, it was a very difficult period of time, that was in the Fifties, and they had a... State legislature passed an equal accommodation law, that we were to read. It was a very difficult time, because here we were, not serving customers, or people that we grew with, we played with, and it was a difficult few years there. And I was relieved when they passed the accommodation bill, because it brought Maryland in line with the rest of the country. And, Hell Point was unique in that way. There were a lot of people, Hell Pointers that dreaded that day, but I felt that it was something that had to be done and should of been done. But, it was a difficult period in my life, because some of the fellows that I grew up with had strong opinions on both sides of the issue. But, it happened in this area and it survived it. People said it was going to be, the whole town was..., it didn't happen the way the gloomers had it figured. But, so many people that I grew up with, boys that I came up with, have left Annapolis for the simple reason, their forefathers worked the water, they made good livings. There's not that many of them that can work the water now, there's not a living to be made out there, they moved elsewhere. And then, with progress and tourism, and then, they just got priced out of the neighborhood. We grew up in a community, where the houses weren't anything, they were just livable for homes; but now if you come down through here, you see them, they've restored them, this and that. Annapolis is a changed, economically it's different. As I said before, growing up, the way it used to be was fantastic. On the other hand, you have to look at economics of the situation. It was a great place to be, to have the opportunities, because Annapolis now is a thriving community. And, we have Hell Point, the area that is Hell Point, that I call the heart of Annapolis, because the dock is what attracts people to Annapolis, and that's, that is Hell Point. And, the merchants have always, they had good years, and bad years like anyone else, but Annapolis has always been able to survive, particularly, the little merchants that were in Hell Point during the worst of times. My older brother, I didn't see too much of the Depression, but my older brother, because of the waterfront, the Academy, at Hell Point, people always were able to make a living at the Academy.

SUSKIN: Did the Academy come into play in your life when you were child a lot? Was there cooperation?

HYATT: Well, the Academy was great for Hell Point kids. Generally, Hell Pointers, economically, were not at the top of the scale, and for a culture, we saw a lot of sports things. We saw things that went on at the Academy, because we were living outside the gates, we exposed to things that other children didn't see. We used to go to the parades, dress parades, and those things. And, the Academy was really good to the outside community and the neighborhood. Plus, in the summer, a lot of the kids were able to get employment. I remember one of my early jobs was, it's no longer here, where the Paca Gardens, Carvel Hall Hotel used to be there. And, I guess I was fifteen, and I remember those long halls, we used to get there in the morning and mop those long floors. So there were opportunities to work. And then, I worked for the Shanker family, that used to have the family shoe store on Main Street. In fact, where Maria's, the Italian restaurant is, the Shanker family and the Lott family had a grocery store, and I worked there, too. So, right where the kite store is on Fleet Street, I worked there, it was a grocery store. And, in fact, that was a store, that was Jake Boon's store. And, so, we

had a lot of little opportunities to come our way. But, I believe, if... our present mayor is a Hell Pointer, and if you look back, and see some of the people that Hell Point produced, you'll see that they did a good job for preparing us for life. And, it was a fine place to grow up. We had our own athletic teams, we had our, in the market house they let us put a little recreation area back then. We had a little place where we could lift weights.

SUSKIN: Where was that?

HYATT: Right at the old city market, right across the street. You know, they had a market house, and they closed off part of it. And we had a little room.

SUSKIN: A lot of Hell Pointers went there?

HYATT: Oh, yeah. We exercised. Hell Point was unique. I would say this, today, I'm proud to say I'm a Hell Pointer. And as a youngster coming along, I went in certain parts of the city, and they'd say, 'where do you live?' I'd say, real softly, 'Hell Point.' And they'd say, cause Hell Point was not known as the "Merry Avenue," "Merry Hill," and they were a different section of the town, and....

SUSKIN: What kind of reaction did you get when you said...

HYATT: Well, people, you know it's, do you live there? It was a different...so, what are your..., what does your family do? I said, 'My father's a shoe maker.' And, for the most part, they would think that everybody in Hell Point made their living as a fisherman, or that they were all people that worked for the Academy. And, like I say, the little merchants, the shoemakers, the tailors. And I feel that Hell Point prepared you for life. I don't think you'll ever run into a boy that grew up in Hell Point, that's really a Hell Pointer, that's going to be intimidated in most any situation in life, because we were, we used to have our crawls with the kids from Eastport, and the other sections of town. And, the Eastporters and the Hell Pointers were considered the two toughest neighborhoods in Annapolis.

SUSKIN: What were the fights with the other parts of Annapolis about?

HYATT: Well, one thing was, we just didn't, Hell Pointers had a ...we didn't like people come down in our area, particularly East Porters, across the bridge. The older guys, before us, were much more aggressive about it than we were, because, I believe, when they start the high school, in our last year, I think my last year of Green Street, they started to bring in, I think that was in the sixth or seventh grade, they brought the East Port kids over to Annapolis, and we went to school one year together before we went to high school. So, it kind of broke our, the barrier, that we got to know each other, and all these stories we used to hear about the East Porters, and found that they were just like us.

SUSKIN: But, you didn't like to let the people who were--

HYATT: No, no, no, Hell Pointers, we won't...when they came down, we didn't like them, if they came down to date our girls, we didn't like them. We were ... even with the midshipmen there were.... not when we were younger, but as we got older, the older teens, there was always a certain friction with midshipmen because they had the uniforms, they always had the upper hand with the ladies. So, it had its advantages, and its disadvantages. We grew up getting along with most everybody, as we matured, we understood. And those that stayed in Hell Point, that stayed in the area, and were able to take advantage of the change from Hell Point were fortunate. I know families, in this community, with struggling people, but their parents had accumulated a couple pieces of property here or there.....Getting three or four thousand dollars a month rent for some of these properties down around here. That was an up side for those that kept their property there. And Hell Point was always good to me. I made a living here. I went from a bar to where Griffins is now, used to be the Dockside, and this coffee shop that we are in, used to... I opened a bakery here, a French bakery at the time, Vie le France franchise, which I could never picture in Hell Point, but it was the changing of the guard here. People now, they're drinking cappucino. In the old days we had as many, I mean, I hear residents of thisnow they're complaining about liquor license, and so forth. Well, every corner had a saloon, and those saloons, when I was coming up, they had the black saloons and what we call white saloons. If you go down from Harbor House to where the Maryland Inn is now, you would find there were as many liquor licenses then. But they were bars, they weren't restaurants, they were bars.

SUSKIN: Did you and your friends go to...Did you know a lot of people who went to saloons?

HYATT: Oh yeah, well, my parents didn't. But, on Cornhill Street, where I lived, on Friday night, all the working men, they were in the neighborhood saloons, then they would come home. And I noticed, when I was coming up, that my father once told me, that's the kind of business I should be in. As a youngster, after I got old enough, I would go in, because my friends were there, and my father would say that's...and, I ended up in a, with my brothers, in the bar business, then we changed to Dockside Restaurant. And, another thing interesting about that period of time, going back in my time in Hell Point, which, most of Anne Arundel County,

we had slot machines, in the taverns and in downtown Annapolis, but when they went out, tourism picked up in Annapolis. The historical society came in power, and I was very much, as a young business man opposed to Historic Annapolis. As years went on, I became somewhat of a supporter because I saw what they did for Annapolis, they kept the old neighborhoods looking like the old neighborhoods. Economically, we've thrived since that period of time, because people were coming to Annapolis, because it's kept like a colonial town. It's not make believe type, the same houses there, and we've got no high rises, right in the center of the town. They did a good job, and now that the... I've received some of the benefits, because, when I was into the businesses, we thrived on tourists, we still do, and now, I guess every generation has their thing. Now, they're hollering that it's too much tourism, but Hell Point can never go back to what Hell Point was. There'll never be a Hell Point of my youth. First thing's the dock. You can't make a living on the water, so you're not going to draw the same type of people in Hell Point. It's going to have to be something that's controlled, but it's really a tourist affluent society that lives in Hell Point now, where, when I was living downtown... As far as the noise, I hear them complain about noise, and so forth, we used to have a lot of noise.

SUSKIN: What was making the noise?

HYATT: Well, we had all these taverns, and when the bars let out, and plus the residents were different. They were hard working, hard drinking, and they celebrated down here, and it didn't hurt any of us growing up. But, on the other hand, everybody got up in morning and went to work.

SUSKIN: Was your family a part of that?

HYATT: What?

SUSKIN: The hard working...

HYATT: Oh yeah, now not my parents. My brothers, not so much my sister, but my brothers and I, we were raised as Hell Pointers and we ended up being true Hell Pointers, we work hard, we partied. My parents, they came from a European background, their views were different. Having been a minority, being Jewish at the time, I hear, but I grew up, and I'd be lying if I said there wasn't some discrimination, but I would play sports with everybody, but then, back then, it was accepted, but today somebody would be insulted by it. The boys at the end of the day would say, 'Let's get a soda at the Jew store.' I heard that all my life. I really didn't know whether to take it offensively. And, having played sports and things in the neighborhood, and the guys going to you, 'You Jewish?' We didn't have a large Jewish population, particularly in this part of Annapolis. I don't know what they expected, I guess they expected it to be something different. But once they found out we could compete, we were accepted. I think, the period in the Forties, it was different, because, it was almost like, particularly the Hell Pointers, they were more like a Southern type of, a little Southern type of town. And we're all victims of what was passed down to us, victims of what we were told. But this neighborhood was good to us. My parents made a living here, they raised the children, educated those wanted to get the education. I have a sister, one sister who lives in the Midwest, And when she comes to Annapolis now, to visit with us, the first place she wants to go is back down to Hell Point, look around, see what friends are still there, because it was a nice place to grow up. Because it was an opportunity for those that stayed to make a nice living.

SUSKIN: What was the Jewish in the area like? You'd said something before about their being about twenty-five families.

HYATT: Well, I would say at the time, probably when I was, up until the time I was Barmitzvahed, which would be the age of thirteen, I would say there might of been twenty five or thirty five families. Now, out of those families, you now had three, four Hell Point families. And those were the people who had groceries, like my father, a shoemaker, or a tailor, and there was one old family, down by the dock, if you checked where the Johnson Lumber Yard and all was, there was a Kotzen family, that had a distribution of candies, tobaccos, and that sort of thing. They shop was here, but they didn't live here. They lived here earlier, I guess they moved up to "Merry Avenue" later on. Our family was one of the ones, we stayed. I don't know whether it was because we liked or what, but we probably stayed as long as any family here. In fact, my father, when he moved out of where we called Hell Point, he moved up to another part of the city, nicer home and so forth. It was Locust Avenue was where they moved to, and he didn't last many years after that, but he never, ever liked that area, even though it had nicer trees and yards, he always used to say, "People are different up here." Here you are still in Annapolis, and only a mile away, probably. The fact is, when we lived out here, you could walk down by the dock, and you could stand by the corner. And also my mother, they could come down, stand by the corner where Goodies Mall is, used to be a Murphy's Five and Dime Store, and they could stand there. They loved it, because someone would go by, they'd say 'Hi, Sam. Hi, Ida.' They felt like they were home. Out there they said, people, they don't talk to you. But in Hell Point, everybody, they spoke to you. I found that Hell Point

would put you... if you didn't want to accept Hell Pointers, then you would find it... but once they found out that you were one of them, it was a good place to grow up. In fact, as a youngster, I remember in the Jewish community, we started to have athletic teams, and there was a league. And, they wanted me to play with the Jewish team, was called, an organization, AZA, or Hell Point. Well, I said I got to play for Hell Point. I said because we had only six or seven boys in Hell Point, that even went to play. Every other team in that league, but the Hell Pointers, I remember, had uniforms. And we won the league championship, because I knew that if Hell Point put a team in there, they would be very competitive, because that was the nature of the upbringing. And a lot of the guys today talk about..., if you might have played with us, we might have done better. But there's a certain loyalty to Hell Point and the guys you grew up with.

SUSKIN: So, you that you used to go crabbing a lot. Did your family eat a lot of seafood?

HYATT: I did. My parents kept kosher. I can remember sneaking off, and eating crabs at my neighbors house. In fact, I remember people coming into my father's shoe shop and they'd say, 'Sam, here's half a bushel of crabs.' And parents would....'Get them out of here! Get them out of here!' So, we had to take them, and give them to somebody, but they... We ate a lot of fresh fish, they brought fish and things in, my mother was good at cooking fish, but fresh fish and crabs, but I ate a lot of them in my friends homes, and anywhere I could go, and I loved it--the local seafood. We could go the city dock, right where the Hilton Hotel is sitting now, and you could go down there and catch perch, without any trouble, in a half hour, have all you want. Early in the mornings, we'd go crabbing, catch hard crabs, and sometimes, I don't know if you're familiar with soft crabs, and "dublers," that's crab just getting ready to shed, and we used to crab, fish. For families of little means, we lived like rich boys, because we had the city dock, we had the Academy athletic fields, we had a lot of advantages. Looking back now, we didn't have to go to summer camp, we didn't need a camp, we had the dock right in front of us, the streets, we played ball on, go down to the Academy. So, I often say, people say 'Well, all you at Hell Point, you didn't have this.' We never felt that way. Looking back, I guess, by today's standards, you'd say Hell Pointers didn't have, but if we didn't have it, we didn't notice it. We didn't miss anything. And the other thing is, in todays world, it's tougher, if you're the guy that's on the economic scale, you're at the bottom. It's very tough. In those days, it wasn't that way, you went on about your...life has changed, emphasis is put on where you live, what you have, but to Hell Pointers that never mattered. Even back in our period of time, you look around some of these older homes, and all, they were Hell Pointers, we were living in those homes: Senator Phipps, and his son, who lived in it, but he was a Hell Pointer. We were a melting pot, and even, like I said earlier, I found, even in races, we had integrated streets. I grew up on a street where it was black and white. I can honestly say, I never had any problems, where today it's an issue, but then it wasn't an issue, because that's the way it was. The people, if you look on Fleet Street, Pinkney Street, which is on both sides of where we were at, that, for the most part, they were mostly black residents, and you find very few of them now, because those houses just went out of sight. They left the area because they just couldn't afford. And yet, they owned those, a lot of those houses were owner occupied. They lived there and they owned them, but when the values of things went up, some of the houses were in need of repairing, and the restoration of Hell Point when they came and they redid it, and it's... the side streets look very much like how they used to look, the houses, they're fixed up better, and all, but the same structures are there. The market house, which is the market house now, but I don't know what kind of...it's a market house, but then it was a farmer's market, everything that was sold in there was produce, fresh seafood. Today, it's more like fast food type of thing. As a kid, that was a market.

SUSKIN: Were there any areas in Hell Point that you weren't allowed to go into, as a child, that were kind of... you know, that you're family didn't want you to go into, or that were a little more dangerous places, you weren't allowed to go into?

HYATT: No, no. You could go anywhere in Hell Point, if you were a Hell Pointer. The question is, I have to say, if you were a stranger, you didn't wander around Hell Point. Word spread fast in Hell Point, somebody's down there. For whatever reason, I don't know what they were upset about, but, I guess it was protecting they're turf. Strangers, if you were at the top of Cornhill Street, by the time you got to the bottom of Cornhill Street, somebody would want to know what you were doing. We protected each other. Hell Point had one thing, we had the local watermen, at the Naval Academy, we had a lot more sailors than there are now. Sailors, and there was a marine station there, and the locals, the watermen, you had a pretty steady group, and that's why I think the reputation of Hell Point became that... Because, this is the area where the watermen lived, and a good bit of the saloons were, and if there was any action in the town, partying or drinking, this was the area... They still, they gripe about it, now, but it's always been in my lifetime, this has been the area. That's Hell Point. People got

along well, always a living to be made down here. People that wanted to work the water, and a lot of them were independently employed--self employed, the nature of the community, it wasn't like we didn't have industry, we didn't have...Now, people can go and get jobs in the malls, but there was no malls. If you had the good fortune, to be working at the Academy, or business, some sort of business, service type business because that was the only thing that was down here. And there were youngsters that got education, they had to move away from here, there was nothing really. Now, we got...in the phone book...I look in the phone book, you see page, page, page, page, after, doctors, dentists, lawyers. We had two, three dentists, that I know of; a couple doctors; and a half dozen lawyers. It wasn't that kind of... and now it's a commerce type of town now, but it wasn't then. Everybody knew everybody, and there was no secrets, because if somebody was going to trial, everybody in Annapolis knew, because there were only one or two judges that handled our trials.

SUSKIN: Do you remember when they tore down part of Hell Point for the Naval Academy?

HYATT: Oh, yeah.

SUSKIN: What were sentiments like about that?

HYATT: The local people were very upset. In fact, I remember when they petitioned, when the Academy was taking where the field house is now. They had a petition, and they fought it, this and that. But, what seemed so terrible then, was good today, because things couldn't exist the way they were then, because progress dictates change. But, because of the historical society, I think that they managed to keep a lot of Annapolis, a lot of it looking good. And I don't always agree with the Historical Society, because I think what's truly historical should be kept, and what's really not truly, let's not make it something. More important, I think the structures of the houses in Hell Point, I would never want to see them come in and make modern structures on those homes, because it would take the character away of Hell Point. When I drive by Cornhill Street, except it may be fixed up a little better, and painted a little more, but structures are the same. I can go up and down that street now and tell you almost who used to live there. The homes, they're better kept, more affluent people live in them. The people I grew up with, they weren't able to go out, remodel, restructure, they were raising a family in those homes. Well, a lot of yuppies live there now.

SUSKIN: Did you have in the area that was torn down?

HYATT: Oh, yeah.

SUSKIN: Well, as many of them as possible stayed, found places in Hell Point. Then, the rest went to Eastport.

SUSKIN: Was there a lot of help resituating people?

HYATT: No, it's not like today. Today you have agencies to help you relocate. Everything, in those days, you had to do pretty much on your own. Eastport, that's why the Eastport and Hell Point community today are very close, because so many of the real Hell Pointers, back to the mayor, when he left Hell Point, he went to Eastport.

SUSKIN: Were neighbors helping each other in the move?

HYATT: Oh, yeah. There was support. I know where Harbor House is right now, that was a row of, today they'd be classified as shacks, but they were home to some of my dear friends today, that there are today, and that were then. Boys that I played with, but they all had to move (?). I remember one family, the Altman family, there was eighteen children, the Hubbards, about seventeen, or eighteen. And when they moved, and tore those down, it affected me personally, because a lot of my buddies and playmates were leaving out of the area. But, some were able to relocate around. In fact, the Hubbard family, they came to Cornhill Street, to one of the houses on Cornhill Street, and, I think, the Altmans moved over to Eastport. We, and even today, there's something, when I run into someone I haven't seen for years, in a crowd, first thing we say "Hello, Hell Pointer." It's like a pride factor, you're one of us. Well, Hell Point will never be the same because of economics. You're back to economics, you can't change what made us Hell Point because economically, you draw closely when you all feel like you're in the same boat. We helped each other, the families were very close. And when something good happened it was like a community thing. If someone went on to get an education, everyone was proud. Today, so what, you're family's proud of you, but it's not the community type of thing.

SUSKIN: You're the treasurer of the Hell Point Association?

HYATT: No, I'm on the committee, but I work with them. We have a reunion, we're going to have one next summer. When we get together, it's like old times, because the stories we most speak of are the things that today's kids will never know. Sitting on the sea wall, crabbing, stealing something from the Naval Academy, we had families that came from this environment that went on to be very successful, and I would say, my belief is this community prepared you for life. Some things you can learn through books, and all, but living in Hell Point was

an education, because it was different than other sections of Annapolis because basically we thrived on the water, the watermen, and the Academy, and ships, when they used to come in, I know the business merchants when naval ships used to dock here. It was like Christmas....

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
JULY 8, 1993

INTERVIEWER: Hannibal A. Guerrero
INTERVIEWEE: Mayor Alfred A. Hopkins
City Hall, Annapolis, Maryland

SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

GUERRERO: This is tape 1, side 1 of an interview with Mayor Hopkins. Who is a former resident of the neighborhood called Hell Point. The interviewer is Hannibal Guerrero, uh, and the interview is being conducted at city hall in Annapolis, MD, on July 8, 1993, for the Archeology in Annapolis oral history project. Which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland at College Park, Anthropology Department. And Historic Annapolis Foundation and the U.S. Naval Academy.

GUERRERO: Uh, Mayor Hopkins, I'd like you to tell me where you lived uh, in Hell Point as a child?

MAYOR: I moved into Hell Point in the second grade from another part of town. Was uh not what you called the heart of Hell Point. This the border, but I moved further into the heart. The first, the first place was living in Hyde alley, H-Y-D-E, which was originally Smith alley, S-M-I-T-H, which had nicknames of brick bat alley, or battle alley. I was there for about a year. And by the time I reached the third grade, I had moved to the lower block of East street, at 26 East street. And then we moved across the street to 21 East street, and stayed there, and that is getting deeper into where Hell point, the heart of Hell Point was really where you see Halsey field house. Holland street was there and Johnsons' place, but I believe the actual beginning of Hell Point started further into the Naval Academy then it is now. And that it was originally called Hellish point. H-E-L-L-I-S-H, that is my response so far.

GUERRERO: Um, uh, Which house on East street do you remember the most or was most vivid for you as a child?

MAYOR: Oh! Twenty-one East street.

GUERRERO: Twenty- one?

MAYOR: Yes.

GUERRERO: Now East street is the house that has the firehouse,

MAYOR: Waterwitch yes.

GUERRERO: on the street? And at the end is the back of the Paca gardens?

MAYOR: No, that is uh, Martin street.

GUERRERO: Oh, if you take a right on Martin street then you hit the end of Paca Gardens.

MAYOR: Yes.

GUERRERO: I have walked through East street several times and I have noticed that it is somewhat of a small street. Pretty, pretty, It seems like a tight community. Do you remember it being this way.

MAYOR: Yes I remember it very well. It was (he is counting) 13 or 14 homes, if you walk from the foot of East street, going up on the right hand side lived Mr. Springfield, who was a fire fighter, next to him lived three women who never married, I think two of the sisters uh, worked and one stayed home and took care of it. Next to them lived Mr. Tucker who was a contractor, and that house, next to that house, next to his house, was a house that was a transient house, I think you find that it was lived in by people that were assigned to the Naval Academy, primarily enlisted personnel, and the next house was a mother and a daughter, and I think the mother uh, father of the family had died early. And then next lived I, my family, and then next lived the Finkels, sergeant Finkel, police sergeant, his wife worked I think in the Palace Restaurant on Main street And I know she was a waitress. Sergeant, the Finkels have a son named Norman who is an employee of the Annapolis founding authority, and then next to that was the Eastport, I mean not the Eastport, First Ward Democratic club. Which is now a private home. You cross the street coming up on the left hand side there was a family of mother and father two daughters and a son named "Herke". And then next to that was a man who lived with his mother he never married because he stayed to take care of his mother. And then next, next was the Droles until we moved across the street. And then next to there was Mrs. Aires who was a widower, a widow rather.

And that was all. And there were three families who came from Italy in a row there and then you have your waterwitch fire station.

GUERRERO: The fire station, yes. O.K. In old maps that I see of the neighborhood there seems to be a store. Do you remember a store at either end of the.

MAYOR: There was a store at the corner of Randall and King George which was Lucas, It was a soda fountain with a, It was a restaurant, with a soda fountain. I remember I used to go in there 'cause of the waitress, I'm a little boy then, I would say ten, ten years old, nine years old, and I loved that root beer they had there. And also the waitress, I was a ten or eleven year old boy, but that waitress was a beautiful, little boy, little, beautiful, and i had a crush on her.

GUERRERO: Really?

MAYOR: I do not know her name. I remember I used to go in there and sit up at the bar, sit up at the soda fountain. I liked that root beer. I would ask her for a beer without root. (Laughter) But I would never get it, I would only get the root beer. (Laughter)

GUERRERO: You always have to try. Um, just, can you describe your house for me, the first house on East street.

MAYOR: It was three stories, it was single family, all those houses then where single family. We lived in there, three stories, uh my mother on the second floor, rent um, rented most of the second floor to Navy families, enlisted husbands and wives, and we lived in the rest of it. When we went across the street, to the two story house, the reason why we moved, I asked my father when I became an adult, why did we move from twenty-six across the street to twenty-one, he said because rent was two dollars cheaper a month.

GUERRERO: Really, just to move across the street?

MAYOR: Three story house, we were living in a three story house. We went to a two story house and the rent was two dollars cheaper. I guess we paid, I guess two dollars because we lived on, had a third story. And that was, that was my favorite house I lived in. I really grew up in that house.

GUERRERO: In twenty-six.

MAYOR: Yes, it had living room, dining room, kitchen and pantry, and three bedrooms and a bath upstairs.

GUERRERO: Did you spend a lot of time, what room did you spend most of your time in?

MAYOR: Well, the dining room, that was my bedroom, I slept on an army cot, it didn't have all its legs, and had no mattress, just canvas, and I really did not have a bedroom.

GUERRERO: What did your parents do, what were their professions?

MAYOR: My father worked for the U.S. Navy engineering experiment station, which is still across the river, by a different name. He worked in the power plant, which then power was furnished by coal, and my father spent his life, most of his life shoveling coal into a furnace.

GUERRERO: Your mother, did she work?

MAYOR: No my mother never worked. When we moved to twenty-one East street, I think the reason why I didn't have a bedroom, in fact I know the reason why I didn't have a bedroom, my mother and father had a bedroom, my sister had a bedroom, my mother rented the other bedroom to enlisted personnel on duty at the Naval Academy.

GUERRERO: Um, your, so your father worked, was it over in, across the river in Eastport.

MAYOR: No, over, across the Severn, across the Naval Academy, over where the Naval Ship Research and Development Center is.

GUERRERO: In, uh (pause) Where there many other children that lived on the street?

MAYOR: Oh Yes, We had a very nice, there was uh, (.....?) on the one boy on my block, the one other boy besides me, two boys. One, two, three, four, five, five girls and two boys. Sergeant Finkels' son then was a very small child, a preschooler. Then around the corner on Martin street lived three other boys and two other girls. So that was our playmates.

GUERRERO: Did you ever have, what years, I'm sorry, what years were the years that you were a child there?

MAYOR: Thirty....thirty three.

GUERRERO: Pretty much around

MAYOR: In thirty three we came there, we moved there from.

GUERRERO: Did you for many sort of coalitions with the other boys and girls, did you have maybe a gang that you, that you hung around with?

MAYOR: I hung around in the heart of Hell Point. Instead of playing in, with my own block around the corner, I went down to what was probably thought of as, now remember I am proud that I had those friends,

but it was probably thought of as the badlands of Annapolis, my closest friends lived closer, where the Naval Academy is now where Halsey field house. My closest friends, I spent a lot of time down there, because they were my real friends.

GUERRERO: Over by where Holland or Johnsons' place.

MAYOR: And I think that probably to be very truthful, in my own neighborhood I think I was the only one in the neighborhood that was not given a time to come home, the rest of them, I came home when I wanted to come home.

GUERRERO: Where you a little older?

MAYOR: No.

GUERRERO: Or did your parents give you a little more responsibility.

MAYOR: Nobody ever said any time to be home by, nobody ever said don't go here and getting closer down to the heart of Hell Point, It wasn't that those parents did not discipline their children, Its that they could stay out longer so I'd go down there. Where I could have friends and have fun.

GUERRERO: Where those friends down, where did they live?

MAYOR: they lived off of King George, they go in gate one, that is now exist, when you go past Lucas' store and you start hitting the homes. And there was two bars there.

GUERRERO: On king George.

MAYOR: On the right hand side. There was another store. There was ESSO gas station, and then you ran into Johnsons' lumber company. And on Holland street there are families living on both sides of the block, and in Johnsons' there were some people living back there.

GUERRERO: In maps that I have looked at of Hell Point, I've seen on the corner of King George and Holland a store.

MAYOR: A bar.

GUERRERO: That was a bar.

MAYOR: It had a sign I remember the big sign hanging out on the King George street side that was "Old German Beer" and I recall when World War two broke out that sign was taken down for obvious reasons.

GUERRERO: And then across the street is that where the ESSO gas station was?

MAYOR: Further up.

GUERRERO: Further up. Closer towards the lumber yards?

MAYOR: No, closer towards the Lucas

GUERRERO: O.K. And then on Johnsons' Place do you remember any families? Did any of your friends live down there?

MAYOR: The two things I remember about Johnsons' place is one is first the big thing is Kotzin Which I believe Kotzin was a wholesaler to retail stores cigarettes and so forth. What I distinctly remember about Kotzin is when I started smoking when I was eleven years old. And you could go into Kotzins and there would always be a pack of cigarettes that were open they sold loose cigarettes out of the pack, you could get two for a penny, and the cigarette was Marvel, M-A-R-V-E-L, so I'd go in there to get my cigarettes, that's what I remember about it, and also behind, in the early years was John Taylor the mortician in town which is still across the street from city hall. During the horse and buggy days when the hearse was drawn by horse and buggy they had their stable down there on Johnsons' place.

GUERRERO: O.K., because from the maps I see Johnsons' place sort of just ends and there is nothing at the end there and on the left there is a lumber yard.

MAYOR: There was also a gentleman named Buzz Fisher, B-U-Z-Z, B-U-Z-Z, who made his living oystering and crabbing and, made his living off of the water. And he had a literally a shack, but a well constructed shack right on the water front, and that was before bulkhead came up into the water, the water just came up into the shoreline, and a friend of mine that is now deceased Earl Collins, He was one of my closest friends from down in Hell Point. During the crab season Earl and I would go down to Mr. Fishers shack and row him out, Earl and I would have to take an oar to check his crab pots along the Naval Academy sea wall and we would row him back and he would give us each a quarter. That twenty-five cents then could do this for us, we could go to a saturday morning movies at the circle theater for ten cents. Double features we could see cartoons and a movie tone news, and then with the other three nickels they had candy machines in there that you could buy a box of candy for a nickel. So you get three boxes of candy and you got to go to the movies with the quarter that Mr. Fisher gave us.

GUERRERO: And you still have ten cents left over to get twenty cigarettes.

MAYOR: What?

GUERRERO: IBID

MAYOR: Well if you just wanted to buy a box of candy and go to the movies, yea, go and get a pack of cigarettes.

GUERRERO: Exactly, or get two cigarettes for a penny.

MAYOR: The pack would be open you could go in there, Mr. Kotzin, and get two cigarettes.

GUERRERO: Two cigarettes for a penny. That's great. Do you remember, so you would say that mostly the friends that you kept close with were, lived mostly on King George, over towards where towards Halsey field house is now.

MAYOR: Yes.

GUERRERO: Do you remember any maybe in passages back and forth from your home on East street, on twenty-six over to King George any characters or any people that you would see pretty often.

MAYOR: I won't mention the name, but we're going back to a time in Annapolis when everybody knew the town drunk. And the town drunk we knew, the town drunks son was one of my playmates. And everybody knew that he was not hurting anybody, just leave him alone.

GUERRERO: Did he work in the neighborhood?

MAYOR: No, he might have had a job here and there. I guess the, another character would be Newby. N-E-W-B-Y Catlin C-A-T-L-I-N. He worked for the, we called it a fish market, where the market house is? And we had a baseball team, we had a baseball park in Annapolis out here off of West street where the Phipps Buick and the Maryland National Bank, is and why they were not in a league, you could classify them as a class "C" baseball. Newby Catlin was a pitcher who could pitch with either hand.

GUERRERO: Really!

MAYOR: Yes.

GUERRERO: WOW!

MAYOR: And so he'd pitch one ball game, I guess Newby was a character in the sense that everybody knew Newby because Newby was a good baseball pitcher, could throw with either arm. Pitch one game this way and the other game left handed, but he was not a character in the sense that he was a humorist or some one that you laughed at, I don't know of anybody who was a character in that sense. I remember the crab lady.

GUERRERO: The crab lady?

MAYOR: Yea.

GUERRERO: Who was she?

MAYOR: She, if I could only think of her name, she was at that time, she was Afri, Afri, African American, but she was this lady that made these crab cakes, a black lady that just walked around with them in her basket and stopped at a bar and people would buy the crab cakes. Today you couldn't do that, you'd have to have permission from the health department, and everything else, have a permit.

GUERRERO: Were they good crab cakes?

MAYOR: A crab cake that is not good isn't a crab cake. I really don't remember. Any body who was a character, that stood out, because of some characteristic that made them different than the rest of the neighborhood.

GUERRERO: Except for normal people like say Newby, or....

MAYOR: Newby was not a character to laugh at.

GUERRERO: He was more of like a hero.

MAYOR: Yea, Yea that's right he was a, characters stand out, we didn't have anybody, as far as I'm concerned he was a character that stood out because of the word character. We had Newby Canton that stood out because my God he can throw the baseball with either hand, either arm.

GUERRERO: I understand. How about on your street, on East street there is the fire house and you mention that firemen lived in a house. Did the firehouse ever have special functions like a parade or festivals.

MAYOR: I don't remember that, the thing that I remember in the neighborhood was the First Ward Democratic Club. That was very active. And they had their, and if you go around there now it's the same as it was when I was growing up. It's no smaller or no bigger, but they would have their crab feast and it was a very active political club. Remember we are going way back, when a democratic, it was the only political club in Annapolis. Eastport had its' own Democratic club, but then Eastport was not a part of Annapolis. The First Ward Democratic Club was the one that would be the hub of the activity, if anything gonna happen that would involve the community it would happen there.

GUERRERO: So on your street there was a lot happening.

MAYOR: You would always pass the fire station, the waterwitch, invariably you'd see two of the firefighters sitting in their chairs in front of the station, you don't see that anymore. Then you did, at all stations you'd see them sitting out in front of the station and remember their names Mr. and Mrs. Sherger Monk Sherger and Walter Sherger their sons lived, they lived on Martin street, and their sons were playmates of mine, but their sons came from a family where they had to be in at such and such a time.

GUERRERO: So you never saw them?

MAYOR: We were together, but I would drift on down when they had to go in I would drift on down, not drift just go right down there.

GUERRERO: So you'd say Hell Point, the perimeters may have been from East street.

MAYOR: Well I think, we have always said that because of the reputation that down town Annapolis had. If you lived on Hyde ally or on Green street from there on down to the water front you lived in Hell Point. You were different the rest of the town looked at you differently I know that there was a certain lawyer in town whose name I will not mention cause its not fair to him. I remember when he said, he had a client in town and we were having lunch together and we were on the other side of the bridge over at Eastport eating lunch over there at Carrolls' Creek and we were looking across the water and this attorney says to me he says Al remember Hell Point I said yes I do and this guy says what is Hell Point? The attorney said well I'll tell you what Hell Point is when I would leave my house uptown either my mother or father would say don't go down there. And there was Hell Point. When I asked permission, I didn't have to ask my wife's parents for permission to get married because we were both old enough without needing anyones' permission, but I did go over her house and ask permission, and her mother I distinctly remember said NO. And I asked her why and I distinctly remember her saying because of where you come from. And my wife will confirm that. My mother in law is no longer alive, my wife is and she will confirm that yes my mother did say that.

GUERRERO: So people from say a little farther uptown, Hell Point was almost the other side of the tracks. Correct?

MAYOR: Correct.

GUERRERO: Now down near the waterfront over near King George, did Hell Point extend all the way over to the Market?

MAYOR: Yes. There were homes down here where the harbor masters house is on the left hand side. I know one person who is still around who lived there, a friend of mine in high school with. Five or seven houses they're row houses.

GUERRERO: Right over near the Harbor Master?

MAYOR: If you come, walking down the dock area and you facing the Harbor Masters house on the left is a sidewalk, the reason I say there is a sidewalk on the left there is a sidewalk because on the right there is no sidewalk. So that is where the row of houses were, where there is now parking spaces.

GUERRERO: Oh, so right in the middle of the parking lot, maybe there was another, because now if your standing with your back to the market place and your looking towards the Harbor Masters House there is like the hardware store, Armadillos, and then between there..

MAYOR: Craig street, cross Craig street, on the left hand side there were row houses, on the right hand side was Chesapeake seafood, and behind it was an open space, I forgot, uh Amoco, no, most of it was open space with oyster shell piles.

GUERRERO: Oh really, do you remember big piles of oysters? Did you ever go play?

MAYOR: Oh it was a good place to play, get the oyster shells and skip them across the water.

GUERRERO: Yea, like skipping rocks?

MAYOR: Yea.

GUERRERO: Exactly, what other kinds of games did you play down around the water?

MAYOR: Well, we played a lot of softball on the old play ground of the Annapolis grammar school, which then was Annapolis grammar school, now its called Green street elementary, or Annapolis elementary. That was a big, its a parking lot now, the High school was next door when I started elementary school, and that whole, behind there where its all cars now, was a play ground, we'd play softball back there.

GUERRERO: Right on the water there?

MAYOR: Across the street from, on Compromise street, across the street from the Fleet Reserve Club, you see all those cars parked that was a play ground.

GUERRERO: That where school was? That where elementary school was?

MAYOR: Yes, yes.

GUERRERO: So it wasn't very far.

MAYOR: No. And we played in all the lumber that was on Johnsons' Lumber company, the lumber piles we would have, we played street hockey with ice, roller skates then pick up a tree limb or anything you could use for a stick. We didn't have sticks. We'd pick up anything for a puck, we would have a race around the block, the square there from say Martin street, to king George street, up East street, that square, we'd run around there for races. We played hide and seek.

GUERRERO: It seemed like you were pretty active, everybody was pretty active. You didn't stay in the house very much.

MAYOR: No, and there was , really no one had to worry about you if you were on the street, there was no crime, we never did lock the doors and that is a fact, and everybody will tell you that.

GUERRERO: So, even in the thirties, when the country was not doing very well during the depression, the community still stayed pretty tight, so that there was not much crime?

MAYOR: Well I think we were all working class people and those people I mentioned we all paid rent, and you got, if you look at the occupations of the people that lived in that neighborhood, a fire fighter, my father shoveled coal, three fire fighters lived in that neighborhood, and a police officer, a tailor who was, the Naval Academy had its own tailor shop for the Midshipmen that's what the Italians, and played, members of the Naval Academy band enlisted, these are just not high paying jobs, they're the working class.

GUERRERO: So, because all of you in the neighborhood worked that sort of bonded you together and everybody looked out for eachother?

MAYOR: Correct, Correct.

GUERRERO: You told me that your father shoveled coal and it was a primary source of energy, was there electricity and running water when you were a child?

MAYOR: Oh, we had electric lights.

SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

GUERRERO: This is side two of tape one, Interview with Mayor Hopkins and we will continue you were telling us about your ice box.

MAYOR: Most of us had, I don't know of anyone who owned a refrigerator, I'm not saying that someone in the neighborhood didn't, but I know that we never did, and the ice box, and you knew it was a daily chore, of the ice box before you went to bed at night you pulled the base from underneath to get the water that was dripping in from the ice, the ice melting. And you put a sign in your window letting the ice man know whether you want a ten cent piece or a fifteen cent piece, or a twenty cent piece of ice, the ice was delivered by horse and cart from the Annapolis dairy.

GUERRERO: Now, did you need ice almost every day?

MAYOR: Yes, because the ice is going to melt you got a little ice box your not going to have a tremendous, it wont be a big ice box. You can't afford a big one. Those things, T.V.'s or whatever never heard of T.V., radio, having a radio was a big thing and listening, there was the things that you listened to then was the green hornet, Jack Armstrong the All American Boy, and I would listen to the Washington Senators, on baseball. Arch McDonald did the play by play but Arch McDonald would be played say in Philadelphia, but Arch McDonald would be in his office in D.C. broadcasting from a telegraphers tape.

GUERRERO: I know what your saying he'd read the tape.

MAYOR: He is always behind the game, and Arch McDonald had a gong that every time there was a base hit Arch McDonald would hit the gong. It would go gong, gong. And when he'd start hitting it you would wait to see when the gong would stop. Because, gong he got a single, gong, gong, oh he got a double, gong, gong, gong, he got a triple, gong, gong, gong, gong, yea he got a home run. Arch McDonald.

GUERRERO: So would you say that mostly when you were younger maybe some of your heros were Arch McDonald, or the green hornet.

MAYOR: Not heros, they were entertainers, I don't think we had, my hero was Tom Nicks, and Ken Maynard the Cowboys, because we always had these cowboy shows at the circle theater on saturday mornings. We played a lot of cowboys and indians and cops and robbers, mainly cowboys and indians, but yea our heros were heros were the cowboys that we saw on the screen.

GUERRERO: I remember hearing you say that there wasn't very much crime and that you did play cowboys and indians, and that you hung out with the boys down in Hell Point a little farther down on King George, were

there anybody, any group of people or anybody that were your antagonists or were always looking out for you or trying to keep you out of mischief, like say were there other kids from the other neighborhoods.

MAYOR: Yes the one person that really stands out in my mind is a police officer that is now deceased. And his last name is Moreland, and we called him stiff Moreland stiff was about six foot four and a real well developed human being. And stiff was the cop on the beat, stiff would come down Randall street and make his turn on King George street and when he came you got stiff.

GUERRERO: Oh really that's why you would call him stiff Moreland.

MAYOR: Yea, you really respected the law then you had a fear, but it wasn't a physical fear that any harm was going to be done to you, its just a fear of being arrested for doing something wrong, you knew you were not going to get hurt, but you feared the law just like you fear God. That fear is long gone.

GUERRERO: Stiff Moreland, would you avoid him or would he ever harass you guys?

MAYOR: No, never, never harassed you. We liked him.

GUERRERO: School, do you remember high school being more prevalent to you, or was elementary school a little more important to you, or more memorable?

MAYOR: I worked everyday after high school, every day I worked, I went from high school to work everyday, so I really don't have any memories of high school being active in anything. I like sports.

GUERRERO: So elementary school was pretty fun for you.

MAYOR: Oh yea you could go out in the playground and play at recess time.

GUERRERO: When you would stand over at your elementary school, over by where the fleet reserve club is now and look over where ego ally is now, what would you see? Obviously its not what it looks like today.

MAYOR: The first thing you would see was on the corner there which is now Fawcetts Boats Supply. That was a big stucco, as I remember it was stucco, it was a huge, I remember it was the ice house. And that was a big, big building I remember that. And we used to play in there, because it was one of those buildings that the only thing there was the shell, the walls, and at one time it was the ice house. Played in there, did a lot of playing in there, and there was two service stations, there one Bethelene, and Atlantic, and there was a sporting goods store. The one thing that stands out today when I go down town, it was habitual, what would happen there frequently, which you don't see today, that was down town, during the, frequently would be flooded. The water would come above, Service hardware, and the market. The water would come up to those businesses there. A lot of times would be flooded down there, not severely flooded, but flooded, the water would go up to the, what is now crabs? Ribs? It would go that far, that was Murphy's five and dime then.

GUERRERO: Would you play in the water there?

MAYOR: No, it was just a part of living here, but it wasn't a part you looked forward to or hated to see come, you knew that it would happen.

GUERRERO: Being so close to the water Hell Point coming right up to the water, did you play in the water very much, or did you stay in the neighborhood.

MAYOR: Other than swimming, no. You could swim from the dock to Eastport, but today you would not do that, first of all todays' water, would make it, if it didn't kill you it would make you very sick, and then on top of that there are so many boats there that, you probably going to get conked.

GUERRERO: Being from Hell Point, and having a sort of stigma attached as being a sort of rough neighborhood, would you ever venture out of Hell Point, to other neighborhood or farther uptown?

MAYOR: My last year of high school, the war was on and I still worked, but then found time to have a girlfriend, and they would live uptown. I had two girlfriends, one lived on Duke of Gloucester street right down the street, about two houses down, one lived on Southgate Avenue, and another lived on Mary. When I say girlfriends these are not girlfriends sexual girlfriends these are like having a boyfriend, they were girlfriends you liked one another. To be with one another. It had nothing to do with hugging and kissing and all that sort of stuff. You went to the movies, and did stuff together.

GUERRERO: You're friends.

MAYOR: Correct. But I never did that until I was a senior, just never had the time.

GUERRERO: Did you go to church very much, in the area?

MAYOR: I still have my first bible given to me by my first Sunday school teacher, Mr. Sams. Mr. Sams and his brother operated a grocery store on East street at the confluence of East and Taylor.

GUERRERO: Taylor, O.K., Now where was the church that you.

MAYOR: It was College avenue Baptist, on the corner of St. Johns and College avenue. When the government, the state bought that property for government buildings the church took the money and built the

Heritage Baptist church. And I would like to note though that I am Catholic I converted by choice. My father was a Sunday school teacher, it was strange that I went to Sunday school at the College Avenue Baptist church even when I was an adult, I went to Sunday School to adult classes, and I just want, I do not want to get into a discussion, but just want the record to show that I am a Catholic, I converted by choice, and just let the record show that.

GUERRERO: Would you say as a young child when you went to church, it seems that maybe that could have been common ground for people from Hell Point and other places, or was it not common ground.

MAYOR: No one from Hell Point went to the same church that I did. And I say this, I don't even know that any other Hell Pointers went to church, but I know that I never met another one that went to my church.

GUERRERO: So, because your father was a Sunday school teacher, were you more accepted, even though you were from Hell Point?

MAYOR: Well I think, I don't know exactly how to put this, but there were things that I would not be a part of when I was down there, because I thought this could lead to something, back off. And I think that comes from the religious background.

GUERRERO: Although you did have tough friends down in Hell Point you would try to keep your nose clean.

MAYOR: I think that most of the people down there were clean. There was some of them went to, I don't think it was a, I don't remember many of them remember many of them graduating from high school. And I remember some quitting school in the elementary, this is not a criticism of anyone, but for some reason I made it all the way through.

GUERRERO: I like to move on over, maybe relating some of this to the Naval Academy, since a good part of Annapolis has to do with that Naval Academy and Hell Point definitely was directly interrupted by the Navy.

MAYOR: There is one point I'd like to make for the record. If you look at the Naval Academy today, fifty percent of what you see there today was not there for my lifetime much of it is fill. The Naval Academy obviously had to expand from its beginning of 1845, but if you look at the Naval Academy wall that separates the city from the Academy. And that wall is there for a purpose, it has to be. It's not a wall to separate us, it's a wall that's necessary, because it's a military post. If you look at the wall though it doesn't go on King George street. It doesn't start at the water's end and go straight up. It comes out and picks up Hell Point, but if you go up to Maryland Avenue, why didn't they, if they need to expand why didn't they take that? If you go back, and I'm sure you'll find, and this is no criticism, just a matter of record, and it has nothing to do with the people that run the Naval Academy, because it wasn't their decision, but you will find that somewhere along the line there is a, I've seen it, in the records up in D.C. that area being right outside of gate one is bad, let's buy it, and expand the Naval Academy there.

GUERRERO: So, do you think the Naval Academy was more inclined to buy Hell Point rather than the area up on Maryland, because...

MAYOR: They didn't like what was out there, the neighborhood.

GUERRERO: So going back to when you were in elementary school and you would walk down King George, the wall at gate one did not go all the way down to the water?

MAYOR: The wall went to the, you see the wall now? The wall went that far then right where it ends was the entrance was gate one, and then just big enough for the gate then the wall would continue down to the water.

GUERRERO: Now, the wall was pretty much like the wall that exists right now where East Street feeds out right into..

MAYOR: Yeah. It went all the way down. Where it stops now it wasn't that's where gate one was, you turn left to go into gate one, and then the wall picked up on the other side of gate one and went to the other side of the water.

GUERRERO: Do you remember any memories as a young boy being in Hell Point looking at the Academy, what were your thoughts.

MAYOR: I can tell you very much the Naval Academy has a very, very, very, soft spot with me, because I went in there a lot to play, and Midshipmen then, that's why I have such a great admiration, Midshipmen then, although there was no official big brother organization, Midshipmen were my big brothers. You would go in there as a little kid, and remember we are talking about a town that had two thousand Midshipmen there, and the town is like thirteen thousand people. And you go in there and the Midshipmen paid attention to you like big brothers, they did, I would be taken to the movies by them in there and it was really, today if it was to happen, if an older guy got caught with a little boy you would immediately think, uh oh what's this we got,

homosexual here? But it was none of that, they were just generally good big brothers, they gave me a lot of fun and they showed me a lot of fun.

GUERRERO: So you got to play a lot on the academy grounds that's great, did all of your friends?

MAYOR: They had some outdoor basketball courts and remember some of us, just mention some of the names, Brupa, Jonnnie Krista, Howard Lerner, others we would go in there play basket ball on the outside courts in the Naval Academy. It would be cold but we would play. Sometimes they would escort out the "Jimmy Leg" would, the Jimmy Leg was the guards the civilian guards who patrolled the academy on bicycle, two wheeled bikes, they would walk us out with our ball they would walk us out, every now and then they would do that why I do not know. But we had a lot of fun there, and all the athletic events that we would go to in there, basketball, swimming, fencing, boxing.

GUERRERO: You got to go in for free?

MAYOR: Some events didn't, you could go to swimming, gymnastics, fencing, and not need a ticket, but you would need a ticket for basketball, and football, but you could get them, the Midshipmen, your friends would take care of you. Yeah, they were good to us. The Naval Academy has always been good to Annapolis, always.

GUERRERO: In one sense, its like you said a big brother almost. That's really great, I never had that view, I never felt that the people from Hell Point had that view, always thought maybe there would be a little animosity.

MAYOR: It should also be noted that gate one unlike today gate one Midshipmen may use gate one, but back in those days Mids were not allowed to use gate one because you were coming out into a bad part of town.

GUERRERO: They told them they couldn't go in there.

MAYOR: They were not allowed, only the enlisted personnel were, Marines and the Sailors.

GUERRERO: I remember you mentioning a bar that had a sign that said "Old German Beer" it seemed like that was pretty close to gate one.

MAYOR: Yea, right across the street, you could easily hit it with a baseball.

GUERRERO: Would any of the Naval Personnel either Midshipmen or officers frequent the bar?

MAYOR: No you would only find the enlisted personnel there, the Marines and the Sailors assigned to the academy, at that time all enlisted personnel assigned to the Naval Academy lived in the Naval Academy. Today they live in Fort Severn over in the barracks. So they would come out of gate one, having been a sailor myself I can only say that in those days you didn't have an automobile and when you go on liberty, I know as a sailor myself, when I went on liberty, I went into a bar, but not to get drunk, just to have some comradeship with somebody, and so when you come out of gate one, you went to the bar. Now there were a few fights in there I know, something that I didn't get to much.

GUERRERO: Closer to world war two when the Navy decided to take over Hell Point were there ever any bitter feelings?

MAYOR: No that happened after world war two. I think it was fifty-two? It was still there when I came back after World War two. The Academy was still there, but Hell Point was still there too. The Hell Point that was taken away was still there.

GUERRERO: But when they did take it were there any hard feelings from the people that lived there, or were they disappointed in any sense?

MAYOR: I think it could be said that all the kids that grew up in Hell Point, a good portion of them, (Interruption due to a telephone call).

GUERRERO: I wanted to move on and ask a little about , we were talking about some of the attitudes that people had towards the Naval Academy, and any animosity that there was when the Academy took over and you said that the people , some of your friends that lived there...

MAYOR: Oh yea, the generation that you are talking to know are the ones that really felt it, but we all went away and we come back, and we were in a different position today we could go to school with the G.I. bill. Our parents couldn't afford anything more than what we had. But we go to war and we come back, and we've seen things, and by choice we don't want to live there, but not because it is Hell Point, its just that we can have a bigger house.

GUERRERO: Exactly, its obvious.

MAYOR: I never heard any animosity expressed, by anyone.

GUERRERO: It seems that the relationship that you had with the Naval Academy was a good one.

MAYOR: Personally it was a good one. But I'd also like to think that a good portion of the families in Annapolis was cared for by the fact that their fathers worked for the Naval Academy, for example in my own family on the Hopkins side there was my father, I just thought of it, all four sons worked there. My father who was the oldest, Uncle James, Uncle Eddy, we called him Booney, Uncle Aurthur. All four made their living because the Academy, are they going to knock the Academy, hell no. And I'll think you will find that the working class people in Annapolis worked at the Naval Academy.

GUERRERO: And also you said that you took in a border.

MAYOR: We weren't the only ones, on Martin street, we weren't the only family rented rooms to sailors that were on duty here, or marines.

GUERRERO: The parades or dances that the Naval Academy would have, were the people ever involved?

MAYOR: Those were hops they called them, and my wife used to go to hops, the local girls, the Midshipmen would, you could only go to a hop with a Midshipmen, and of course then being no women Midshipmen the only people that are going to go the hops are the girls in town, so they went to the hops with the Midshipmen. Yea they had their Saturday night dances, the hops as they called them.

GUERRERO: Something that I forgot, neglected here in my notes, was to ask you about your school, and was your school an all white school, was there segregation when you were in elementary school?

MAYOR: Yes there was segregation all through high school, segregation did not end until after World War two, and Annapolis high school when I went to Annapolis high school, was on Constitution avenue. And if you lived in the south part of the county, everybody that was white came to Annapolis high school. There was no Severna Park high school, Broadneck high school, there was just Annapolis high school, and there was a Bates high school in Annapolis and if you were black no matter where you lived in this county that is where you had to go to school. And it was obviously wrong, integration occurred in the school system in this county without any

GUERRERO: Without a national mandate?

MAYOR: It occurred without any riots.

GUERRERO: There wasn't very much resistance?

MAYOR: No, there weren't, it happened. I remember that down town the public restrooms, that are no longer there, is now memorial circle, or part of it. We had two rectangular brick buildings, and one building was for the men and the other was for the women. And on the end of the building for the men was a white sign with black letters, WHITE MEN, and on the other end of the building, COLORED MEN. And you go to the other building, WHITE WOMEN, and on the other side of the building, COLORED WOMEN. And I remember going to Ree's drug store on main street they had a soda fountain, which I really liked, I would go in there, I liked the milkshake, I would go in there and get a milkshake and some black kid that I knew would come in I'd be sitting on my stool with my milkshake and order something a coke or whatever it is, and he would get it but he would have to leave, he couldn't stay there, and movies were the same way, we had the Circle theater, the one out on West street, and the Republic, on main street, and the Star theater. The whites had three theaters to choose from. The blacks didn't. The integration in the movie houses occurred, there was no picketing, it just happened, because I think truly if the whole country had been with the attitude that Annapolis was, we would have had no riots. My play mates, I should mention, Gus Parker, and there was a black gentleman, and he was a playmate of mine. Another talking about nicknames, I don't know where this gentleman is today, but he was a playmate of mine, a black boy, and he was a boy like I was a boy, we were boys. And his nickname was "Dedum", the reason that we called him "Dedum", because "Dedums'" report card always had "D's". We used to play ball together on the play ground, the get up games. There was no problem, its just when we wanted to go in the store, to the movies, you went your way, and I went my way, and then all the blacks and whites know one another, so when integration came along, it happened.

GUERRERO: When you were young, in some of the records that we have looked at there were some Filipino children, and Filipino families, that also lived in Hell Point.

MAYOR: I can give you the name of one of them, if you'd like to talk to them. She lived, I know a few of them, her husband graduated from my high school class, he is white, caucasian. She lived on one of those houses...(end of tape).

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER, 1993

Interview with Horace Bruce

Interviewer: Christopher Sperling-Gonzalez

July 1, 1993

S. GONZALEZ: O.K., My Name is Christopher Sperling this is side one tape one of an interview with Horace Bruce at Annapolis Maryland. I'm with the University of Maryland oral history project about Hell Point. Today's date is July first, 1993. Could I start by asking you during what times you lived in the area know as Hell Point?

BRUCE: Down in Hell Point I lived on 21 Randall Street from 1918 'til the end of '27.

S. GONZALEZ: And could I ask how old you were during this time?

BRUCE: Well, we went there I was, ah, seven and I was 16 when we left there. And I lived with my aunt and my mother. My aunt ran a boarding house there for... in those days they used to have a lot of candidates in town that...prepped for the academy and they lived in the different houses in the boarding houses around town. And my aunt kept a boarding house and she had as a rule about 10 or 12 of these candidates while they were prepping for the Navy and I lived down there with her. After my father died and we came East. That was when King George Street went right smack down to the water. And now you got that Gate 1. It went right through Gate 1 because Gate 1 was way down almost on the water. And it had...there was ferry boat if you wanted to go to Easter Shore there was no bridge then. You had to take the ferry and it went to Clayborne. And in fact the trolley cars ran right down to the wharf. Right down King George Street. And on Prince George Street, at the end of Prince George Street, was what they called Steamboat wharf and that was a ferry too, the Emma Jiles that's a famous old boat. You'll find a lot more people tell you about that one. But, I remember we used to go down and go all day long on it. The family would get big baskets of food and then go board and we would ride down the South River, West River, Galesville, Deal, it'd make stops all along there. And pick up...in the summer time mostly they'd haul tobacco back. And we used to love to go down there. And that was something else. There used to be a street down there that's gone now that was called Holland Street. That was the center of Hell Point and there mostly watermen that lived down there, as I remember it. And...I remember we used to go up there to St. John's College, you know where that is? It was a military school then. And they wore uniforms just like they do in West Point. We used to go up there a lot. But I think the biggest thing was the fire house. On East Street. I used to almost live there. Anything to be a fireman, you know, when your a little kid like that. I used to love that. But there's a lot of those old families that aren't there any more. There was... Dr. Pervis, quite a figure in town. Dr. Murphy. Pervis lived on Prince George Street. Dr. Murphy lived at the corner of King George and Randall. And...the man that lived next door to us owned the house we lived in. We rented it from him it was a double house. Baker Smith, they called him. He had a bakery on Main Street. And on the other side of the double house lived a family, Goodman the name was, Aaron Goodman, and if you go downtown now where the, right on the corner between... at the end of Main Street where it turns in to the Dock Street, Main and Dock. There's a big building there. It says on there Aaron Goodman. And he lived right next door to us but I don't remember too much about him. And as kids we used to go to all the ball games you know well, the football field was where Rickets Hall is in the Academy now. And of course if somebody didn't take us we couldn't get in. So we'd go down there and hang around the gate. And the first guy, man that we knew we'd grab his hand and walk on in [laughter] to get in. We used to go to all the sports that were down there. All of them. I remember one year, one summer, the second day of school vacation a whole bunch of us in neighborhood were playing follow the leader. And we jumped out of Dr. Pervis's hay loft, he had a barn in the back of his house then. And I broke both ankles. And I sat on the front porch all summer long with my feet up and each one in a cast. The whole summer. But we had some good summers though. One year, well down along the water's edge there used to be some shacks and a lot of these old watermen, crabbers and all, used to live down there and this one old man had a crab skiff. There made with two bows, there's no stern to it. That's so that when they would work a trout line and when they get to the end and come back they didn't have to turn around. And that is the way they crabbed in those days, just one man on a skiff. And a trout line. He had a skiff and one end of it rotted out and he gave it to us. And Herbert (unclear) and myself we took it and cut the bad part off and made a stern out of it. And if I remember right, it was his father made us side boards for it, my mother made the sails for it. And we sailed that thing around this harbor and all over there and out in the Severn and everywhere's for about three or four years.

We had more fun, we use to live in the water, in fact, vacation time, when school stopped, I put a pair of trunks on, you lived in them trunks until school opened. Never got dressed, only time you got dressed if your mother had to take you somewhere.

S. GONZALEZ: What other sorts of things did you do by the water?

BRUCE: We fished, we crabbed, we just and we swam mostly. I remember there for a while, when the Emma Jiles would go out, we'd sneak on and when it would get out in the middle of the harbor then we'd jump out and swim back. We used to like to do that too. [pause] I don't know, there's a lot of people around you could talk to that would probably give you a lot more stuff than I can give you though. I don't know what to tell you. One of my buddies was Martin Rausch, he's still around. He lives over in Eastport. I imagine he's in the telephone book. You might be able to get a hold of him and get some good stuff out. His father had the first radio around our neighborhood. I can see it yet. Great big old Atwater Kent that he put together and it had a row of batteries all down the living room along side the hall. The first thing I ever heard on a radio was Santa Claus. [laughter] Everybody in the neighborhood used to go in that house and listen to the radio because nobody else had one. And he wouldn't have had it if he hadn't built it because people down there didn't have the money they couldn't afford that stuff.

S. GONZALEZ: How would you describe the neighborhood of Hell Point?

BRUCE: I liked it. 'Course I came along when a lot of Hell Point had disappeared. Like...the Naval Academy took a lot of it in the years before I got there. My mother and my grandmother, they could of told you about the old Hell Point that's in the Naval Academy section now. But I can't. I remember Holland Street. And I remember the wharfs and all that before they took in the last section, but, ah...

S. GONZALEZ: At that time, what would you consider to be the boundaries of Hell Point?

BRUCE: At that time I would say, East street on to the water. 'Cause there was a lot of the original Hell Pointers had moved up in to East Street. And right there the Water Witch(?) Hose Company used to be, I don't know what they got in there now, I think it's a...I don't know what's in there. I really haven't been down there lately. That's what I would say, East Street on down to the water. That would be, from East Street it would be Prince George down to the water, King George down to the water, and it would take in Randall Street, Holland Street, and there's another little street that runs in between there, I don't know what the name of that street is anymore. And there were some of them that lived on King George Street from the number two gate on down to the water. If you had a map you could mark it off easy enough. I would consider that part...there really isn't many of the original Hell Pointers around anymore. Your kind of late going through that.

S. GONZALEZ: How did the rest of Annapolis look at Hell Pointers?

BRUCE: A lot of them wouldn't even come down [laughter].

S. GONZALEZ: And why was that?

BRUCE: It was pretty rough. Pretty rough. There was always fighting between Eastporters and Hell Pointers. And now you take, when we started going around with girls, if we wanted to go with an Eastport girl you better watch yourself, Buddy. You go across the bridge, and they'd let you there, they'd let you get the girl, let you take her on where ever you wanted to go but when you took her home, as soon as you left and you started out toward that bridge you better watch out, 'cause your going to get it, Buddy. Yeah, they was after us. And, they were just as bad as we were. It was a community, Hell Point. I mean, they stuck together more than neighborhoods do now. Somebody got sick, didn't have to worry, somebody would come from next door or somewhere else and take care. But, it was a nice neighborhood, I think it was a nice...

S. GONZALEZ: Why would you say that?

BRUCE: I enjoyed my whole youth in there. Sure I did. I've had a good life anyway.

S. GONZALEZ: Would you say that there were any divisions within Hell Point?

BRUCE: There might be. I'd say, when I came along, Holland Street was the Hell Point, and then it just drifted up the street, but...I remember they used to have a policeman who used to live down that way too, his name was Lowman, Piney Lowman we use to call him. Oh, we use to give him a hard time. We use to love to skate out in the street. 'Course there wasn't al whole lot of cars then. And we'd get up a hockey game on rollerskates, and he'd come and get us. He never caught us but he chased us a lot. And then another thing, they used to have...when the lumber yard was down there, they used to have some right big crap games. And of course I was a kid then, but Piney would go down there and raid them. He knew every time they were down there. [pause]

I remember baseball. Annapolis had a baseball team. And there was a guy from down, I don't know just where he lived down in Hell Point, but I think he lived in Hell Point. Name was Nuby Cantler. He could pitch. He had a try out with the Orioles when they were international and Jack Dunn. But Jack Dunn said he wasn't smart

enough. The... I've been told that on a Saturday afternoon the police would go hunt him up a put him in jail until Sunday afternoon. So he wouldn't get drunk [laughter]. I don't know how true that part is or not. But he sure could pitch a ball.

S.GONZALEZ: Was there a lot of drinking, a lot of bars in Hell Point?

BRUCE: No. There was one famous down there on a Dock Street. Loria's. Sam Loria had one down there. And if you could get somebody that went in there, and had been around him, you could get some good stories. Now everybody's been in that saloon when he ran it. From the vice-president to the street cleaner. Now that's the truth, the vice-president, he stopped in there one time. I don't know who else, but a lot of the dignitaries stopped in there. He could tell you some, anybody that hung around down there could really tell you some stories. My brother was great for hanging around there but he's gone.

S. GONZALEZ: I was wondering, what kind of things did you do like after school.

BRUCE: Football, baseball, and stuff like that. There was, there is an island like at the foot of Main Street now. You know where the flag pole is, have you been down there? Well, that used to be a park at one time. And we called it Marble park, we called it something else, but I can't tell you on that (points to tape recorder). Because there was so many dogs around [laughter]. But it used to, marbles was a great thing then. I'd come home with knees (unclear) nine times out of ten. We used to play an awful lot of marbles there. And we used to have a lot of fights in there too. All in all, I enjoyed growing up down there.

S. GONZALEZ: Which school did you go to?

BRUCE: I went to St. Mary's Catholic School up at the head of Green Street for eight years. And then, there wasn't any catholic high school in those days. And then, went down to Annapolis High. Annapolis High was on Green Street then. And there is a grammar school there now. And there's a building next to the grammar school, I don't know what's in it, but that was our High School.

S. GONZALEZ: Did all the children from the area go to that school?

BRUCE: Uh-Huh. Yeah.

S. GONZALEZ: What kind of...was there any tension between the Hell Pointers in the school and children who weren't?

BRUCE: Not when I came along. It probably was years before that. But I don't remember a whole lot of tension like that.

S. GONZALEZ: Did non-Hell Point Children ever come over into Hell Point to play?

BRUCE: Sometimes but, they had their own gangs out West Street But, It wasn't too bad.

S. GONZALEZ: Were there any sections of Hell Point that Hell Pointers even thought of were the bad sections or the better...

BRUCE: I don't know. I don't know what they thought to tell you the truth. See, I moved out of there in '27. We moved up Market Street. But...so many of those people have moved away now that could tell you a lot more about it who really were born and raised there. I can't think of anything else, unless you have some questions.

S. GONZALEZ: Um, do you, I was wondering about the church, did the church play any kind of influence?

BRUCE: Not that I know of. The Salvation Army did a lot down there. And they still do.

S. GONZALEZ: Like what?

BRUCE: They have their nursery there, you know, and the prayer hours and all that. And I think they moved out now to out on Hilltop Lane somewhere out there.

S. GONZALEZ: How about any major events. Were there...you must have moved there right during the First World War.

BRUCE: Just as it was over.

S.GONZALEZ: What kind of impact did that have living there.

BRUCE: I don't know. My father came home from the war, we were living in Missouri. Two weeks later he died with the flu, that was when the flu epidemic, was 1917 and '18. So that's how come I got back here. My grandmother lived here. And my mother came back home when my father died. But, during the War I wasn't here so I can't tell you just how it effected.

S. GONZALEZ: How about any tensions between, any kind of tensions within the community.

BRUCE: I guess there was but I'm not aware of it. I imagine there was, sure there'd have to be. Because, in those days, because it was all mixed up down there. There was Jewish people, there was Irish people, there were Catholic people, there were Methodist people, it was all together in there. And they seemed to get along.

S. GONZALEZ: Do you remember any types of characters that used to live down in the area?

BRUCE: You know that ball player. Any other characters down there. Not that I can think of.

S. GONZALEZ: When you said you lived there did you actually live in the boarding house?

BRUCE: Yeah. Uh-huh

S. GONZALEZ: And you said there were mostly cadets there?

BRUCE: Men prepping for the academy. See they had to have a certain education before they went in and before they could take the, and they'd come down here and they'd prep for a year. Then they'd take the exam for the school. And go in that way. So I...they don't do that any more. I guess they figure you finish high school, you got enough. But these boys were boys that had finished school, high school, but they wanted more education before they went in. In fact, they needed more. So, maybe it's relaxed some now I don't know. 'Course other things have relaxed down in the yard. A lot of things. For instance, when a plebe went in in June, it was Christmas time before he ever got out that yard again. You didn't have liberty in town. Only the first classmen ever had liberty in those days. They had a, they used to fire gun at night, ten o'clock. And every midshipman had to be in bed. And most kids, the mothers down our way, when they hear that gun, that was your sign too. You had to get in and go to bed. Everybody went to bed by that gun.

S. GONZALEZ: What places were there to buy food in your area?

BRUCE: Well the biggest place in those days was the city market. Anything you wanted you could have gotten in the city market. There was a store on the corner (unclear) John Dawes (phonetic) he ran a grocery store and later he turned it into an everything store. It was...down on the dock there were people who made cigars and sold them, you know, cigar makers that worked down there, shoe-pe..., shoe-hobblers. Like I said grocery stores small ones along there and there used to be a junkyard, people by the name of Kawanski (phonetic) had it. And old man Kawanski he was a good old fellow. And like if we wanted to go fishing an we needed a fish hook, no matter what we took him over there to sell, he'd buy it because he knew we wanted [laughter] it wasn't worth a doggone to him but he'd give us a penny so we could go over and get our fish hook. We took some stuff to him I know he just threw it out when we left. But he would take it, and he'd say are you going fishing. We'd say yeah, alright, here you are. We used to fish off all the piers down there then.

S. GONZALEZ: Do you remember any parades or things that used to go on?

BRUCE: Seems to me, they used to have parades. But, I can't remember any particular one.

S. GONZALEZ: This is the end of tape one side one interview with Horace Bruce.

S. GONZALEZ: This is side two, tape one of an interview with Horace Bruce on June, July the first 1993. I like to get back to what we were talking about, the academy. Did you interact a lot with the academy at all?

BRUCE: With the what?

S. GONZALEZ: Did you interact with the academy.

BRUCE: No, except I went down to all the sports. In those days, they used to have boxing, and we used to go down there, oh, we loved to go down to the boxing bouts on a Friday night. Basketball, we went to all the games. Baseball. But, I never worked down the Naval Academy. Most everybody has. But for some reason I never did get in there. But, my mother worked, my mother worked over there in what they call North Severn now, it was, in those days it was called Experimental Station. My mother worked over there for thirty years. She was payroll clerk. The only thing, the only contact I ever had with the navy itself was when the candidates were prepping for the Academy. And then a lot of them after they got in would come out and visit us, you know, when they could get out. And they used to, my aunt used to also have what they call 'hop girls'. These girls would come down for the weekend. And the midshipmen would take them around down to the dances and all that kind of stuff. They were called 'hop girls'. She used to have them a lot too. There was a lot of boarding houses around then. 'Cause there wasn't, well, there was only one hotel, no there was two hotels in those days there was Carvel Hall hotel, it was up on Prince George Street. And then there was the Maryland hotel, Maryland Inn. That's the only places you had in town where you could stay. Unless you stayed at a boarding house.

S. GONZALEZ: And what kind of atmosphere did these boarding houses have?

BRUCE: Pretty strict. Because is any thing got out of hand, the Navy would make it off-limits to the midshipmen so everybody kept it pretty on the up'n'up. [pause] I don't know. [pause] I know the kids used to always try to get some summer work, you know, any kind of work. One year, I wanted to get a job, and couldn't find anything you know, I went down to the fish market [laughter] and old man Camel had a stall down there. And he says yeah, I'll give you a job. He says I'll give you five cents an order, and you deliver an order. He says if its across the street I'll give you five cents, if it's out Camp roll, I'll give you five cents. I worked there all that summer. I used to come home, my mother used to make me go in the cellar to take my cloths off, 'cause I'd been in the fish market all day. But that old man, he was really good to me. Taught me how to fillet fish, and all the different kinds and cuts and everything. I don't know why he took a liking to me but, he did. All the kids had, tried to get the little

jobs, you know. I think the only job I never had, I never sold papers, a lot of 'em did that, but I didn't.

S. GONZALEZ: What sorts of other jobs did the kids do?

BRUCE: Well, I worked one summer as an assistant in a stock room for, a ten cents store in those days it was Toddles, I think, Yeah, before Murphy it was Toddles. I worked in there one summer, in the stock room. I worked for a guy that had a delicatessen Luis Lott. I worked in there one summer. I may have worked in there two summers. But, where else did I work. Oh, there was a store, there was a delicatessen store called Liptchens (phonetic) on the Dock Street. I worked in there too one time. When I was in high School, I worked in the Circle Theater, up in the projection room. In fact, I helped put on the first 'talkie' in town. When we switched over to 'talkies'. But that was later. That was when I was in high school.

S.GONZALEZ: Were theaters very popular?

BRUCE: The theaters? Yeah. We had two on Main Street, right next to each other. I think, I remember, the Colonial or the Capital, I can't remember what the name of it, and the other one was the Republic. Republic was a nice one. But the other one was the one that gave you serials and Bang-Bangs and all those. But, like, a lot of times when my mother give me money to get a hair cut. She'd think I went over to Floris Donner's and got a hair cut and paid a quarter for it. But I'd go around the corner and there was a colored fellow on Cornhill Street he would do it for fifteen cents. So I'd go there and then I'd spend ten cents go to the movies. [laughter] Let me tell ya, they have one serial after another and you go in there about one o'clock and come out when it was dark. For ten cents.

S. GONZALEZ: So, you said that was a colored man on Cornhill, do you remember if there were any other colored people in the Hell Point area?

BRUCE: Oh yeah. There were all mixed up in there, sure.

S.GONZALEZ: And did they live in the same places...

BRUCE: No, there were like little courts off of King George Street I know there was two courts off of there, where they lived. And I think there was a court or two off of Holland Street, if I remember right. And then some of them live where a lot of them live now the Pinkney Street and, there's another street that runs off of the City Dock. I can't remember the name of that street. They still live up in there, a lot of them. Oh yeah, there was quite a few all through Hell Point.

S. GONZALEZ: Did you interact a lot or...?

BRUCE: We didn't, not a whole lot, I didn't anyway. I mean, I knew 'em and sometimes we might get up a ball game or something and play but, I didn't associate too much. And...I guess they had some characters too but, I don't know.

S.GONZALEZ: Did the cadets from the academy ever come into Hell Point?

BRUCE: Oh yeah. The part where we lived they did, sure. But the real hard and tough part of Hell Point was before my time.

S.GONZALEZ: Do you have any idea of how Hell Point got its name?

BRUCE: No idea. I imagine you'll find people who'll some idea but, I don't know why it was ever called that. Just that its because it was a lot of poor people lived down there and they were right rough. But there were a lot of good people lived down there, too. Damn good people.

S.GONZALEZ: What do you mean by, like, really good people?

BRUCE: People who made something out of themselves.

S. GONZALEZ: Did...any of the colored people go to school with you?

BRUCE: No, it was separated in those days. It wasn't until 1960, I think, that integrated. I believe it was then. Some where around there. They had their own school, they had their own high school, and their own schools.

S.GONZALEZ: I'd like to know what holidays were like. Do you remember any holidays...

BRUCE: The Fourth of July. I can remember the fourth of July's fireworks. On Randall Street they really put out some fireworks. There was a man, what the heck is, was his name...lived across the street from us...but he would buy an awful lot of fireworks. And at night time he'd put them off right out in the middle of the street. Oh, what the heck was his name? I can see him yet, but I can't think of the name. That's old age for you. It's a wonder I remember what I do remember, I guess.

S. GONZALEZ: You said that you played a lot in the water during the summer time, and I was wondering, what kind of things did you do in the winter?

BRUCE: Well, you know, we used to have some right hard winters in those days. And we'd have on an average of about four to six weeks of ice skating. And we'd skate on the creeks. I remember one time we had a sleet storm and got up the next morning and it was about that much ice all over everything. Streets and everything, they didn't

have anything to clean streets with or anything in those days. We skated all over town for about three days. I remember skating all the way up to St. John's college right in the middle of the street.

S. GONZALEZ: And what sorts of things would you do at St. John's College?

BRUCE: Well, we used to sleigh ride. But there was a...the Naval Academy in those days had a golf course where they have a bunch of apartments now, 'cause they moved the golf course over north of seven. And they used to have three hills to it. And we'd get up the top and go down on the sleds, you know. And we used to get tires and make a fire up at top and fire down at bottom and we'd stay out there at night and, my gosh...just had some real good times doing that. And we'd walk all the way over there. I remember one night we were on our way over and we were, there was snow on the road and, I mean on the streets, we were belly whappin' as we went along, you know. And a friend of mine belly whapped and he thought it was snow and it was, some body had put ashes down there so they could walk. His whole face was nothing but ashes. Stuck in there. He had to go to the doctor and the doctor pick 'um out with his tweezers. Oh, he had a heck of a (unclear) face. 'Cause as soon as he hit the ground with the sled, he kept going but the sled stopped, see.

S. GONZALEZ: You said you used to have trouble if you wanted to go in to Eastport and were from Hell Point any trouble if you went into the rest of the city, the rest of Annapolis?

BRUCE: No.

S. GONZALEZ: Did people treat you differently if they found out you were from Hell Point.

BRUCE: No, I never got, I don't think I got treated any different. Only thing, when I, couple times when I went over to Eastport I...I fooled 'em. They'd let you go on through, you know, they'd get you on your way back when your by yourself. So I dropped the girl off, I walked on out and went through Silapanna (phonetic) and come home. In other words, I walked around the creek. Which was a long walk but, I didn't get into a fight.

S. GONZALEZ: Was it usually just one other person or did they kind of have gangs?

BRUCE: Oh, there'd be a bunch down there, waiting at other end of the bridge.

S. GONZALEZ: Could the same be expected if some one from Eastport came into Hell Point?

BRUCE: Sometimes, Yeah. [pause] One time there was a sailor went over there and on his way back the Eastporters jumped him. When he got back to ship, he got all the sailors together. And they went over there and they cleaned up Eastport. Well, I don't think I've been a whole lot of help to you, but that's about all I can remember. I told him when he, when she talked to me on the phone, I said I'll tell you what I can but I...there's a whole lot of other people who know a lot more than I do.

S. GONZALEZ: Let me just see if I have anything else here...Do you remember what kind of things, like, your parents would do...The adult crowd would...

BRUCE: Well, I...the women used to have card parties all the time. They played a lot of cards and, the men used to do a lot of bowling. Bowling was quite a thing in this town at one time. It was duck pins though, it wasn't ten pins, it was the small ones. We had...I believe it was three fellows that became national champions. I know Bill Arnold became champ I think Bob Lamb did too, I'm not sure, and Easterday (phonetic), I think those three at one time were national champions. But this was a big town for bowling. But like I said, it wasn't the ten pins, it was the duck pins.

S. GONZALEZ: Do you remember, do you have any memories of, or stories about when the Navy took over the Hell Point area?

BRUCE: No. When they took over the last part of it, I was out in Arizona. And when I came back it had been taken in and they built the field house and all down there.

S. GONZALEZ: Do you remember any rumors that used to circulate that they were going to take over more or...?

BRUCE: No. There was a, It was in the wind for a long time that they were going to take over that they did. But...(unclear) when they did finally take it and knock down all the houses and all that kind of stuff, why, I wasn't here.

S. GONZALEZ: O.K...

BRUCE: But, I don't know of anything off the top of my head anymore...that I could give you.

S. GONZALEZ: One question on the side, did other police men besides the one you remembered, did they ever come into the Hell Point area?

BRUCE: Oh yeah, there was another one, Old Man Jacobs. He lived right down on Holland Street I don't know if he ever caught anybody or not but, he hobbled. I think he'd had a stroke, I don't know, but anyhow, he hobbled when he walked. They didn't need anything. They could arrest the few people that there was. And the jails were pretty much empty I think. As I knew 'em. In other words, people down there if they had an argument they'd settle it themselves [laughter] they never call the cops in.

S. GONZALEZ: Was there ever any kind of mistrust for the police or was it just that...?

BRUCE: I don't know, I think they think about the police just like everybody else does. But...they...they didn't need it. You know, at one time, in town here, they used to pick up the garbage in a wagon, horse and wagons, horse and cart. And if there was a fire, and they blew the siren and rang the bells, they would undo these horses. And the horses would go right to the fire house to pull the fire, they were trained to, the horses, all day long they'd pull the garbage wagon, and it was a great big two wheel cart that they used to collect the garbage in and they', whoever was, had the horse they'd unhook the horse, the horse would go and as long as that bell was ringing the horse would go right over to the firehouse, and then they'd hook them up. So they used them both ways.

S. GONZALEZ: You said you spent a lot of time there at the firehouse?

BRUCE: Yeah, I used to. Yeah I used to like to spend time there.

S. GONZALEZ: And why was that?

BRUCE: Yeah. Listen to the guys talk about this fire and that fire, you know, and all. And then when I got older, I joined the Independent Fire Company on, up on the Second ward. And I had, hadn't been a member for very long. So one day I'm home and the siren goes off so I run down to the firehouse just in time to grab the back of the truck. And we used to go to county fires then and this one was way down in Davidsonville. And, I'd never ridden on a truck before, and I'm telling you, all the way down there, my feet were hanging out here (unclear) and I'm telling you, I wasn't standing on that board half of the time. So, we got down there, I told whatshisname, I says I'm not going back on that thing. I went home in an automobile, and then I never got on a fire truck since.

S. GONZALEZ: Were there a lot of fires?

BRUCE: Well, there were some good fires. Carvel Hall was big fire. And I think it was about the second or third day I was in Annapolis there was a theater burnt down, the Colonial Theater it's on Conduit Street. And it spread from Conduit to Main and it went down Main Street all the way to that alley that goes in the, it goes in the garage now, the city garage. Took that whole block. Strange and Whites, Thomas and a couple of tailor shops and all that was in there then. That was a big fire. Let's see when was that. Well I hadn't been here very long just maybe a couple nights. And the midshipmen then, in those days had a fire brigade, and they used to pull that wagon themselves. They'd pull the wagon pull the hose wagon and all, the big long ropes they had they, I remember, they were out there that night. They had everything they could find that night. That was the biggest fire I remember.

S. GONZALEZ: Do you remember what happened to the people who were living there?

BRUCE: There wasn't many people living they were all stores. 'Course there's some people living up top buy they got out, sure. The Colonial Theater that was a theater, it wasn't a movie house. S. GONZALEZ: Do you remember anything about a ship called the Reina Mercedes?

BRUCE: Uh-huh. That's were they stationed the sailors all lived on that. The Reina Mercedes. Yeah, that was there for, that was a Spanish Ship that we captured in the Spanish War. And they used it for, to house these sailors and then there was another one, the Cumberland, they used to house the colored sailors. They were in one boat, one ship and the sailors were on the other. They took that away from here, those ships, when I was away. I don't, I couldn't tell you what year they took them away. But, that's what they used that boat for. I understand it's down In Norfolk now, I don't know.

S. GONZALEZ: Could you tell me just a little bit about the place where you actually grew up, I mean the house...

BRUCE: It was a Duplex. We lived on one side and the, ...Goodman lived on the other side. And then in a separate house, the man that owned it lived, Baker Smith. In those days it was 17, 19 no, 19, 21, and 23 Randall. The houses are still there. And when we moved out of there and Goodman's moved out, then they took it and the VFW made a club house out of it, and they put the two houses together, you know, took the partition between the duplex out. And it was that way for a long time. Now I think it's, I don't know if they ever put it back or not, I haven't been down there for so long. But it's 19, 21, and 23. 23 is still there, I know, and the building is there, but I don't know how it is on the inside anymore. That had, we had a full basement, we had living room dining room, pantry; 'cause every house had a pantry in those days, kitchen pantry, and a kitchen; upstairs we had a bath and a half and one, two, three, four bedrooms on the second floor; and the third floor was like a dormitory, it was all in one room.

S. GONZALEZ: I was wondering, you mentioned the VFW, do you remember if any other groups played an influence in the area? Like the Masons, or...?

BRUCE: No, not, not that I know of. The VFW didn't go down there until, I, I don't know just when they went down there but I imagine it was in the late forties, early fifties when they went down there. But that's only a guess. Because like I said, I've been out of town. And then when I came back, I moved over to Eastport. [laughter] Hell Pointer became an Eastporter [laughter]. Yeah, I raised my kids over, over in Eastport. Right outside of Eastport,

on Tyler Avenue. Now, my kids are everywhere. My daughter's in Olympia, Washington; one son still lives over in Eastport; and another son is down in Florida, down in Daytona. I got twelve grandchildren, and there spread all over the place. I got sixteen great grandchildren, at the last count, with two on the way [laughter]. But I got grandchildren living in Oregon, California, Florida, West Vir...not West, Virginia, and all up and down the road here.

S. GONZALEZ: Really quick, did, you said Baker Sm...it was...

BRUCE: Baker Smith.

S. GONZALEZ: Baker Smith, he owned your place, and the next one...

BRUCE: He owned the duplex, and he owned his own house that he lived in. You know, that's all he had on that street. I don't know of anything (unclear). But he had a bakery, at the corner of Hydes Alley and Main Street. Hydes Alley's still there. I, I think it's an ice cream place or something in there now, I don't know just what's in there. But, I remember...on our way to school, a lot of times, we'd go into Baker Smiths and get a great big bun about that big, for two cents. And what it was made out of, I know, it must have been, scraps that were left over. You know, he'd be making something he'd have some dough and he'd put the dough aside. And he'd make something else, he'd have a little dough left...then he mix it all up and he'd make these big buns out of it, there that big, and he'd sell 'um to us for two cents. And many times that was my lunch [laughter] go to school, because, a lot of times you didn't come home from school.

S. GONZALEZ: What sorts of other things did you eat?

BRUCE: That we ate?

S. GONZALEZ: Yeah.

BRUCE: Anything in the, sea food line. I still love crabs.

(tape runs out)

S. GONZALEZ: This is tape two side one, interview is with Horace Bruce, today is July First, 1993, and we were talking about food.

BRUCE: Yeah. I'd take my little wagon and a basket and some crab lines and get chicken heads for bait, down at the market. And go down along the sea wall, down in the Naval Academy. And come home about an hour later, and you have a whole basket full. Oh man, they used to be on that sea wall like no body's business once. And then, 'course, my mother would steam them, my aunt, somebody. We always had a lot of them.

S. GONZALEZ: Did you do a lot of fishing for yourself, to , for food?

BRUCE: Not to much, we, we did it for fun more than anything else. If we caught something good we'd bring it home, you know. But, later, I remember, we used to, some of the kids and myself, we'd get up about four o'clock in the morning in the summer. Get in the boat and go across to the other side of the Severn River and soft crab along there. 'Cause then we'd get out there before it got hot and before the tide got drawn(?). We used to have a lot of fun.

S. GONZALEZ: [pause] Did...

BRUCE: But...I'm sorry you put a new one in there (referring to tapes) cause I've and run out of stuff [laughter]

S. GONZALEZ: That's O.K. Um, I don't think I have anything else for us...um, I'd, really, I'd like to thank you...

BRUCE: That's alright.

S. GONZALEZ: ...for having.....

BRUCE: I don't know if I've given you any information or not but...

S. GONZALEZ: You given us a lot. Um...let's see, this concludes the interview with Horace Bruce, on June, July First, 1993, interview is in conjunction with the oral history project for the University of Maryland.

(end tape)

****This ends the transcript****

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER EUCARE
INTERVIEWER: ERIC SKOLNICK
DATE: JUNE 29, 1993

SKOLNICK: I'd like to begin, could you give me a basic chronology of where you lived in Annapolis and what years up until 1941.

EUCARE: My first recollection was living at a house and what my mother told was Dock Street and that would be about 1928. In subsequent years we moved around in the downtown area of Annapolis and an area that is now referred to as Hell Point. My earliest recollections after Dock Street was living on 1 Market space which is now known as Middleton Tavern. At that time there was a restaurant downstairs, ?????? restaurant. And as a young boy of about three my most vivid remembrance was locking myself in the bathroom and the fire department had to come and place a ladder up against the window of the second floor to help me get out. As they were doing that however I managed to stand on a bucket and undo the latch and got out that way. The building that time had a large hallway leading in from the porch - it was very dark and I recall having gone to the Circle Theater with my mother to see the original Frankenstein and how frightened I became of ever walking through that dark hallway after that. I would always wait until my sister Victoria was with me. From there we moved to 1 Fleet Street. In those days it was a three story building with an attic and today its just a two story building, but we lived on the second floor. There was a tavern downstairs and mother and dad operated the place as a boarding house for the Filipino stewards who

were stationed at the Naval Academy although they were assigned to the Cumberland which was a personnel ship. Off the grounds they had a room available to them which mother and dad rented to them. I attended Annapolis Elementary School on Green Street. I recall my first teacher -first grade teacher - was Miss Barnes. I had a second first grade teacher, a Miss Moss. And that experience left me with a feeling that I had spent two years in the first grade because I had two first grade teachers. It was years later that I realized that Miss Barnes had left school in the middle of the school year and I really hadn't spent two years in the first grade.

SKOLNICK: Were you still living at Fleet Street in first grade?

EUCARE: Yes. From there we moved to I think it must have been Main Street. It was on the second floor over a shoe repair shop. Millato was the name of the shoe store - repair shop. And at that place I recall we had a dog. It was a dalmatian. We - my sister and I called it Bingo and then somebody stole the dog. I have a photograph that was taken downstairs on the sidewalk by a photographer who had a little pony. And I might have been about 4 years old at the time, sitting on the pony. I have the photograph at home.

SKOLNICK: From the Main Street - house where did you move after that?

EUCARE: From Main Street over Millato's shoe repair store we moved just a half a block down where there were a series of apartments over the stores that were at the street level. And our house was over the barber shop. And the most vivid remembrances I have of living there was that every Christmas we would get food baskets from the Naval Academy. The midshipmen would bring in food baskets at Christmas time. They would be in their uniforms; in their blue uniforms wearing white hats.

SKOLNICK: How did your family celebrate the holidays.

EUCARE: My remembrance of celebrating holidays was - well at Christmas time as I described there was always this feast because we had al these donations from the midshipmen and the Naval Academy. During the summer months we enjoyed living at the waterfront. There wasn't a sea wall around the city dock as there is today. It was just a slope that led down to the shore and I have vague memories of the market space building

that was built over the waterfront and somehow - and as they reconstructed it they moved that whole building to where it is today. But I can recall as they were building the sea wall I was walking it one day before they had finished filling it in and I fell into the city dock. And in those days the raw sewage used to come out right at the head of the city dock. There was very good fishing there as I recall. And no wonder, they were very well fed.

SKOLNICK: Where did you move after the house over the barber shop?

EUCARE: From Main Street - this was at the circle where there is now a memorial when I was a youngster that was a little park. After the park they built an Amaco gas station. And as I recall in those days Annapolis, being a Southern town was segregated and they had two sets of restaurant facilities. One for colored as the minority African Americans were referred to then and one for white. I didn't experience segregation in the way that the African Americans did. I went to Annapolis Elementary School and subsequently Annapolis High School. Some friends of mine that I played with, when I was living on Fleet Street, their fathers like mine were born in the Philippine Islands but Mr. Tobiah had married a black lady - now you call it African American lady. It was a nice family. I recall playing with them quite frequently. But the two older boys that were my age - I might have been about 5 I recall my parents telling me not to go play over there any more. And I just - at that time obeyed my parents. I didn't understand what they might have had in mind. So I lost track of the family although I did see Mr. Tobiah down at the Naval Academy where he worked as my father did, and talked to him down there. But I never went around to play with the older boys any more. I think there are 6 sons and a daughter as I've heard over the years. And when Mr. Tobiah passed away I went to the funeral and met some of the older boys who had returned for their father's funeral. After Main Street we moved - the family moved to Prince George Street. 75 Prince George Street. It was an apartment building and across the street was the mayor's house - Mayor Phipps. Mayor Louis Phipps. He had two children. An older daughter and a son, I guess it must have been Louis Phipps Jr.. He and I were in the same grade in elementary school. There were several Filipino families that lived in the apartment, or in the building next door. There was Mr. and Mrs. Hiponia and their family. I think they had at that time three daughters. Their son hadn't been born yet. Next door was Bartolomee - Mr. and Mrs. Bartolomee. Their daughter was about two years older than my sister. Her name was - I think it was Helen. It was Helen who was when she became school age, her mother took her to school and they didn't want to let her enroll at Annapolis High School [Annapolis Elementary School] because her father was Filipino. They wanted her to go register at what was then the school for black children. At the insistence of Mrs. Bartolomee however they did accept Helen. And so when my sister and I went to school, we went to school at Annapolis Elementary on Green Street. Mr. Tobiah's children however were not admitted to Annapolis Elementary School. They attended the Catholic School at Street Mary's which was segregated at that time. But as I recollect all the children went to Street Mary's - all of Mr. Tobiah's children went to Street Mary's.

SKOLNICK: Where did you move after Prince George?

EUCARE: Well, while I was living at 75 Prince George Street I was - my father asked me to go to the store. And in the process of returning after having made the purchase - I might have been about 6 years old then - I darted across the street and was hit by a car. It was driven by a young sailor from the Naval Academy. He carried me to the hospital on Franklin Street. I can only vaguely remember being picked up and crying and this sailor carrying me to the emergency room where they sewed up my face. The left side of my face had been cut. And then my father came and was standing beside me at the hospital. And then I returned home. It took me a long time to not feel self-conscious about having a scarred left face but age, time took care of the visible scar. After 75 Prince George Street we moved to 96 Dock Street. So this was the second time I'd lived on Dock Street. Those same homes appear in some vintage photographs around the turn of the century when it was a clear waterfront. That was before the establishment of the tank farm that the Esso corporation had at the end of Dock Street. We lived there all through the years that I was in High School. My brother Freddy - my youngest brother Freddy was born there. Right across the street from us was the Chesapeake Seafood Company. They dealt with oysters and crabs and during the winter months they purchased oysters and they were shucked there by largely black employees. I don't recall ever seeing a white person working there shucking oysters. And in the summer time they bought crabs and they cooked them there and picked them. That was a wonderful aroma. Fresh cooked crabs. And they cooked them in huge barrels - wooden barrels with super heated steam and seasonings. And then you would take the crabs out and then the pickers would reduce them - take them out of the shell and can them. And as I recall there would always be a residue in the bottom of claws that had fallen off the crabs and we would get into that and it was very tasty. Sucking on

cooked crab legs. It's even good today.

SKOLNICK: Where did you move after the Dock Street Apartment?

EUCARE: From Dock Street my father who had been working at Bancroft Hall all these years - Mr. Hiponia who by this time had moved to Washington D.C. told my father about a job at the Washington Navy Yard. And so my father commuted up there to take this job where he worked as a laborer. My father took the job because the money was much better.

SKOLNICK: How did he get there?

EUCARE: He took a bus and came home on Weekends. He stayed with the Hiponias during that period until we moved up to - he sent for us to move up to Washington. And we lived on 10th Street. 738 10th Street SE in a house there.

SKOLNICK: How old were you at this time:

EUCARE: I was 16 at the time and I enrolled in Eastern High School but I dropped out after a month. And I don't know which event took place whether I dropped out first or whether my father lost his job. And I went to work with Western Union. And I was 16 at the time. And that would have been in the fall of the year and then I recall in late December or January we had moved back to Annapolis and we were all living in one big room at 1 Fleet Street and the family that was - who we were renting from was a Mrs. Novey. Her daughter Ruby was in my class at school. Ruby Novey. And things were very difficult for mother and dad at the time. My father got his job - got a job back at Bancroft Hall and he arranged for me to get a job at a tailor shop at Bancroft Hall where I pressed midshipmen uniforms. And I worked there through that winter and through the summer into the next year. And then I was told of a job over at the experimental station which was on the other side of Severn river. And I took a job over there as an apprentice machinist third class. I was only 17 at the time and I recall - this was during the war years of World War II and it was difficult to leave one job and take another job unless in somehow or another it was - made a better contribution to the war effort. And since I was already making my contribution there at the Naval Academy I had to go through several interviews before I was given permission to take on the job as an apprentice machinist over at the experimental station. It was a year later when I - as I turned 18 that I went up to volunteer for induction. Although I had earlier, when I was 16, I had gone up to join the Navy. This would have been 1942 and was 16 years old 1942 we were still in the middle of the war and my father had given me permission to join the Navy which was permissible under the Navy enlistment programs at that time. It was called a minority enlistment. Minority meaning under age not race. And that's when I found out at age 16 that I was color blind and Navy wouldn't touch me with a ten foot pole because I was color blind. I subsequently got a commission in the Navy after I finished college. But it was in a different program. I was not a line officer. I served in the intelligence program. But the - it was my father's association with the Navy, he had served on active duty with the Navy for over 6 years. My father had located there at Annapolis because he was stationed there after he had finished his tour of sea duty. And he had served on three ships, the last one being the USS Utah. His first ship was an oiler and that was in 1919. And then he subsequently went to destroyers and then later on to the Utah.

SKOLNICK: I'd like to concentrate a little on the area of Hell Point itself. When you were growing up, to you what were the boundaries of what's known as Hell Point.

EUCARE: Well I never went beyond Church Circle where St Anne's church is located until I went to high school. And I didn't know there was another world up there. I rarely went across the bridge, which was then a wooden bridge, over to Eastport. There was always a lot of rivalry between the kids who lived in Eastport and those who lived in Annapolis. So i pretty much stayed downtown. There was a lumber yard on - the address was King George Street but it extended from King George Street all the way over to Prince George Street in so far as the waterfront was concerned and back in many cases almost to Holland Street. So playing around the waterfront was where I spent most of my time. I saw my first dead man down at the foot of Prince George Street. The man had drowned and he was floating. Somebody had pulled him in from the bay. They just put a rope on him and towed him in. And he was lying face down and somebody turned him over and he didn't have any face 'cause the crabs had eaten him. Crabs are scavengers.

SKOLNICK: Did you ever go into Block or Terry or that area of Hell Point when you were young?

EUCARE: I didn't understand your question.

SKOLNICK: Did you ever venture into the heart of Hell Point like Block Ct. and Terry Ct., that area?

EUCARE: Block Ct. I remember. That's where I fell out of my little red wagon and got a scar here on my forehead in my hairline. Yeah I remember Block Street. It was just outside of number 1 gate. What was then number 1 gate before they moved the gate up to Randall Street I was always impressed with the Marines at the

Naval Academy. They seemed to be the epitome of the military figure. They were always neatly dressed, well polished, magnificent military bearing - which is true today. I've never seen a sloppy looking Marine.

SKOLNICK : Did the Marines - or the Navy personnel - did they go into Hell Point often? Did you see them there or did they stay more toward the base - or the academy?

EUCARE: Well the midshipmen seemed to have free run of the town although they were severely restricted from the academic rules of the academy. They were not around the town quite a lot. But I do recall that when they went to church at Street Mary's they always marched in formation. Apparently they don't do that anymore, they go on their own without walking in formation. I was always in - admired the midshipmen and because my dad had served in the Navy I was sort of inspired to go in the Navy and that's why I tried to join the Navy in 1942. However, because I was color blind, when time came for me to go into the service I volunteered for induction and I was put in the Army. I didn't get any choice. I suppose they could have just as well put me in the Navy but in those days the Navy wasn't taking colorblind personnel. But the inspiration of the Naval Academy stayed with me and when I had an opportunity to get a direct commission into the Navy - that came about after I finished college and I had finished - I applied after I had graduated in 1957 from Hobart College and the paper work probably took longer than necessary. And then after I finished graduate school from Cornell University I had called the Navy again to see what happened with my application which I put in 1957 and they asked me to submit it again. And there was just a matter of less than a year that I received a direct commission. I was a lieutenant junior grade at the time. I spent 25 years with the navy after that. I thoroughly enjoyed my relationship with them. To this day, whenever I go down to the Naval Academy I remember the many walks that my mother would take during the summer to listen to the band in front of Street Andrew's chapel. It's a magnificent place for a young boy to grow up. It's like a beautiful park. Always looked forward to scrambling for pennies that the midshipmen would hurl at Tecumseh when they would leave the academy to play their football games away. And to this day I reminisce and I can always manage to find a penny when I go down and walk around Tecumseh.

SKOLNICK: When you were growing up did you go on to the academy grounds a lot?

EUCARE: Yes. In addition to going to the Naval Academy grounds when my mother would take me, at Christmas time there would be Christmas parties aboard the Cumberland for all of the families in the area. Or we would be invited because dad was quartered aboard the Cumberland when he was in the Navy. And so a lot of his friends were still there so mother and dad would take us there for the Christmas party. Moored on the other side of the dock was the Reno Marketwise, which was the flagship of the Spanish fleet during the civil war down in Havana, Cuba. I think some time in the 50's the United States saw fit to return the ship - the Reno Marketwise to the Spanish government as a gesture of goodwill. But there was a football stadium - Tumson [inaudible] Football Stadium that had been constructed out of the metal from a battleship that they had scrapped. I think it was the Wyoming. And that's where the football stadium was located. Just inside number 1 gate down towards the waterfront where the Lejune Athletic House is located today. So, football games were always exciting. Trying to find parking places for the cars so we could make money that way. Find a place for people to park, put it in somebody's driveway. Pookie XXXXXX, his mother owned some property in the area and he always managed to arrange with his mother to use her driveways to park cars.

SKOLNICK: Could you describe the house on Prince George Street for me?

EUCARE: Prince George Street was on - the house there was on the second floor and it was - I think it was - yeah three rooms. The two front ones we used for bedrooms and the one in the rear was a large room that was a kitchen/dining room. And I recall I think there was a day bed in there too so somebody must have slept in there although I don't recall that. I think we must have had our own bath - no - we had a commode but we didn't have a bath tub because mother used a big galvanized tub to wash clothes in and that's what we took a bath in. The water pressure was difficult in the building. If somebody on the first floor was using water - drawing water in the kitchen, the people in the second and third floor couldn't get water. And so the practice was to open up the window next to the sink and yell down, I can recall my mother saying "Turn the water on" and Mrs. Bartolomee who lived upstairs at the time would do the same. "Turn the water on." The water pressure just wasn't high enough. And we hung clothes out the back. There was a clothes line hooked to a telephone pole some distance away. Everybody, at least on the second and third floor used that and people down on the first floor had a little back yard so they could hang their clothes out there. And that's when I was introduced to the mystery of child birth. My sister Margaret was being born. And she was being attended to by the midwife. Didn't use doctors in those days you'd use a midwife. And I hid in the closet. I wanted to see what was going on but the midwife found me and took me out before I could see what that great mystery

was all about. We had a coal stove in the middle room. I recall my father would bank that. That heated the three rooms. Just that one little coal stove. It couldn't have been more than a foot in diameter and about maybe three or four feet tall.

SKOLNICK: What was it like in the summer there with the heat?

EUCARE: I don't recall us ever being so hot. I'm sure it must have been but I don't recall us having any difficulty. Maybe it's because being on the second floor we got more of a breeze through the place. Although in the evenings everybody would sit outside. You know, bring a chair down and sit outside on the sidewalk. So I'm sure that was a way of staying cool - sitting on the sidewalk.

SKOLNICK: When you were living there were you aware of who owned the building?

EUCARE: Yeah, Mr. Goodman owned the building. His daughter was Karin Goodman. She was in my class. Mr. Goodman lived about two blocks up the street in about the block just before you get to Street Johns College. So he wasn't that far away. He really wasn't what we'd call an absentee landlord. He would come around every week and collect the rent. I remember Karin though, not only because she was in my class, but she was a strikingly attractive platinum blonde. I mean even as a little kid I would see she was a good looking woman - or was going to be when she grew up.

SKOLNICK: What sorts of games did you play when you were growing up?

EUCARE: There was as I recall in that area, we played something called kick-the-can which was - you put a can in the middle of the street and everybody went off to hide, and the defender had to look for everybody but he had to protect the can. And as you caught people, he had them around the can and they were no longer able to hide again. But if one of the others who hadn't been caught could sneak in and kick the can then everybody could go free again. And he had to chase them all over again. That was one. Another game was similar to that but you'd choose up sides and one side would go off and hide, but they had to stay within the prescribed area. And so it was always the case of climbing over somebody's back yard or climbing over somebody's garage, crawling under a house until you found each other. And when you caught somebody you brought them back to wherever this location was. And then if somebody who hadn't been caught could reach this base - I guess that was the name of it, why they gave it that name Going Off. You would run to this pole and say "Going off" and everybody would scatter to the four winds all over again.

SKOLNICK: Did you ever get in trouble climbing over someone's fence or something that you shouldn't be?

EUCARE: Not for climbing over somebody's fence and generally just run around play. No, I never got into any trouble for that. I do recall one time being caught stealing grapes out of Mr. Brown's yard. He and his wife were a dear old couple that lived in a house that fronts Prince George Street. There's an entrance from Craig Street. Craig Street runs between King George Street and Dock Street but there aren't any houses that front it. And Mr. and Mrs. Brown had this nice little yard, but he had a grape vine. And I got caught red handed, with the grapes in my hand by Mr. Brown.

SKOLNICK: What happened to you?

EUCARE: Nothing. He shook his finger at me and told me keep out of here until they get ripe. Eating green grapes. But see our back yard at 96 Dock Street was up against his wood shed and when we climbed our fence there were the grapes just about at the other end of his little garage.

SKOLNICK: Could you describe the apartment on Dock Street?

EUCARE: Dock Street was a row house and there were one, two, three, four - a total of eight houses in two sections and the divider was an open alley that separated the two sections. And there was another closed alley, or covered ally in between the two houses that made up - the four houses that made up one set. So you could stand in the alley there and get out of the rain. On the first floor was the living room, the second room in the back was a kitchen with the stairs going up to two bedrooms. The bedroom in the front was a full - had a full ceiling. The bedroom in the back had a sloped ceiling. So when you went to look out the window you had to get down on your knees to look out the window. And we used the upstairs, we had two double beds and a cot and in the back was a big double bed where my sisters - there was Victoria and Rita stayed at the time. Teddy and I slept in one double bed. Mother and dad were in the other double bed and then when my brother Junior was born - oh he was small when we moved there. He slept on a cot of - what I would characterize as an army cot. We had, it seemed like we always had cats ever since I brought one home when we lived on Main Street. She was quite a prolific cat. It seemed like she had kittens quite frequently and we would normally keep as many as we could. At least mother would keep one. Keep the mother cat and one. And the winters were so cold that the cat would crawl down between, under the covers, between my brother and I and he'd try to get down to our feet. That was a nice pleasurable experience. My sister seemed to have a penchant for naming the

cats. I think that one his name was Cleo because just about that time we had seen the movie Pinocchio and there's a little cat in there named Cleo. We had a back yard, but the commode was in the shed all the way in the back. It was a flush toilet but it was separate from the house. So we used a night bucket in the house and it was my job to empty the thing every day. I remember that. I remember spilling it one time when it was full. I had to clean that up too.

SKOLNICK: Did you have any other specific chores when you were growing up?

EUCARE: My sister and I always had several of the household chores to do because we were the older of the children and so we helped mother with housework, you know cleaning. Mother would do the washing and the cooking but we would, my sister and I, would do a lot of the cleaning. You know a lot of the sweeping and dusting kind of thing. It was my job to keep the back yard cleaned up and I'd get my brother Ted to help me do that. We also had the practice of every day going around to all of the grocery stores in the area looking for empty wooden boxes because that was a source of kindling for the stove. Although we had a cast iron stove in the house it always needed kindling to start the fire up. We bought coal by the bag in those days, like a 25 pound paper bag.

SKOLNICK: Where did you buy it from?

EUCARE: Usually get it from the grocery store. Louis Lott had a grocery store on Market Space and Mr. Greenberg had a grocery store on Market Space. And as I recall one of the streets that I noticed recently is called Pinkney Street. When I was a kid that was called Taylor Street. So they renamed it I guess to revert to its historic name. Because the Pinkney House is also a preserved house around the corner. It has its own private alley, or an alley that goes from Pinckney Street to Prince George Street. So we'd carry the coal from there. Living on Dock Street, the A&P was there on Dock Street and I as a boy I worked there to carry orders. I had a little red wagon and I would carry orders for the shoppers that lived in the neighborhood. And that was a nice source of income for a young boy. I had a paper route for the Washington Post. Later on my brother Ted inherited that. I got the route from Petey Cabila when his family moved down to Norfolk.

SKOLNICK: You mentioned the grocery stores in the Market Space. Could you describe the area of the Market Space?

EUCARE: Well, the Market Space, the building itself is as you see it today in its physical appearance but in those days there were - it was more like a farmer's market. The farmers would bring their produce and poultry to the area. They would park all around on the shore side as opposed to the opposite side next to Fleet Street. And on the corner there was a large pavement there that must have run about fifty feet deep, and I recall Mr. Brown had a vegetable stand there. And there was another family that held another - Mr... the name escapes me now - but I worked for him. His daughter was Mrs. Scanlin (?) and I worked there in the summers helping to sell the fruits and vegetables. And anything that wasn't saleable was given to me so I could take it home. One of the delightful jobs I had when I was working when I lived on Dock Street, was that every summer the - I think it was the Waterwhitch (unclear) Fire Department which was located on East Street - they'd have a carnival down on the Dock Street area where the cobblestones were located. This is right at the city dock. And I recall that I would help out at the hot dog stand and my pay was the hot dogs. I could eat all the hot dogs I wanted. Which is great until you get sick and tired of hot dogs. But I still enjoyed eating the hot dogs and anything that was left over - usually it was ice from the soda stand which was right next to where we sold the hot dogs and any hot dogs or rolls that were left over I was able to take home. So that was really a nice summer job for a kid going to elementary school.

SKOLNICK: Was the market place any different on the weekends.

EUCARE: Well because of the farmers market, there was always a big crowd in downtown Annapolis. Either came down there to do your shopping or to sell whatever it is the farmers were selling. Many of the people would just stand on the corner outside of what was then Murphy's Five and Dime. And now I think it - well as I recall it's still called the Goodman building but the shops inside are different now and people don't stand or park along the foot of Main Street and do as they did then which was just to see people go by. Now I guess they get in their cars and drive around instead of standing still. But yeah, it was crowded downtown uh Annapolis. The uh - most of the market space activity was outside along the sidewalk, although inside there were fish houses. This is where they sold fresh fish and fresh oysters in season. And uh - course the city dock was full of work boats in those day. Now a work boat can't get in there because it's too costly to park there. All you have are pleasure boats in there now but when I was a kid they were all work boats in there and you could literally walk across the dock from the boats that were moored in the area. And then when there was a storm that came in any of the sailing ships on the bay, and these were all work boats, oyster boats, they would

just cram that little city dock in Spa Creek seeking shelter from the storm. And it was really magnificent to see all these sailing ships in there and these were all work boats. And it's probably rare to see any work boats on the bay today. The Middleton's then was a restaurant and there was uh apartments upstairs and as you moved around going from Middleton's over to Fleet Street there was a series of little shops. There was the two grocery stores I mentioned. There was a pool room as I recall right in the little corner opposite Mr. Greenberg's grocery store. There was a bakery on the - to the left of Mr. Lott's grocery store and I think there was a tailor shop in there and then on the end was a bar room. I think it was called Captain Dan's. I think there's Dock Side Restaurant is in that area now.

SKOLNICK: Could yo describe Holland Street, your memories of that.

EUCARE: Yeah, Holland Street was a very narrow street. It would be difficult for two full size cars to pass each other. One of the cars would have to run up on the sidewalk in order to pass. Looking from Prince George Street to King George Street on the left were homes with porches, and on the right - let's see, there was the side of the house that was on Prince George Street and then there was a couple of more houses - didn't have porches and they were unpainted as I recall. And then there was a street that went - I think it was called Johnson Street that led off Holland Street going towards the waterfront. And there was a black family that lived down there, I think it was called Grays, Grays Crab House. They cooked crabs and sold them and she made really delicious crab cakes. But I can recall after they finished cooking crabs if you look into this big cast iron pot there'd always be some crab claws down there at the bottom and then I recall enjoying those as well. On Johnson Street to the left was the side of the uh - Johnson Lumber Company which is now out on West Street. And as you came out and went past Johnson Street there were uh - I think there were - a part of Johnson Lumber Company came all the way out to Holland Street. And on the corner was a little store, grocery store run by the Kotzin family. K-O-T-Z-I-N I think it was. There were two daughters, and Mrs. Kotzin. As a matter of fact Mrs. Kotzin now that I think about it - she owned, the Kotzin family owned 1 Fleet Street when my mother and father were renting it and running it as a boarding house. And I can remember going with my mother over to the uh - over to Mrs. Kotzin. Yeah Mrs. Kotzin would come over to collect the rent. Yeah I remember that now, yeah. Mrs. Kotzin, it must have been the Kotzin family that owned that particular piece of property and mother ran the boarding house in it and that's when I was about 4 or 5 years old. Maybe about 5 years old. A memory comes back to me regarding 1 Fleet Street. It was about 5 years old when it occurred. But there was a lady who lived on the very top floor of the building that was right there on the corner. This was called the Flat Iron Building because we were at the point and as you went up the street one side was Cornhill Street and the other side was [pause] it must have been Fleet Street - yeah Fleet Street. And at the top of Cornhill was the Circle Theater and when you continued up Fleet Street you came to East which then was the side of the Circle Theater. Well, up on this top floor was a lady who I would run errands for. And she would have me go to the store which was right across the street right next to where we lived. That was called Blooms. It was a little mom and pop type store and the daughter there was in my class when I was at school. I forget her name. Rebecca I think it might have been. At any rate, this lady - her name was - they called her Miny Lareeza (??) and she would have me go to the store and get a soda or cigarettes - not cigarettes. They wouldn't a kid cigarettes. Usually a soda or bread or something like that, and I would run upstairs and deliver it and she'd give me a nickel. And a nickel's a big piece of change way back in the 30's. So one day I was up there delivering things and she always had such a neat little apartment. And she always had this big bowl of candy and I was\ just fascinated by it. So she saw me eyeing it I'm sure and said why don't you have some? So I did and then I stayed for more and stayed for more and so forth. Next thing you know I heard my father calling me. And so I opened the door and there he was down at the foot of the steps and says "come on home now." And he had his friend Lategan (? phonetic) who was another Filipino, but he was in the army unlike my dad and all of - that was the first time I had seen a Filipino who had been in the army, serving in the army. Lategan was his name. So I said fine I'll come down so I went on home and I wasn't chastised or anything like that for staying out late. I think it was only maybe five o'clock. But after I got home they said "we don't want you going up there anymore." And so I didn't. I didn't thin of anything as to why I shouldn't. I wasn't doing anything wrong. I didn't see anything going on that was wrong. But many years later my mother told me that Miny Lareeza was a prostitute. But I never saw anybody up there but Miny, or Mrs. Lareeza as I called her then. I don't know what they thought I was supposed do be doing up there [laughter] but what made it more unusual was not that she was a prostitute, which made it probably bad enough but - remember in those days there was a color line in Annapolis and not only was there a color line there were two color lines. There was one between the white establishment and all other and then between the all other it was usually the - anyway as

I perceived it - there was the African American community and there was the Filipino community. And there was another color line there. Well Miny Lareeza was a mulatto, and a prostitute but I always looked at her as a nice lady.

(TAPE 2 SIDE 1)

SKOLNICK: You had mentioned the color lines between the whites and everyone else, and then the blacks and the Filipinos. Did you have many African American friends when you were growing up?

EUCARE: I used to play around with a couple of kids that were in the neighborhood on Taylor Street which was is now called Pinckney Street. But I don't recall any lasting friendships. When I worked at the A&P with a bunch of other kids carrying orders there was one guy that I made good - that I made friends with while I was - while we were working but I don't recall ever doing in the way of palling around. His name was Wilson, James Wilson. And that's where I first met him and we met there throughout the summers as we were going through school. Later on I saw him after I got out of the Army and he was married and of course had children. But again we never socialized. There was a family named Parker. The father was an itinerant laborer and Mrs. Parker as I recall did a lot of house work and laundry work for ladies in the neighborhood. She had a lot of children. Mr. and Mrs. Parker had a lot of children as I recall. But although I knew them by name, I didn't play with any of the kids. Although they were in the neighborhood, they lived over on - I think for a while they lived on Dock Street because that was a fairly integrated neighborhood. You had white people, you had Filipinos and you had Black people all living on Holland Street. The uh - and some of those homes are rather substantial on Holland Street. But the color line was pervasive. It isn't that there was any strife as I recall it was just the way that the social groups coalesced.

SKOLNICK: Were there any areas that you couldn't go, like predominantly African American areas?

EUCARE: No, as I said there wasn't any strife that I can recall and remember I never left downtown Annapolis until I went to high school. And so I really can't say there was any gang warfare or such. That wasn't anything that was present in those days. I don't recall any kind of strife at all, nor did I ever hear of any. I mean, my mother would say be home by ten o'clock not because there was danger out there but because you gotta get ready for school the next day, or to get your homework done. That was just the time to come home. I don't recall there being any kind of strife racial or otherwise.

SKOLNICK: What about - was there economic discrimination in downtown Annapolis?

EUCARE: Well, in my perception I didn't see that although my father felt that there was. Now my dad was one of the few Filipinos while he was serving in the Navy that could read and write english. And because of that he was rather rapidly promoted to first class mess steward. And in civilian life he played that kind of leadership role as well in the Filipino community. If some of his compatriots were filling out a job application or in many cases it would happen that they were filling out an application for citizenship they would come to my father and he would perform this as a gesture of goodwill for the Filipino's in the community. But my dad did have an education, and with that - when I say an education, relative to his Filipino peers - I would say he probably might have gone as high as, or finished elementary school. He had a beautiful handwriting. Really lovely handwriting. But he was also, became a self taught accountant. I say self taught - he took the LaSalle extension accounting courses and I can recall for years he was doing that. And I can recall some gentleman coming down and presenting him with a certificate when he completed the accounting courses. And he applied for many jobs at the Naval Academy. What was referred to as a white collar job instead of being a blue collar worker. But he couldn't get any kind of job at all down there even though he had this accounting certificate. So my father really felt that he had been discriminated against and it - well what do you do about it? Who are you gonna tell? The didn't have any laws that would protect people against discrimination in those days. It was my mother who had to go out and find a new house for us, or the next house for us because my father would have been rejected as he felt. And several people in the community who knew my father and mother told my mother "you go find the house. They'll never rent it to Mr. Eucare." I have to mention one lady in particular who was really a guardian angel to our family, and that was a lady named Williams. Mrs. Daisy Williams. She had a home in Eastport on Bay Ridge Avenue and I can recall going over to that house and it had fruit trees on it. And Mrs. Williams would give my mother some of the fruit that was growing at the place. Well, Mrs. Williams met my mother when she first came to this country. My mother was only 18 years old when she came here. She had been brought up without a mother and had been in a widowers home until she was about 12. And so her upbringing was rather sketchy in so far as any relationship to a church. Well Mrs. Williams took my mother under her wing and gave her her religious training, her religious foundation. And it was she, Mrs. Williams, who guided my mother through the - past the opportunities and temptations that were prevalent

where mother was living. Because there was at least one place that where my mentioned that there was prostitution going on. And my mother was living there with two children, my older sister and I and my dad's at sea. And so Mrs. Williams, only through you know, the intervention of Mrs. Williams that my mother was protected all during this period. And I can recall up until I was in my teens mother and Mrs. Williams - mother going to visit Mrs. Williams and we'd go out - my sister and I would go out and play or sometimes we'd go with mother over to Mrs. Williams' place and listen to records or look at books. And Mrs. Williams was a widow but she really gave mother the haven that she needed in order to grow and nurture and was most fortunate that there was a Mrs. Williams around in those days. My mother always was a very fair minded person. She - since both my mother and father you know had grown up in the society where there wasn't a color line it had to be something that she - that they both acquired here in this country. Although it might have been just a veneer it was still enough to comply with the social mores of the community. So as I look back on it now I can understand why my mother and father didn't want me to go up and play with the Tobiah boys on Taylor Street. But it still leaves me feeling unhappy about it in my later life because I didn't know - I didn't understand what was going on then and nor did I understand why I shouldn't go up to Miny Lareeza's place either.

SKOLNICK: I'd like to talk more about like uh daily life in the neighborhood. What would be a typical meal?

EUCARE: Breakfast would be - week day now, I'm going to go to school. Breakfast would be either oatmeal with milk made from can milk not fresh milk, can milk and or cup of tea and two or three slices of toast with margarine and cinnamon - cinnamon sugar. That would be breakfast. Lunch, I guess when we were in elementary school, oh lunch, we took lunch at school. I can recall getting free milk at school. As I recall in those days everybody got milk. And in those days they were little half pint bottles. Little bottles. But everybody got milk and I guess that might have been part of the surplus program run - operated by the government. But you normally brought your own sandwich. And I would have maybe a bologna sandwich or a jelly sandwich. Dinner would usually be something with vegetables. Usually a chicken. When I say a chicken, a part of a chicken or a part of a - couple pork chops or a hamburger and mother would make it stretch for everybody. We usually had rice. My father ate rice even for breakfast. But mother would serve a dinner usually with a vegetable and the meat would be sparse. It was more for flavor then a portion. Sunday we would get an egg. Because friday was payday and mother goes shopping on saturday and the sunday we had an egg. An egg. Sometimes we'd even have bacon.

SKOLNICK: You said you went to Green Street, the school on Green Street...

EUCARE: Green Street Elementary School. It's still there today. It's still open.

SKOLNICK: Right. Did you bring school friends home to play? Could you do that?

EUCARE: I could do it but I didn't have any friends to bring home. No when I for instance - the kids I pal around with were either - Petey Cavila lived on Holland Street when I lived on Prince George Street so I'd go over to his house to play or he'd come over to our house to play. But I don't recall ever bringing home any of the kids from school other than the kids who lived in the neighborhood. My brother Ted did on several occasions. But usually it was just the kids in the neighborhood we played with. This was - when I say it was an integrated neighborhood it was Filipinos and white families. I don't recall ever being any black families living in that neighborhood. The ones I mentioned on - that were down on Holland Street lived on Johnson Street which was off of Holland Street. There weren't any that lived on Holland Street as such. I recall that the far end next to the uh King George Street, there's a tavern there. The name at one time was Dutch's and I think later on a Filipino family took it over. But it was still called Dutch's.

SKOLNICK: Did you have any gardens on the residences were you lived?

EUCARE: Guardians?

SKOLNICK: Gardens, I'm sorry.

EUCARE: Gardens

SKOLNICK: Gardens. Like out back...

EUCARE: Yeah, my dad had a garden in the back. I brought home some corn from the carnival that they had used for playing bingo. And I didn't realize there's difference in the seed. These were big kernels. Not like the Queen Anne's kernel which is the small petite white kernel. My father planted those and we had them, and we ate them. It was kind of tough as I recall and somebody said "that's horse corn." Well it may have been horse corn but it was still edible. Yeah my dad had a little garden and he planted potatoes in a back yard. But that's the only place I recall that we've ever planted anything for consumption.

SKOLNICK: Which house was that?

EUCARE: This was on Dock Street - 96 Dock Street. See, all the other places that we lived there wasn't any backyard. (unclear) lived up on the second floor. My mother, when I was very young, before even my memory, Mother says we lived on Feldmeyer Farm and she had chickens. So I guess there must have been a garden out there too although I don't remember it.

SKOLNICK: Do you have any memories of sharing between neighbors? Did that go on?

EUCARE: Sharing? Um, not so much sharing as caring. There wasn't a hell of a lot to share. But we could care for each others children. I can recall always going to Mrs. Hubbard's house and she had a lot of kids. I mean you lose count after a while. Mrs. Agnais Hubbard and Mr. Alcade Hubbard (?). The oldest boy was Junior and to this day they still call him Junior. I think Jaqueline was next. She still lives in Annapolis. Marselin (?) was the third one. She lives I think in Wisconsin. She married a guy when he was stationed here with the Navy and then he went back home. Alonzo was about my age. He joined the Air Force and it was just last year - when I went into the Army in 1944 like a year later he joined the Army also. That was 1944. We didn't see each other until last year. He spent 30 years in the Army. Retired. But there was a lot of caring among families for children. When a woman had her baby t he ladies in the neighborhood took over running the house for them. You know looking after the kids or maybe helping a little with bringing a dish over so the wife wouldn't have to worry about cooking. There was that kind of caring. Mr. Michaeljohn was a carpenter and he seemed to build a rowboat every year. And it was nice to watch him build it and sometimes he'd even let us help him. Especially doing the sanding. Charlie Michaeljohn and the two older brothers it was - I never knew what their real names were - Wompey Michaeljohn, Nootsey Michaeljohn, Charlie Michaeljohn, Bopper Michaeljohn, and I think the youngest one was Henry Michaeljohn. Well Nootsey and Wompey were the guys I hung out with. They were my age or older. We uh - my dad rigged up a shower. Ran a hose from the kitchen sink out across the back of the yard over on the other side of the john that was out there. And he had built a little platform and we were the only family on the block that had a shower. [laughter] It was great in the summer time. All the kids in the neighborhood came over to take a shower.

SKOLNICK: Where were you living when the Navy acquired the land of Hell Point in 1941?

EUCARE: What year was it?

SKOLNICK: 1941.

EUCARE '41? Oh yeah, I was living at 96 Dock Street and I can recall as they were tearing it down they were being so very careful tying up these little bundles of laths. In those days when you put up a wall you put up these laths first then you put the plaster over it. You didn't have wallboard in those days. Anyway, somebody had taken the time, for whatever reason, to stack this lumber ever so neatly as they were tearing it down. And I can recall going over there and seeing that and saying "Hey, that's great firewood." So I grabbed a hold of the bundle and was carrying it off and next thing you know I feel somebody grab me. "You're stealing government property." And they were going to lock us up. It was me and my brother. And another guy came buy and said look, "these kids are just taken lumber for - they're not stealing it in the sense you're thinking of. They're not gonna go out and sell it. There just gonna use it to heat there house." The guy who was holding us relented thanks to the interception of this guy who had a little bit of empathy for what we were doing and he let us go. He said, "get out of here and stay out."

SKOLNICK: Did you know anyone living in the area that was torn down?

EUCARE: Um let's see, The family that comes to mind was the Ritchie family. Mrs. Lizzie Ritchie. And she had two daughters, Daisy and Violet. And I recall every time we have a reunion I see Violet and she apparently is part of a Cantler clan and over on I think it's St. Margaret's Creek, over in St. Margaret's on one of those back roads over there, there's a Cantler Restaurant. Damn good sea food restaurant. I mean if you ever get a chance go down there. It's really worth while going over there. A little pricey but I mean you pay for it. You get what you pay for. At any rate, that's the only family I can think of right now off the top of my head that I'm in contact with today. Violet Ritchie is her name. I guess her - I don't know what her name is now. I'm sure she's married because I met her sons. But if you were to say , you know, Violet Ritchie my sister would know how to get in touch with her. I remember that family. There was also the um - my godmother lived in the house where Dutch's tavern was located. Her name was Minong, and her older sister was called Manong. And Manong had a daughter named Amparing (Phonetic), Amparing Cordial. She lives down at Cobb Island now. But they were living there at the time and when the Navy bought that out Minong and Manong moved down to Portsmouth, Virginia and opened up a restaurant down there. And therein lies another tale. Because when I was helping them move, she was throwing things out and I was scavenging and I found something really interesting. To me it was interesting. Remember this is 1941. The war is going on

over in Europe but it wasn't here yet. We weren't in it yet. And in 1939 at the New York World's Fair Minong somehow acquired what we now refer to as a Nazi arm band. It's a red band with a white circle and a black swastika on it and that was just really neat.

SKOLNICK: Yeah, I remember you mentioning that in the interview...

EUCARE: Yeah, so I took that doggone thing home and I wore it to school, to high school and some kid gave me a dime for it. He said, "I'll give you a dime for it" so I said fine. And then later on of course they got this visit from the FBI when I was in high school and then that's when I fingered Minong as to where I got it from. They were very unhappy about that.

SKOLNICK: What happened to the Ritchie family when their land was taken away?

EUCARE: I don't know whether they owned it or rented it but Mrs. Ritchie continued living in the Annapolis area 'cause she was a great waterman. She, I would say made her living on the water. But she would trap eels and then not only use it for food - you know in Europe that's a delicacy. We don't care for it around here but it's really not a bad food to eat. And then she'd use the eels - she'd salt them down and use them for catching crabs. I don't know which area they moved into. I got the impression that they moved over to St. Margaret's because that's where Violet Ritchie had been living. The oldest - her oldest - Lizzie Ritchie's oldest son is named Albert. Would you believe he is still employed down at the Naval Academy. He must have been working down there - he must have over 50 years of service and he's still working down there. His home is in Truxton Heights on Boxwood Road. Silapana (Phonetic) Road. Silapana's a circle, and through the middle is Boxwood and my mother's - my parents house was on Boxwood. But Albert Ritchie now lives on Silapana Road. But I think Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Lizzie Ritchie moved over to St. Margarets and I think she took her daughters with her. At that time they were probably in their twenties.

SKOLNICK: Were you at all aware of how they felt about the neighborhood being demolished and then just sitting there for 13 years?

EUCARE: Uh no. No, I don't recall at all because after it was torn down, for what reason it sat there for 13 years - I suppose the city fathers were unhappy about it because they lost their tax base, whatever it was. And you did have a thriving business down there which was the lumber company. And in those days you had the ferry boat that came in there at the foot of King George Street. Now, if there was any discussion at all about it in Annapolis, it never crossed the community in which I lived.

SKOLNICK: In the interview with Mame Warren you had mentioned wearing midshipmen shoes and pants at times.

EUCARE: Yeah, that was...

SKOLNICK: Where did you get these...

EUCARE: My father would bring these things home to clothe his family. I mean for years I slept in midshipmen tee shirts. You know, it made a nice nightgown. We all did. But when I went to high school I didn't have any clothes to wear and my father found or somehow acquired these midshipmen pants. It's good quality stuff and good quality shoes. But wearing them to high school when everybody else is wearing whatever is cool for high school kids in those days I felt a little embarrassed about it.

SKOLNICK: Did anyone tease you or anything about that at high school?

EUCARE: Only one kid mentioned it as I recall. And I was already self conscious about it to begin with and so I didn't want to make an issue out of it I just didn't respond. But, as good as those things were and as good hearted as my father was about getting them for me, I would have much rather have had something else. Of course many years later when I got my own uniform it was different.

SKOLNICK: I think I'm gonna wrap this up. Is there anything else you'd like to mention - impressions of Hell Point?

EUCARE: I try to put things in a different perspective, looking at the experience then and looking at it today. Looking at the more positive things. The positive things that came out of it for me was the friendship that existed among the various nuclear families in the area. They really cared for each other. Being neighborly really seemed to have meant something. The church, which I grew up in, was the Salvation Army. It wasn't until many years later, after I'd already served in the army that I found out that I was Catholic. I'd been baptized a Catholic. And when I got a hold of that - I guess it was when I was in the Air Force that I wrote to St. Mary's to get my birth certificate - my baptismal certificate. And that's when I found out I have another name. When I was growing up I was Joe Eucare. When I was in - when I got a hold of my - I think it was when I went in the army - when I was in high school I presented myself as Alexander Joseph Eucare because mother told me that I was named after my grandfather. In fact my maternal grandfather. My baptismal

certificate is Joseph Stewart Eucare. My birth certificate is Alexander Joseph Eucare. I don't know why the difference in the two. But between the neighborhood on Dock Street, where I think I was - there was more bonding going on there for me and my peers.

(TAPE 2 SIDE 2)

EUCARE (cont.): As a teenager I began bonding with the other kids in the neighborhood whereas anything younger than that I really didn't do a lot of bonding with anyone. I went to the Salvation Army from - my earliest recollection is my sister and I playing on the sidewalk on a Sunday morning, a sunny Sunday morning when we were living at 1 Market Place. We were living in the Middleton Building and a Mrs. Mary Hubbard came by and she said, "what are you children doing today?" Oh we're just playing. And Mrs. Hubbard said "come with me." And right across the street was the Salvation Army on Randall Street and from that point on we attended Sunday school over there. And then later on when we moved on Prince George Street and then subsequently to Dock Street every summer, at least for three summers that I can remember the Salvation Army sent me to summer camp up at Camp Katokten (?) which is where Camp David's located up there now. And uh, that foundation - my mother's experience and guidance from Mrs. Williams, the neighborhood on Dock Street and the church - those things gave me a really strong foundation. I didn't realize until I was in the Air Force, when I was in my early twenties, that I had the intellect to be able to do college level work. And that came about because I was in a unit where all the enlisted men, and they were either college graduates or had some college - and this was during the Korean War. And just associating with them I began to realize that I had a fairly good grasp on how to read and think. So I began to get some - I guess I thought better of myself. It's a matter of self esteem I suppose. And with that I applied for college at Hobart and was accepted.

Although first semester I was on probation because I was a high school dropout. All I had going for me was what they called a United States Armed Forces Institute certificate that said I can do high school work. And uh, that first semester was tough. Tough in the sense that I wasn't sure yet whether I could do it. But after that first semester I thought this was going to be a piece of cake. I finished uh - I think it was a 3.2 average and then I went to graduate school and I was even better. But, you know, the foundation at my point of departure and, I really feel that that gave me a lot more to work with than a lot of other people had. My dad, bless his heart, he wanted me to learn a trade. He was glad that I was going to stay in the service and I planned on being a 30 year man. I enjoyed my Army life even though it was war time. I enjoyed, even though in the army I'd gone to Europe and fought in the war there, but in the Korean war I stayed here in the United States. The entire time I was training recruits. And after I finished graduate school I followed up on my application for a direct commission with the Navy. I was commissioned in 1960 and then I retired in 1986 at age 58 because I was the maximum age I could stay with them. Even though I was in a non pay status for a long while I thoroughly enjoyed my association with the Navy and still do today. The period of growing up, if I wasn't happy at all it wasn't because of what other people did to me, it was just being poor - self esteem problems. But that's not unique. A lot of kids were poor then. Poor in an economic sense. You know I mentioned to you getting baskets every Christmas. I thought everybody got Christmas baskets. I didn't know that some families didn't get Christmas baskets. For me that was the highlight - and this was the period when I was in elementary school. Now getting a Christmas basket was nice. And toys too. Not just food, we had toys. That was nice. And because, you know, people were willing to help families like mine at that time I still support the Salvation Army and I still support my church in the Catholic charities and my church as well. I think it's appropriate to do that for your own community. I enjoy going down to Annapolis. I have a lot of fine memories. But all my memories are in the downtown area. Going to high school, and that was a long walk going out to the high school then which was located at the end of Constitution Avenue. I'm looking forward to my 50th high school reunion next year scheduled for October. I've asked the organizer - I had to drop out of high school, do you think you could give me a high school certificate? And when we have our reunion in October of '94 - I would have been the class of '44. In the class of '44, months after he graduated was a guy named Finckle, John Finckle. He joined the Navy and in the yearbook - they have his name in there - anyway he was killed in action with the Navy. And here is a young man 18 years old. John Finckle. There was a time when a train came down Main Street and turned left and went down Randall Street towards the ferry boat. My mother says that the house on the corner, which is a big brick house on the corner of Green Street and Main Street, it's a historic - it has a historic marker on it now - that was her first home when she came here and I guess it was in what 1924.

This ends the transcript

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER 1993

Interview with Alice Ford
Interviewer: Darby Laspa
Date: July 1, 1993

LASPA: This is tape one, side one of an interview with Alice Ford. The interviewer is Darby Laspa, and the interview is being conducted at her house, Alice Ford's house, in Annapolis, Maryland on July First, 1993. The interview is being conducted for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project.

So now I'll ask you about Hell Point. You have some memories about Hell Point?

FORD: Yes, I was told that the people there were you know like (islanders), they all worked crab, and uh..(unclear)... They were, you know, they weren't very rich people, they fished, they crabbed, and they all lived on (?), they did down there a lot of fighting that (?) a lot of times, that's what I was told. And, they didn't, uh...like the foot of, uh, what they were, the Hell's Point were right on the end of where you see the Navy Yard, where you see the dock of Annapolis. That was right inside, that's on the side of the... right now is the Navy Academy, taking it over. And then on a Saturday or Sunday sometimes they said the boat would come in from the Eastern shore, and they would bring in vegetables and goods, from, you know, to sell over here in Annapolis.

LASPA: Would people from the Hell Point area sell these?

FORD: No, the people from the Eastern Shore would bring this in. And then they would come in and they'd buy things over this way from the people there on that a'way. And that's what I was told.

LASPA: You were told...who told you?

FORD: My grandmother. And her name was Liza Fitzhugh.

LASPA: Did she...she lived in Hell Point?

FORD: She lived in Hell's Point. There are quite a few people that know more than I do, like I said, we could go to Mr. Campbell. Did you see...did you interview him?

LASPA: No, but I believe someone else has talked to him.

FORD: Oh, I see.

LASPA: Did he live...he lived in Hell Point?

FORD: He lived in Hell Point all his life...he's in the same house, only they moved across.

LASPA: Where, where was the house?

FORD: The house was down on Prince George Street.

LASPA: That's where your grandmother lived?

FORD: They used to live...but that, but they took the built this land in from around the water, near the Navy Academy. That's where I wanted to go, because that man got everything down there, he know from day one...

LASPA: ...about what's going on...

FORD: Yes...and he said that he didn't mind me bringing you there. He is a white man, and he knows everything about us because he's the oldest man there that would not move away from there. And I know that, uh, he was brought up by a colored lady because his mother was sick, I think. And she had to, you know, rai..uh...do a little work taking care of him.

LASPA: Did your grandmother live near where he lived?

FORD: I really don't know, but I know it was one side, I don't know whether at that time they had the colored people,[that we was called], colored on one side or the other. But I do know she said she lived in Hell's Point, and they used to have, um, old crab house right...right round the bend where they, most of the black people made their living crabbing, and in the wintertime they would go there to shuck oysters.

LASPA: Was your grandmother involved.. with the crab market?

FORD: Yes, she was..Ya, she worked right right into the crab market. She used to pick the crab. And, uh...

LASPA: Did she ever tell you stories about that?

FORD: Oh yes, she could..(unclear)..[chuckle]...I know about it 'cause, uh, I was fi...I went down there to see the nasty, sloppy place...wet...the smellin' of crabs...and when she come home from the crab house, we had a woodshed back you see, to keep coal and stuff...that's where she'd take off her clothes, and take a little tin tub,

and take a bath in. That's the way she used to do every evenin', and she'd come in from the crab house.

LASPA: Was there an area behind her house where she did this?

FORD: No,no. We had a shed. We call it a woodshed. We kept coal and wood in it. And she would come in an'a do that...and so she did that for years, even when she's in Hell's Point.

LASPA: Was the crab house right around the corner from her house?

FORD: Right around the corner,yes.

LASPA: Could you smell the crab, even in the streets?

FORD: No, uh, see, what I'm telling you about now I knew about, they had moved away from there, but she still come from the...she'd moved this a'way.

LASPA: When she moved...

FORD: She had moved away and she come this way and she still worked down there to the crab house until the Navy Academy taking over, and they did away with all of that, all except Mr. Campbell's house and a house down there, I think the Shaeffer's house, and that's a house where you can go in, tourist's would go in and get information for,you know, about Annapolis. If I could get down that way I could get plenty of information.

LASPA: Did you ever go visit your grandmother in Hell Point?

FORD: No...

LASPA: Was she on Johnson.....

FORD: ...She was out of Hell's Point by that time.

LASPA: ...by that time. Where, where did she move?

FORD: She moved up this way on to Pleasant Street...On that side of Pleasant...

LASPA: Right by the walk here?

FORD: Yes, up by the cemetery. And then she, uh...They was pretty, you know, hard times, at that time. But people were really got along... and, uh, like I said, uh...she had a lot of children to bring up, and they used to wait sometimes to see the ferry come in, and then to get a few things off the ferry.

LASPA: Like what kinds of things?

FORD: Like from the Eastern shore 'round this time they would come in with the strawberries, corn, potatoes, and things like that...

LASPA: Did they get most of their food from these boats coming over?

FORD: Most of it come from the boats come over,and most of it came from, like down in, you know the country. The people have these big trucks would come in on Saturdays, and most of it came in on the boats down by the dock on Main Street. Like there where that little park is. Most of that was, that ground down there was filled in. That was He...some of that was Hell's Point. I don't know whether you've been down there- it's a little park where you go and you sit, and then where that, uh, boat comes in and it takes tourists up and down the Chesapeake Bay. See all that was a part of Hell's Point.

LASPA: How far up, did it...

FORD: Down to, um, uh, gate one. Navy...uh, the Navy Yard Gate one.

LASPA: That parking lot used to be apart of Hell's Point.

FORD: Yes, and I can..(unclear). We had a great big boat come in, and we'd go around this time of year, maybe next month. We would go to the Eastern shore, go to Cambridge, and a big boat would dock and it'd take us to Cambridge and we'd stay over in Cambridge all day long. It was a picnic like.

LASPA: When was this?

FORD: I'm sure that was this....George, when was the...when did we go on the boat excursion? In the thirties?
[In the Kitchen]

He don't like to remember things....But that is what I know for myself. We had the boat excursion to come in and we still have a boat excursion come in. That was in the thirties. A lot of people come from Cambridge to visit here. They'd come all around. And we'd go back there, and visit them from that boat, and I can't recall that boat's name. It was, I don't know what that name of that boat was.

LASPA: Did it happen...did you do this every year?

FORD: Every year we did it. Yes.

LASPA: How many people would go?

FORD: Oh my Lawd, maybe the half of Annapolis. That was the [Laughter]..that was the outing for great big baskets of chicken and everything they could want down there. So many of 'em went, they [Laughter]..almost sank the boat. Yes, so that was the big outing at that time for all of us to go.

LASPA: Would people.. would you go down...no, you said your grandmother moved before you knew her...

FORD: Oh, they had to move. They moved this way, they said. And I was in... when she moved I was on into Eastport with some people...

LASPA: How did she feel about moving?

FORD: Well I think they were glad to get away from that because they was, the houses was like little shacks like. She moved from there up here to Pleasant Street. I think she was glad to get from down...the Naval Academy was so...they were near the water, and the houses weren't so, you know, built so nice.

LASPA: Do you know if she was close with her neighbors?

FORD: Ah, she was a person always was like that, very, very friendly with her neighbors.

LASPA: Did her neighbors move this direction too?

FORD: Well they went mostly everywhere, to come this way I think of most of black people and they came up here in what we call Fourth Ward. Yes, I think everybody moved this way.

LASPA: Did her entire family move with her?

FORD: I..I don't know for that, 'cause I know some of her people were...one of her daughters had gone to D.C. and then, you know, had scattered around. I don't know...(unclear)...

LASPA: But when everyone...when she did live in Hell Point, her, she lived with all her children there too?

FORD: Well she said she had a coupl'a children with her there...Coupl'a children... That's all I knew about that.

LASPA: You lived..did you live...Hannah tells me that early, maybe earlier in your life you lived on Fleet Street?

FORD: Yes, I did.

LASPA: When was that?

FORD: That was 'round nineteen, uh, forty eight or forty something like that. I lived in an old historic house. I can't recall the name of it, but I could show it to you.

LASPA: But that was after the Navy had acquired the land?

FORD: Yes, the Navy don't...never fooled with that street at all because that was a black owned street...everybody owned their property up there, until now, and most of them are moving out. 'Bout three or four... my mother-in-law sold her house. And there's about three or four of 'em that still down there. It's right down the street from the city market...It's a little house, it's a little street, and to me, I always said it looked like Calcutta..[Laughter] because they was very narrow and you could take and throw all of something cross the street, right into somebody's door. It was a beautiful old place, and down there they have, uh, on the walls they got paint where the black children used to play and everything down there. We..I used to go back there for, uh, we all used to have homecoming. But most of the people are dead, and, I don't think they have it no more.

LASPA: How long did you live there?

FORD: I lived there ten years. And downstairs into the basement (unclear) had down chains on the wall where they used to bring the slaves up and, uh, chain 'em to the, you know....

LASPA: Where was this?

FORD: It's in the house I lived in. We never removed the chains and I remember I used to let people come in 'till I fell down those stairs...I think it's like a well down there, and I bolted up the stairs to keep the children from gettin' hurt.

LASPA: Was this in the basement...that there were chains?

FORD: Yes, they were had chains along the wall where they'd used to chain the slaves. And if that man, whoever it is, would let me in there, y'all could see it [Chuck]. It's a...and a, upstairs in the bay(?) room it's a great big old fireplace, real crude like, and uh, downstairs those winding and crooked steps. And the next room there was a little bedroom, next old room was... It's a funny old handmade house. And then they had a little, teeny, teeny, dining room, and then we had this little winding stairs that go to the cellar. And I, I really didn't like the house because I always thought it was haunted[Laughter].... You could hear noise...

LASPA: ...People who lived there before?

FORD: Well, everybody, we were the oldest ones there, and I knew I could hear noises, things like this 'click, click, click'...and one [?] at that time people believed in things like that, and I always did myself[Chuck]....But, that's what I used to hear.

LASPA: Did your friends live in that area?

FORD: Yes, all my friends lived there, but I never used to tell them anything. Sometimes some of 'em say they were a little....

[Phone interruption]

FORD: But, uh, it was really a scary type of house to me.

LASPA: Why's that?

FORD: Because I always thought something was in it..(unclear).I had that kind of mind, like we believed in ghosts and all that kind of stuff at that time. And, uh, like I said, she, my mother-in-law we'a lived there about ten years, and then I moved out, and, uh, she sold it to, I don't know, some wealthy man. He wanted to have it so people could, tourists could come in. Well I used to let people come in anytime. I didn't know no better, they'd ask could they come in, and I'd let 'em come in to see what it looked like and when she kept it the way it was supposed to ha' been, with the old stuff in it, she had old alun(?), she had nice, plush, old fashioned chairs, not as modern as this[she points to her own armchairs] but everything was like, er, antique.

LASPA: Would your neighbors come over?

FORD: Well we.....

LASPA: Did you ever have big gatherings?

FORD: Oh yes, she, this lady was always, my mother-in-law was into church work, socials-like. And she always had somebody there. And everybody that she associate with had houses like that, you know, all nice antique type of furniture. And she just died last year. She was ninety-five years old.

LASPA: How old were you when you lived there?

FORD: I was in my twenty somethings. I think I was twenty-five, something like that.

LASPA: Did you have children when you were living there?

FORD: Yea, that's where some of those children were born. I never went to a hospital, I borned my children naturally.

LASPA: Did you have help from people?

FORD: Help? I had'a help from God, and a midwife, and a rope...These girls today they got to put thousands of dollars for babies. We don't do that, we had a rope, and maybe some kind of aspirin, and if the Lord helps you the other way.

LASPA: Where did you live before you lived at Fleet Street, when you were younger?

FORD: I lived in Eastport.

LASPA: What is the relationship between Eastport and Annapolis? Maybe especially Hell Point, maybe if your grandmother, did your grandmother ever tell you stories?

FORD: Eastport is altogether different from Annapolis, and Hell's Point.

LASPA: When did they build the bridge?

FORD: I do not know. That was a old, old wooden bridge. I don't know whether you'all seen a picture of it, or what. But that was one old broken bridge. And every Sunday we would take a walk from there to the Navy Academy. And that, that was a little outing for us. A whole bunch would get together and walk that little bridge, and its like, you get on the edge of it, and the man used to have 'em crank the weight(?), crank the bridge to open it for the boats to come through.

LASPA: Was it a one lane bridge?

FORD: One lane, yea. That's that Eastport bridge now, but it's two lanes now. If you all know anything about Annapolis, do you know anything?

LASPA: Somethings...I know the bridge...When you came, when you would walk over, you would go to the Naval Academy?

FORD: Yes, we'd go down to the Naval Academy and watch the, eh, midshipmen march, at regular days for 'em to come out, and we'd watch 'em. They'd come up the shore, of College Creek shore back here, and they's come out for their exercise. Back this way, and right back here is a very old place too. St. Anne's cemetery. Right down there..yea...an old place.

LASPA: They would march all the way out here?

FORD: Who? The midshipmen?

LASPA: Yea.

FORD: Sure, they would march from here, from the Navy Academy, back here where this hotel back here was a railroad track...Railroad...And up here was a big coal yard[pointing]. I seen a big change, this was a wilderness what I'm, what we's sitting in here now.

LASPA: Clay Street?

FORD: Yea, this was not what, eh....I say grass, [beet?] trees, and everything. I seen a lot[Chuckle].

LASPA: When you were younger...so when you were younger this was all wilderness...Did you come out and play here?

FORD: Sometimes. 'Cause when you're children you're into everything. I been into all kinds of stuff... marshes down in here, an' a used to wait for that, whatcha-call-it, coal train, come up and we'd jump 'em and have a little

ride.

LASPA: Where would you ride to?

FORD: Ride to West Annapolis. Half...Back this way you get off there and it's West, West Annapolis. And it was nothing but wilderness, nothing but wilderness.

LASPA: From...Going back to Fleet Street. From Fleet Street, was it noisy?

FORD: No, no,no, it wasn't noisy. It was a lot of merchants, it was a lot of Jews, Italians, and Blacks. It was nothing like that.

LASPA: But, you couldn't hear people selling things...would people sell things in the streets?

FORD: Sometimes....

LASPA: Sometimes?

FORD: Sometimes, but mostly it was the Jew stores, the Italians, and the Greeks.

LASPA: What kind of stores?

FORD: Like clothing stores, food stores. And they all were...everybody was very friendly to you...you go in and you didn't have enough money to get something to eat, they'd put it on a storebook, they'd write it down on a book, and you'd pay 'em when you get your money...I don't think nobody's down on Main Street left of the old people, but Hopkins furniture company. And we had a lot of mer(?), we were people that stuck together: The Jews, the Italians, all of 'em. We got along, we never heard of riots, you never....they had...and you never heard of 'em any right now, they still do. We don't have no riots around here.

LASPA: So all your friends were from that same neighborhood?

FORD: Yes, I know a friend that a Mister, I don't whether you 've heard of him, Mr. Eudie Legum. He owned a half of Clay Street. And if anybody got needing money, or anything, he would come along and give it to you, if you got in jail or something, he'd throw your bonds. That's the way we lived then down here. Everybody got along very nicely.

LASPA: What would you do on weekends?

FORD: Weekends? Mostly we said..uh, went to church. Church on West Street, maybe somebody else's church. And they use to have, uh, little things, social things at people's...at that time, called those 'Chocolates' sitting. You'd come in, and pay ten cents for a cup of chocolate and a cookie. And that was called Social [laugh] ...taste around,socializing. That's the way we did it on weekends and Sundays.

LASPA: Would people host these in their houses?

FORD: Yea, in their houses. That's the way it was done...And what else should I say?

LASPA: Let's see...I'm wanted to ask you about when you went to school...Where were you living when you were younger?

FORD: I went to school at Stanton Center which is still standing. Stanton Community Center on West Washington Street.

LASPA: And that's an elementary school?

FORD: That's an old elem... that school, I think my, uh,let's see my cousin went there and she's eighty something years old. It's still standing and it's a community center now. And my, uh, I went to [?] until the seventh grade, and then I went to Bates High School.

LASPA: Where is that?

FORD: That's out in Svam Road(?). It's out on the outskirts of town.

LASPA: How long did you live in Eastport?

[End side one, tape one]

FORD: I think they moved me out there a little after she passed. And I been living over here ever since.

LASPA: What was the feeling between, say when you lived on Fleet Street, and...towards people who used to live in Hell Point? They probably weren't there when you were there....

FORD: Oh, I don't know anything about that, but I know I had nice neighbors. They all...

LASPA: Were the ho....I'm sorry....

FORD: They all are very nice people.

LASPA: Were the houses still intact when you lived there?

FORD: They were intact, they all were built right together.

LASPA: But, the Navy had taken over?

FORD: Not...which part?

LASPA: I'm s...hmm?

FORD: I'm not talking about Hell's Point. You talking about bounds... in the Fleet Street..or...

LASPA: Ye..there's Fleet Street and then Fleet Street goes down to the do..city wharf, doesn't it? But the area that used to be Hell Point, what was it being used for?

FORD: What, right now?

LASPA: No, when you lived on Fleet Street?

FORD: Well I lived on Fleet Street there took that back part and made..expanded and made the Navy Academy...The Navy Academy.

LASPA: So, that was after....

FORD: Yes, they was...they were working on that...making, enlarging the Navy Academy.

LASPA: Did your mother grow up in Hell Point?

FORD: No, I don't know where she, my mother, come from Eastport... Eastport.

LASPA: So she spend, she lived mainly in Eastport. Did she ever live in Annapolis?

FORD: No, no she never...uh, yes she did. It was a place called O'Bryan's Alley. Did you hear...ever heard of that? She used to live in that old..[chuckle]..Back there, she used to live there. How long, I don't know. Her and her mother..(unclear)..

LASPA: How did your mother remember that to be? Did she ever tell you stories about it?

FORD: Yes, O'Bryan's Alley. Like I said, my mother told me about it, but I knew a little something about it after I came through Eastport. It was old...the little alley, and old brown houses. There was a little old, cute man. He used to be a tailor...I think we used to call him Mr. Snakebake(?) or something like that. But, he was the..(?)..old Jew man there, and he was a very good seamstress. Him and his wife...right in that little alley called O'Bryan's Alley.

LASPA: Did you ever go there?

FORD: Why, I used to go there'd to play with his daughters... I think the girl..I think her name was Kitty.

LASPA: You went to school with her?

FORD: No, 'cause at that time school weren't integrated. We went to Stanton school, and she went downtown Annapolis to the school. We didn't go to school with....I never went to...My children all went to integrated school, but not me.

LASPA: So everywhere you lived you went to Stanton?

FORD: I went to Stanton, and Bates. I had to stop there because I got with a baby child, so I didn't finish.

LASPA: Were there areas where you didn't go, in Annapolis?

FORD: Oh yes, a lot of places. I couldn't go.... O'Bryan's Alley. That was a real bad place after people moved out of it. That was a real bad place, I wasn't allowed there...The other part of Annapolis and places were very nice places.

LASPA: What was your favorite place to go when you were younger?

FORD: My favorite place was church.

LASPA: Was it?

FORD: [Laughter] Yea, I used to go to church and oh, I used to like to go to Carr's Beach. We'd...They'd have a beach.

LASPA: Where was the beach?

FORD: That was down, um.... [aside] Charles, where was Carr's Beach?....

It's off of Bayridge Avenue. There homes back there, and there was...black people owned the beautiful beach. And after the mother died, the fella sold it.

LASPA: Would you go there on....

FORD: Oh yes, we'd go there because it was a lot of entertainment. You had people from everywhere...like Ella Fitzgerald, the old singers, and whatnot. That was every Sunday or Thursday.

LASPA: Wow, Ella Fitzgerald..

FORD: Yes, and oh, I could name so many of 'em that we used to go see. That was my favorite thing 'cause I like music and I like singing, and I always liked dancing.

LASPA: What other...did you go any other places for music or dancing?

FORD: Yes, uh, dances at a hall called the Wallstream(?)

LASPA: Where was that?

FORD: That was down here on Clay Street. That was put on Fridays and Saturdays sometimes. It's called a Social.

[Grand-daughter drops by]

LASPA: Were there any big festivals...on the...maybe near the beach?

FORD: No, we, uh...(unclear)..The church used to have, whatcha call, Mayday. We'd have a little thing. A thing called Mayday. And we'd all have these little ribbons and things. Old fashioned... They don't have such things like that no more.

LASPA: Would kids..

FORD: Kids of all ages, 'cause I guess I stayed a kid until I was fifteen...'cause we weren't fresh and bad like these children of today.

LASPA: What would the adults do? Would they come?

FORD: Oh, they'd be around, watching. One thing about adults, they really watched over their children. They really did. Black people here...we went to church. They watched - they wanted you to get a good education. As my Grandmother always said...She said she wanted me to have a good education because she couldn't get it herself. It was the work...in somebody's kitchen all day long, she said, to cook. And she couldn't read. I bet she could count. But it wasn't nothin' that she couldn't make. She would entertain...food. She could make it up...(unclear)...She really could.

LASPA: Would she grow some of her own food?

FORD: No, we lived in a little place over there. All we liked was a little flowers and a little whitewashed picket fence that she used to keep up the yard pretty.

LASPA: Do remember the flood... in 1933, I think it was?

FORD: Yes, I remember. It come from downtown Annapolis up to...almost up to the Maryland Inn, if you ever been down to the Maryland Inn. And what we did was put on boots and walk down there [Laughter]...played in it. Got in boats, I remember that.

LASPA: Where did you live at that time?

FORD: Up here, uptown, yea.

LASPA: So people...kids.. how old were you?

FORD: I guess I was about...I couldn't say, but I know I was child-like. I wanted to play in water.

LASPA: Twelve?

FORD: Yea.

LASPA: So you would all, from here, go down there?

FORD: Yea, we had old boots and we went down 'cause we didn't know whether something would stick in your feet or not. And that water came from down at the dock up to...all the way up to Church Circle almost. And most people were going down in boats that had stores that they....

LASPA: What happened to the people who lived down by the docks there?

FORD: Well, they did the best they could[Chuckles].... They were all underwater too. They were all underwater...They kind of built it up...(unclear)..That's one thing about us, we don't have too many things happening around here.

LASPA: So when something like that happens it's a big deal.

FORD: It's a big thing...

LASPA: Were there any other "big deals" that you remember?

FORD: Yea, I remember one time they had a big storm, in the summer. A big hail storm, and knocked over tombstombs over here in Cedar Bluff Cemetery. Broke up all the bones...things...great big hail balls, as big as golf balls.

LASPA: Was that in the winter?

FORD: That was in the summer.

LASPA: Oh...When you were little, what would you and your friends do in the winter?

FORD: In the wintertime, we would set 'round and tell riddles. We didn't have radios 'till in the thirties, I think. And read, always did like to read. And we had little toys and things to play with.

LASPA: What kinds of toys?

FORD: Homemade. Or babydoll, or something like the ragdoll or something. But we could tell some riddles though [Laughter]...Take something like ...'Some kind of house inside this house was this and inside you'd take a vegetable(?) and play with it and see if you know. Pass it all round the hairy (?)...(unclear)..' And somebody would have have to figure out what that was. And that was an old man who grew out a moustache around his mouth and in jumped the (?), well that was his cigar [Laughter] That's how we used to play...

LASPA: Did you spend lots of time at home?

FORD: Oh yes, we weren't...(unclear)..other than to the Sunday school on Sunday. And we had a thing called Efforts League. That was to show your talent, if you could sing, read poems, anything you could do, your talent.

LASPA: What was your talent?

FORD: Me? I used to remember poems and things like that. I always liked dancing. I used to dance, but not in church..(unclear)..I use to do, what you call it, ballet, but I can't do that no more.

LASPA: Were there places where you could see ballet?

FORD: Well..uh, we had a teacher from Washington. She taught them that wanted to do it. Them that was, you know...and I was one that liked it. I was very skinny at that time, and I could stand on my toes to do anything.

LASPA: Where would you take these classes, or where would she teach?

FORD: In school. Yea, right in school.

LASPA: After school what would you do?

FORD: After school we'd come and clean up my room, do whatever was told, and play around in front of the door, or in back. Or maybe you could go to a friend's house. There wasn't very much you could do, but I think....I remember those days..they're better than what these that lives today. So much better.

LASPA: Were there, when you heard all the people,...going back to the Navy, the Naval Academy..., you said you would go there when you lived in Eastport. Did you ever go there when you lived here?

FORD: Right here?

LASPA: Or, no, in Annapolis when you were younger?

FORD: Oh yes, the Navy Academy was our favorite place. That's where we all went to see the dress parades. We could go down there, do it at anytime.

LASPA: You'd take picnics? What would you do there?

FORD: No, no picnics. You couldn't do that. You'd just go down to a stand and see what's going on. But you couldn't have no picnic.

LASPA: Did you know people there, at the Naval Academy?

FORD: Everybody worked there..that, uh, were people that you knew. The black people that work, and some of the white too. The Admirals...not many of the midshipmen, didn't know them. As the years went along, my Grandmother used to work there, in them great big houses. She used to get napkins and bring 'em home, and she'd show us how to iron 'em and fold 'em. And we'd have to take them and put them in a little basket and carry 'em down there to the, whoever's house that she worked in.

LASPA: Did any other friends or relatives of yours work there?

FORD: The whole, I said the whole Annapolis, everybody....my husband is retired from the Navy Academy. That is where we get our money from. If it wasn't for the Navy Academy I don't know what we would do.

LASPA: I understand that there was another big hotel in town. I've just forgotten what it was called. Calvert? No... Carvel?

FORD: Oh. Carvel's Hall.

LASPA: Did people work there too?

FORD: Oh my, everybody from in Annapolis worked there. That was a big place. Everybody that know'd how to work and serve people and make good food worked at Carvel's Hall.

LASPA: Did people like to work there?

FORD: Oh yea. I got a whole lot of friends that worked there, that used to work there. This lady just called here, she was a waitress there. I used to go in and, uh, babysit for people that come from all over the world. You know, sometimes they'd have those graduations(?) and things. All kinds of people come in. And they would interview you. Somebody'd have your name down on the book...a person that really know how to take care of children, and was trustworthy because these people coming in, they had fine clothes, they had a lotta jewelry and stuff and you had to be trustworthy. They come in, they want to go this way and the other way. I stayed with a lady, but I can't recall her name. She always looked for me. And, uh, they paid good. I think at that time they was paying you about, what I call good. It was a dollar and a half an hour.

LASPA: What did other people get?

FORD: I guess they all got the same if they was babysitting.

LASPA: Was that about the going rate for all jobs, or was that...

FORD: Well, for all, not for those that waitressing things. I don't know what they were...what they got for waiting, and the cooks, and things like that. But I never worked there, but I used to go there to babysit.

LASPA: Where did you work?

FORD: I worked for so many people...I used to do days work. I worked for the Brits(?). They were American Pest Control. She just died lately. They live over in..(unclear)..new condominiums over in Eastport. And I used

to get right good money for working. I'd get forty dollars a day. At that time I'd have..(unclear)..Good money.

LASPA: Did you go to the Naval Academy to meet people?

FORD: No, we'd just go there to see...when they had entertainment, like the baseball, and football... and if you was invited to some to some of the things that was going on down there.

LASPA: What did you think of the marching through the streets?

FORD: When was that?

LASPA: The midshipmen. Would you hear them?

FORD: Yes, we miss that, 'cause these children today don't understand that they used to march from here down up to the (?) and they'd get on the train and go to the football game. It was an old bus station up here in the middle of where the welfare building is, right in there. An old bus station, and in the middle of that was the White Tower where they used to sell little hamburgers for ten cents, and I think they still have some of them. Called the White Tower.

LASPA: White Cow?

FORD: Tower.

LASPA: Where was the baseball field? Did you have to ride the bus to it?

FORD: We played baseball back this way. It was a lot of wilderness..but we played baseball back there on the street anyway[Laughter]...anywhere we want that had an open lot we played baseball.

LASPA: Where did you take the bus to, or did you?

FORD: No bus. No, we had a little trolley that starts from here to downtown. Downtown by the, uh, the waterfront. Yea, that's it. And that was ten cents, I think to go down there. We had railroad tracks right in front of, right in West Street.

LASPA: Was there a railroad stop here?

FORD: Oh yes,...The railroad started back here, all th'way back here. Came in here from Baltimore. All the way back....all back there in Westchester(?), a whole lot of old country places back there.

LASPA: Did most people have family only in Annapolis, or did anybody have family in Balt....

FORD: Right now, we are so mixed up I don't know nobody around here. I been in here, I says....sixteen years. How many years I been in here, [aside] Charles? I think we've been here about sixteen years. And, uh, I don't no nobody- things have changed so. Everything is changed. Right over here, last week I went out and got a petition with the people....[Talk aside with husband Charles]

...Yea, twenty years in here...in December. I had to get a petition because four or five dope houses...The way I like this place, I'm ready to go along with my daughter, but I couldn't. I love to be to myself. I don't think I could stand that music that the children play. When they come here, they all go set me crazy[Laughter].

LASPA: Did the Depression affect life here?

FORD: The Depression didn't affect me very much because we all knew how to take our money and do a little with..(?)..everything. And then we had this, uh....ration? For shoes. Well, I didn't have much worry about that because I could take my rations and buy my children shoes, then take what I got and sell it to other people. That's what I made a little money off of, and I had plenty to eat...sugar, everything. We have a lot of children. I had a book for every child, for shoes. And if the baby didn't need the shoes, then I would take and sell that to somebody and I'd have some money for myself...(unclear)...

LASPA: You benefited from it?

FORD: Yes, I benefited from it. And then people wonder how a lot of people get along with a lot of children. There's a way of doing that too because we've never been hungry. I have to take a little bit of something to make 'em something out of it.

LASPA: A lot of sharing with friends?

FORD: If they came to ask for something. Like if they need something, they would get it. But my family always was very good. My sister-in-law, she'd see if we needed any groceries. She'd get that for..(unclear)..And another sister-in-law would come in and get something for them. I mean sister-in-laws. That's the way we lived.

LASPA: And your sisters?

FORD: I don't have any..I.. My..Just have my broth..two brothers. Everybody all gone. All we have now is the fifth generation. All the older people are gone.

LASPA: But, when you were younger,you lived with your mother?

FORD: I lived with my Grandma. Yea. And I got married and she passed.

LASPA: Did your...what did your brothers do?...Did they live in Annapolis?

FORD: Well my brothers, when my mother passed, she divided the children up....a lady that used to babysit for

her raised my brother... So we all were raised differently. I had two brothers. [End Tape One]

****This ends the transcript****

**ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER, 1993**

INTERVIEW WITH: Mary and Cleo Apostol

INTERVIEWER: Lori Hudson

DATE: June 30, 1993

HUDSON: June 30, 1993 for the archeology in Annapolis oral history project which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, College Park Anthropology Department and Historic Annapolis Foundation and the U.S. Navy. Just for the record, if you could state your full name for me.

M. APOSTOL: Mary Apostol

HUDSON: And the year you were born?

M. APOSTOL: February 3, 1916.

HUDSON: O.K. just to start I would like for you to just briefly describe Hell Point to me and tell me whether or not you considered yourself a Hell Pointer.

M. APOSTOL: I was born uh born on Main Street and I lived up, further up from Hell Point, what they called Hell Point. But later on after my father bought a restaurant down in Hell Point. And I worked there from the time I was thirteen years old. And that's the years that I remembered being in Hell Point, until 1968 when we sold the business there and we since then been living on 79 Franklin Street.

HUDSON: So how many years did you actually live and work there?

M. APOSTOL: We worked, I worked there from 1929 until 1968.

HUDSON: So you started there when you were Sixteen?

M. APOSTOL: Thirteen.

HUDSON: Thirteen, O.K. until 1968

M. APOSTOL: And I lived down there for bout uh, four or five years after I was married.

HUDSON: As far as Hell Point, which area would you consider street wise to be Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: That was the area where Compromise Street, Market Space, Randall Street and down to the water, Prince George Street and that time there was Craig Street and Holland Street and King George Street. That section was Hell Point.

HUDSON: And Randall Street was part of it?

M. APOSTOL: Randall Street was part of it.

HUDSON: Would you consider Hell Point to be as far up as East Street? Or not quite as far?

M. APOSTOL: I didn't think it was but uh some of the people who used to come to the Hell Point reunion lived as high up, even half way up Main Street.

HUDSON: So when you were actually living down there, you at the time when you were living in that area would you have considered people who lived as far up as East to be part of Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: Well, we considered them yes.

HUDSON: You did, O.K. Why did they call it Hell Point I'm curious. M. APOSTOL: I think because there was always some kind of trouble down that way. When uh the fishermen used to all come in, the watermen used to dock there boats down that way and uh bring the oysters and fish in and they were sort of a rough crowd. You couldn't find nicer people though. But they were a little on the rough side and I think they caused a little bit of trouble there.

HUDSON: So that's why they call it Hell Point.

M. APOSTOL: That's my idea of it.

HUDSON: Did you ever hear any other stories as to why they called it Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: No.

HUDSON: What about your reaction to the people? How did you feel about the people who lived in Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: Very nice!

HUDSON: Really.

M. APOSTOL: Very nice!

HUDSON: And why do you say very nice? Why would they be considered very nice? What were some of the reasons?

M. APOSTOL: Well, we never had any trouble with them. We always got along with those people there. They used to come into the store and well if the kids were naughty at times they would steal magazines or do different things, but that's natural for children. But we never had any trouble with them.

HUDSON: So did you have a lot of people from that area come to your restaurant.

M. APOSTOL: Oh yes!

HUDSON: And what was the name of the restaurant? Was the of the restaurant always?

M. APOSTOL: Mandris restaurant.

HUDSON: So it was not always Middleton?

M. APOSTOL: No, not at that time.

HUDSON: So you would have considered yourself to be part Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: At that time, Yes.

HUDSON: How was other peoples reaction to people who lived in Hell Point? People who lived outside of Hell Point. What was their reaction towards the people who lived within Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: Well, at one time people were afraid to go down there, cause when the first years when we had the restaurant we were trying to get waitresses and uh no one would want to work there. And we asked a couple fellah's that used to come into the store that had teenage daughters if they would have their daughters work part-time. They said no not in Hell Point.

HUDSON: Really, so did they give reasons why?

M. APOSTOL: They thought it was to rough.

HUDSON: Why to rough? What types of things made people think that it was to rough?

M. APOSTOL: It was just a rough crowd of people that used to hang around there. The fishermen, the oystermen. And then you'd get the sailors that would come in from down that way. At that time the midshipmen didn't come out of number 1 gate.

HUDSON: How did they enter?

M. APOSTOL: They had to come out of number 3 gate on Maryland Ave. and the only ones that came out of number 1 gate were the sailors. HUDSON: So they came in number 3 gate?

M. APOSTOL: The midshipmen.

HUDSON: So they didn't come through Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: At that time no, at the early time. It was into the fifties when they started come out number 1 gate.

HUDSON: Why was it that they didn't come out number 1 gate?

M. APOSTOL: I image they tried to keep them all together or something. I really don't know.

HUDSON: Not because, do you think it was because they didn't want to walk through that part of the neighborhood.

M. APOSTOL: I don't think so.

HUDSON: In an article we had there was a women who mentioned she used to live on the corner of Prince George and Holland Street, and she said that she used to look down Holland and she would never go down there. She was terrified. She said it was dark and scary. She said she would never walk down there.

M. APOSTOL: Well I tell ya I had never, don't remember walking down there during the night. But during the day I've gone down there quite a few times cause I had an aunt that lived right, couple doors up from where she's talking about.

M. APOSTOL: How about, you know what would be a good idea. How about if you were going to come out of your store and you were going to walk up Randall Street. Walk me through there. Walk up Randall and tell me what type of neighborhood Randall Street was. M. APOSTOL: That was a residential section all the time.

HUDSON: And the houses?

M. APOSTOL: And the houses, just the way they are now, and even behind Middleton Tavern where there's an empty, a big empty store there now. They used to be four small houses. And then the rest of Randall Street is exactly except for one where the Naval Academy has taken in a section of it. Where they have torn some houses down, but the rest are exactly the same.

HUDSON: What about the families? As far as the families go on that Street were they working class families?

M. APOSTOL: Most of them working class families. We had the Chief of the fire department liven down there. And the rest of them, uh the uh, the [Werstits]?? they had da a predatorial school for the midshipmen. Lived in one big house there. Then there were couple [bandsmen]?? they used to live in some of those homes there.

HUDSON: Were they middle-class families, upper-class families?

M. APOSTOL: I don't know what they considered themselves at. I imagine middle-class.

HUDSON: They were viewed as middle-class families by other people?

What about Prince George Street. The families that lived on Prince George Street.

M. APOSTOL: Prince George Street hasn't changed other than the section that um, from Randall Street going left going down that way is the same as it has been other than the Paca house. And then from there going right the Naval Academy has taken over quite a few of those homes down in that section. And there were the working class of people that lived down in that way.

HUDSON: Where there a lot of the houses, could you describe some of the houses to us because we don't have, there not there anymore M. APOSTOL: No there not.

HUDSON: There gone. Can you describe what they may of looked like.

M. APOSTOL: They were all wooded houses as far as I remember, with a little front porch.

HUDSON: They all had front porches?

M. APOSTOL: Little front porches.

HUDSON: Was that an important thing to have a front porch?

M. APOSTOL: Everybody sat on their front porches in the summer time, out on a stoop.

HUDSON: Did they do a lot of socializing? On the front porch.

M. APOSTOL: A lot of them did. Now Prince George Street was fine that way. There had some sections of it. We had a lot the uh white women that married Filipino's and some of those lived down in that section. And even on Dock Street where the Harbor House restaurant is now, all that was little homes there, not as nice as the ones on Prince George Street, but that's where a lot of the Filipino Americans lived.

HUDSON: So a lot of white women that married Filipino men....

M. APOSTOL: Quite a few of them.

HUDSON: Where there a lot of, were there single families or single parent families in the neighborhood.

M. APOSTOL: The Filipino's usually took care of there families.

HUDSON: Oh really. What about the blacks? Where there a lot of black families.

M. APOSTOL: We had some black families up in the alley. There where McGarvey's goes up, black families in that section there. And on Fleet Street which comes off of Cornhill Street that was all black families.

HUDSON: So they mostly stayed in certain areas or where they integrated with other Filipino and white families? Did they have their own Streets?

M. APOSTOL: They had their own Streets. They usually had their own sections and didn't mix with the others. Most of them usually worked down in the Naval Academy.

HUDSON: On the grounds?

M. APOSTOL: On the grounds yes.

HUDSON: Do you remember Terry Ct., George Ct., Block Street. Do you remember any of those?

M. APOSTOL: No I don't remember that.

HUDSON: What about going further up toward King Street in that area.

M. APOSTOL: King George Street? you mean.

HUDSON: Yes, King George Street I'm sorry.

M. APOSTOL: Well that hasn't changed any at all, down that way. King George Street used to lead into the water front where they had the ferry. And from Randall Street down there were a couple of stores and the Johnsons lumber Company was down at the end of that. And another wholesale house [Cottsons]??? was on the corner of Holland Street and King George Street. And a couple of little restaurants that were on the corner of Randall Street and King George and another was down a little further right about opposite where the old number 1 gate was. But other than that then uh, over the weekends they used to, cars used to come in there and wait for the ferry to come in so they could go across the Chesapeake Bay. That's the only way they had of going across.

HUDSON: Was that a busy street?

M. APOSTOL: That was busy when the height of the season like in the summer time when people wanted to get over there.

HUDSON: So for the most part, wait I don't think we did Holland Street did we?

M. APOSTOL: Holland Street was a lot of the lower class of people. I don't know, I should say they were mostly the mess people, the people who worked in the mess hall at the Naval Academy. There were a lot of the Filipino's. They were all sailors and they were brought over here to work in the mess hall. A lot of them lived down that way.

HUDSON: How did they relate to people who lived on, for example Prince George Street?

M. APOSTOL: I don't think they had to much connection with each another.

HUDSON: But they all considered themselves from Hell Point? So there was still some segregation even in Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: I think there's been segregation ever since I can remember honey.

HUDSON: Really, and how about the people on Holland Street? Was it the same way with Holland and Randall? Did people mostly just relate to people on their streets?

M. APOSTOL: Most of them used to relate to their own. With the ones they lived with in the neighborhood.

HUDSON: Were there a lot of activities that went on such as socializing in the street or like you said earlier on the front porches.

M. APOSTOL: Well if you walked down the street you saw somebody sitting on the porch naturally you'd stop by and say hello. But I don't know whether they did much socializing other than that.

HUDSON: What about the children who lived in the neighborhood.

APOSTOL: The children got along fine. They were always playing with each other, cause I went to school with quite a few of them from down there.

HUDSON: Were did you go to school?

APOSTOL: At the Annapolis elementary school on Green Street, and then later up at the high school. Then the junior high was down there to. The old high school was down there that building that the Board of Education has right next door to that, and I spent two years down there and then we went into the new high school which is Maryland Hall now, up on Constitution Avenue.

HUDSON: Do you remember, during that time when the blacks went to Stanton School?

M. APOSTOL: Yes, the blacks went to there own schools at that time.

HUDSON: There was some mentioning of staggered closing times so that some of the kids would get out of school at a different time than the Stanton school kids. Do you remember anything about that?

M. APOSTOL: I don't remember that, no.

HUDSON: Do you remember anything as far as the neighborhoods go? Were there any specific things that you remember about the neighborhood? You said that everybody got along for the most part, but there were also problem with people getting along. Were there any conflicts between people from different neighborhoods?

M. APOSTOL: I don't remember any at that time.

HUDSON: So if there was ever anyone who didn't get along you can't remember?

APOSTOL: No.

HUDSON: What about when you said that, " the blacks lived in certain areas separate from the Filipinos and the whites" why was that?

M. APOSTOL: They just happen to get homes there I guess, I don't really know.

HUDSON: Did they get along?

M. APOSTOL: They got along. Some of the Filipinos married the black girls at that time.

HUDSON: But you don't remember any problems?

M. APOSTOL: No. They had a Fallopian American club, which was on the second floor of where the Middleton is now.

HUDSON: Oh, that was up stairs?

M. APOSTOL: That was up stairs. We had the store down stairs, and they seemed to enjoy and have a good times up there. They had parties and all.

HUDSON: So your family actually lived up stairs?

M. APOSTOL: No, our family lived on Conduit Street.

HUDSON: Conduit Street, and how far is that from....

M. APOSTOL: That is up Main Street to the first light, to the left.

HUDSON: O.K., so that wasn't considered part of Hell Point, but your family owned the restaurant that was considered part of Hell Point.

M. APOSTOL: That's right.

HUDSON: So they spent a lot of time there?

M. APOSTOL: In any restaurant a person spends a lot of time in that restaurant.

HUDSON: They owned it or rented it?

M. APOSTOL: At that time we rented. We didn't buy until 1938.

HUDSON: And your family ran the restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: Ran the restaurant, yes.

HUDSON: Did you work in the restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: From the time I was thirteen.

HUDSON: Was it just one apartment upstairs above the restaurant, or were there two?

M. APOSTOL: At that time there was just one big room I guess. I had never been upstairs at that time.

M. APOSTOL: Oh yes, after we bought the building we made three apartments upstairs.

HUDSON: So the Filipino club was there before you bought the restaurant.

M. APOSTOL: Yes.

HUDSON: So were you ever in the restaurant working while the Fallopian was upstairs?

M. APOSTOL: Oh yes.

HUDSON: For approximately how long?

M. APOSTOL: I'll say from 1929 to 1938.

HUDSON: You never went up there while the Fallopian club was there?

M. APOSTOL: No.

HUDSON: Were you too young? Or did you never want to?

M. APOSTOL: Too young (Laughter). My father was a very strict man.

HUDSON: Really, so you weren't aloud up there?

M. APOSTOL: No.

HUDSON: What types of people were up there. What types of people hung out up there.

M. APOSTOL: Mostly the Filipinos and their wives and families. Very seldom would you'd find any of the nicer girls married to them.

M. APOSTOL: Was that ever a conflict with your father owning the restaurant downstairs and the Fallopian club upstairs?

M. APOSTOL: No.

HUDSON: Were there separate entrances?

M. APOSTOL: Yes.

HUDSON: So they didn't have to come through the restaurant.

M. APOSTOL: No, they didn't have to go any place through the restaurant.

HUDSON: How about noise, was that ever a problem?

M. APOSTOL: Not with the floors that they had there no.

HUDSON: So it was basically Filipinos. Were there ever any blacks that went into the club?

M. APOSTOL: Oh, there might have been if any of them were married to blacks. I remember two Filipinos that had married blacks.

HUDSON: And what about whites who were married?

M. APOSTOL: None of the whites were married to Filipinos.

HUDSON: What types of people came into your restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: Mostly working class people.

HUDSON: Whites and blacks and Filipinos.

M. APOSTOL: Well whites were served, blacks would buy it then go out.

HUDSON: So they weren't served inside the restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: They weren't served inside, no.

HUDSON: Did you do a lot of business with blacks. Were there a lot of blacks who came into the restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: We had quite a few blacks coming in getting their food and taken it out.

HUDSON: Were the Filipinos aloud to come in and eat.

M. APOSTOL: I don't remember just what we had with those, Do you remember? (she is now asking her husband Cleo)

C. APOSTOL: We had (unclear) Naval Academy and the Experimental Station. They used to take the people on boats, going across. We had a tremendous business in the morning. But it wasn't all,

the colored people and the filipinos they knew their place and they would stay with their own, they never mix up you no what I mean? (unclear) they didn't demand service whatever or we never had no trouble like that.

M. APOSTOL: I don't remember having any trouble. I remember the blacks comin in and getting food to go out and they would stay in their place and they wouldn't cause any trouble at all.

HUDSON: Did you ever have blacks or Filipino's, what types of workers were your employees?

M. APOSTOL: All whites, we had a black chef.

HUDSON: Did you ever serve any of the Naval Academy people? Did they ever come into your restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: Well it wasn't until midshipmen started coming out of number one gate. At that time we used to

get quite a few midshipmen over the weekends when they were out.

HUDSON: So basically it was primarily white people who worked in the restaurant aside from the one black chef.

M. APOSTOL: Chef and dishwasher were black.

HUDSON: So tell me about a typical day for you working in the restaurant, when you were living off of Main Street. Give me an idea of what it was like for you on a typical weekday.

M. APOSTOL: Well I was going to school and working part-time as a youngster. Then when I graduated from school, from high school I started working full-time. I'd go down there at noon-time and work through the lunch hour and then go in again that night, work through the night shift.

HUDSON: What was that like for you not actually living in Hell Point, but living outside of Hell Point? Earlier you said that people viewed people from Hell Point as sort of maybe a rowdier crowd. What was like for you not living in Hell Point but having your parents own a restaurant down there. Did that cause problems for your family?

M. APOSTOL: We didn't have any problems down there at all.

HUDSON: How do you think people viewed your family as far as owning the restaurant?

M. APOSTOL: I do no, they showed utter respect for my father and my mother down there. The same way they did with us.

HUDSON: Do you think they considered you from Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: I think so, cause any time they had any reunions or anything we were always invited to them.

HUDSON: That's interesting how you had your restaurant there and not living there but you were still considered part of Hell Point. Obviously you were respected by the people who lived down there although you didn't live there.

M. APOSTOL: Well a lot of people had stores down there, like the Saddlers and the Daws (phonetic) and all that, had, uh, hardware stores. they never lived down that way. They lived elsewhere and had their businesses down there. In the market they had food stands and fishermen uh, fish stand there and a lot of them didn't live there.

HUDSON: They all lived outside of Hell Point?

M. APOSTOL: Other than Campbell who had a fish market. He lived down in Hell Point.

HUDSON: Why was that? Was there any reason for not living there.

M. APOSTOL: Well the man was a fisherman he kept his boat down there and most people like to live close to where they have their properties.

HUDSON: Why do you think a lot of people had their stores down there but didn't live there?

C. APOSTOL: See the fishermen at that time, they were a completely different picture. They used to go in and get person (unclear).... I'll take you out for fishing at night, and they charge you six, seven dollars or ten dollars, whatever it is. and (unclear).... when I went there we had a bulletin board there and they used to stick the cards in there, you know, call me up or hire me, you know the boats they had advertising. Then some people used to go out and pick the cards, throw the card at the other guys and put their cards

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ANNAPOLIS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
SUMMER, 1993

Interview with Margaret Dowsett

Interviewer: Lisa Kovatch

Date: June 29, 1993

KOVATCH: This is tape 1, side 1 of an interview with Margaret Dowsett. My name is Lisa Kovatch it is June 29, 1993 and we're speaking on Prince George Street in Annapolis, Maryland for the Archaeology in Annapolis Oral History Project, which is being conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland College Park Anthropology Department, Historic Annapolis Foundation and the U.S. Navy.

DOWSETT: New York what?

KOVATCH: I'm sorry?

DOWSETT: New York News?

KOVATCH: No, no, no, no. The U.S. Navy.

DOWSETT: Oh, U.S. Navy [Laughter], okay.

KOVATCH: Okay, Mrs. Dowsett, I'd like to record, um . . . if you could tell me when and where you were born.

DOWSETT: I was born in the Sands House, 130 Prince George Street in 1910.

KOVATCH: Okay. And, can you tell me how long you lived in this house?

DOWSETT: Well, I've lived here until I was married in 1938, and then I married into the service and traveled around the country and then I came back here and lived over in Eastport for awhile; but then, when my brother became ill, I had to put him in the hospital, because the house almost fell down. The termites . . . I came in and the house was a mess. He hadn't been taking -- he'd said he was taking care of the termite situation, but he wasn't.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: And so the house had to be completely restored.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: Not completely restored, because we didn't change anything.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: I mean, we didn't do new work, except to put, we had to put wallboard in the house.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: In this room over here, the bedroom to my left, which you didn't--don't know it's a bedroom, but it is. Off the living room, this bedroom, the walls all fell in; I mean the plaster, I never knew termites ate plaster, but they did, they ate everything. So we -- I couldn't afford to put plaster in, so we used wallboard and they put, did that room and some -- and then the dining room, we had to put the walls in there, too. The termites just devoured the whole house practically. We had to move everything out of it, all the furniture had to be put into storage. A lot of it Historic Annapolis kept for us at Paca House.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: Some of the very valuable old pieces, because I have some of them--this didn't go there, I kept that at my house (pointed to desk); but, uh, should I be telling you this part?

KOVATCH: If you feel like it. Could you just tell me what year you returned?

DOWSETT: Well, it was in 19--uh, 1987 when I came back to live in the house.

KOVATCH: And so the construction on the house was done?

DOWSETT: Yep.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: We moved into the house, back into-- and my brother, brought my brother back here. And then, we lived here since then, of course. My brother died two years ago, but uhm, we lived here and tried to keep it up, to save it. Course, the floors fell in again, the termites got it again.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: In the dining room, and uh, we've got . . . the termite people don't guarantee anything.

KOVATCH: Well, it looks under control.

DOWSETT: Cause we're, we're on the--too close to the ground. So we never know. I keep saying to myself, "When I walk across the floor, am I going through or not?" But, I keep close watch over it, you know. I have the new termite people come in . . .

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: . . . and do things.

KOVATCH: Okay. Can you tell me what area you would consider Hell Point?

DOWSETT: What I think is Hell Point. My recollection of Hell Point is that it started down at the--where Prince George Street joined Holland Street, down the street. The street, Holland Street is no longer there. That was Hell Point, what we called Hell Point, at the lower end of King George Street and it went up to East Street. Just to East Street.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And that was what we would consider that area, because the Naval Academy gate did not open down here, it opened way down.

KOVATCH: Ohh.

DOWSETT: Down toward the--more toward the waterfront. And uh, when they took in this land down here, they changed the gate.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: And there were houses down there at the back and that was Holland Street and there was a little alley that went in there, houses were in that.

KOVATCH: Uh huh, Johnson?

DOWSETT: I don't remember the name of the alley.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: There were a lot of different names that--I just didn't pay attention. We knew that black people lived there.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And, I don't think any white people lived in that alley.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: I don't think so. But, white people lived along King George Street down to Holland Street and then, there were a lot of white people who lived on Holland Street, and there were a few Blacks who lived in another alley that was off Holland Street.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: That went--well it was in the--The Johnson Lumber Company. When they came in there I don't know, but it wasn't the Johnson Lumber Company then, it was the Meredith Lumber Company.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: It belonged to the Meredith family first. And then Johnson took it over.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: From--he came down (men?) came down from Glen Burnie and bought that up. And that--'cause then, at the end of King George Street, they put in a ferry that went to Eastern Shore. There was a dock there, a wharf there for the ferry to come in. It was an automobile ferry, you see.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: You know, it took automobiles.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: And uh, they put that in and I don't know just when that was in the late, early twenties, I believe. You must, there must some record, I don't have that. In my mind, I don't have that. My father worked as a ticket agent for a while there, before he got a job with the Naval Academy. But uh, and that's as much as I remember. And then, of course, Craig Street. Well, that was not . . . the people who lived on the corner of Craig Street, the Brown's lived there. Mr. Brown and his sister and I think there were two Mr. Brown's who lived there.

KOVATCH: Do you remember. . .

DOWSETT: Mr . . .

KOVATCH: I'm sorry, do you remember what the Brown's did? What Mr. Brown did?

DOWSETT: Well he was an alderman, I think, for the city, or something.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: I can't recall exactly what he did. But, Miss Annie Brown lived there, his sister and it seems to me there was another sister, whose name I can't recall. But, Miss Annie Brown made, uh, I know she made doll

clothes for my doll.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: The doll is in my, in the parlor.

KOVATCH: Oh, wow.

DOWSETT: I'll show you the parlor before you go. That's--I'm not taking you in there because it's hot. That's why we're not in there. But, the (Jimmy?) doll we called it. And she made knitted sweaters and she did all kinds of lovely handwork, with the crocheting and knitting.

KOVATCH: Uh hmm.

DOWSETT: But anyhow, she and her brother lived there and that house was--it's right on the corner and it had a beautiful little garden on the side.

KOVATCH: Wow.

DOWSETT: Well, now it doesn't, of course. Bob Camel(?) bought that and he keeps his cars in there, or something. But, that's where that T-shirt place is.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Right there. Okay. And then uh, but that, and then beyond that where the Harbor House is, that was Dock Street.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: And, there were houses there. Cause the Burtis', who owned this--down at the end of the street--the Burtis' who lived on the right hand side . . . B-U-R-T-I-S, that is - had a boats, rowboats and sail boats that they rented out to people.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: And then, uh, it seems to me there was an oyster house there, but I'm not sure, because there were always oyster shells down on the . . . We used to go down there, they had a couple of piers out, and we used to rent rowboats from them . . .

KOVATCH: When you were a child?

DOWSETT: . . . to go crabbing.

KOVATCH: When you were a child?

DOWSETT: Uh huh. My father would go. We'd go crabbing then and we rented a row boat from them and we'd go crabbing. And uh, but then, sometimes I'd go down with my father and sit down at the Burtis', just on the water. They had a shed there and we'd sit and talk pol--I didn't talk politics, they'd talk politics and I fooled around with the water and one thing and another, cause I wasn't afraid of water. Fortunately, I learned to swim when I was about three.

KOVATCH: Wow.

DOWSETT: Well, over at Horn Point, that's another long story.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: I won't go into that [Laughter].

KOVATCH: All right.

DOWSETT: But uh, Horn Point's in Eastport.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Yeah, okay. But the, and then, I have never, I don't ever on Holland Street I never really knew how it got the name "Hell Point".

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: I never knew how it got it, except it wasn't considered the best place in the world to live. But, that was through no fault of the people who lived there.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: They just didn't have any money and the landlords didn't keep the houses up.

KOVATCH: Ohh.

DOWSETT: That's the secret of some of those houses down there that were the people were dependent on the landlords. They didn't own--some of them did own their homes. A few people did own their homes. But, the landlords owned them and they didn't keep them up.

KOVATCH: Ohh.

DOWSETT: And so, uh, it was a deplorable area actually, but the people who lived there were very nice people. A lot of them were, through no fault of their own.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: They really, uh, didn't have the best lives in the world.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: And we were, this house, my mother and my godfather, who was an Episcopal minister lived with us --The Reverend James L. Smiley-- lived with us, boarded here and lived upstairs; he had an upstairs room. But he had a telephone and we had two telephones. We had one outside by the back door and then one in -- where was the other one? -- we had another one in here somewhere.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: I don't know. It wasn't like the telephones we have today, you know. So, the other one hung on the wall and we had to have that taken out, because we found out somebody was using it [Laughter], making long distance telephone calls, oh!

KOVATCH: Did you know who it was?

DOWSETT: No, somebody in the neighborhood knew we had a phone, because we were the only people, besides Dr. Purvis, who had a telephone. Well, I think, I believe the Postmaster had a telephone. But, people didn't--they didn't lend their telephones. But, apparently we did, because

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: Mr. Smiley was here

KOVATCH: [Laughter] Inadvertently.

DOWSETT: He let people use the phone.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: And we did too, but we watched em. You know, we were careful not. We didn't realize this man was sneaking in the side door. There's a side door out here, you see. And, he was sneakin' in there and using the telephone. So, we had to have that taken out. 'Cause our telephone got built up so large, we couldn't understand it. But anyhow, but then, uh, the uh, on uh, I'm trying to think of something--and the, some of the people who, though, who lived on the dock. (Dog bark). No, what do you want? Go lie down! It's probably gotta go out. That's the only thing wrong with dogs, they always have--you wait a minute! --I'm trying to remember who else lived down there. It doesn't really matter, but the Browns did live, their property backed up on the Dock area. And that Dock area wasn't very pleasant either, you see.

KOVATCH: How was it unpleasant?

DOWSETT: There was a, well right down, there was an oyster house there, somewhere, that's where I'm confused about the oyster house, but it was somewhere on the Dock, down towards--not on Prince George Street-- on the Dock area. And, it wasn't like it is today, so I can't remember it, to tell you the truth. Except, that I do remember there was a junk yard there.

KOVATCH: Um hm.

DOWSETT: Up the street, up just a little bit.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And there were stores up at this side. The Trautwein had a store and then . . .

KOVATCH: Do you remember what kind of store it was?

DOWSETT: He had a hardware, everything. Hardware, everything for ship chandlery, everything for boats that came in.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: He didn't have a grocery store, but the street farther, up where Middleton's Tavern is, next to Middleton's Tavern, where I think it's where uh, what's the restaurant next? McGarvey's.

KOVATCH: On the corner.

DOWSETT: It's not on the corner. Middleton's is on the corner.

KOVATCH: Yeah.

DOWSETT: But,

KOVATCH: McGarvey's is on the Pinkney Street side, that's what it is. They, I think that was Mr. William O'Youngs grocery store. It was a grocery store. William O'Young had a grocery store. Course you can double check this, I think.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: But, uh, anyhow. And so, the Dock area. And then the Fish Market was right at the end of the Dock. And when they cleaned the fish, they dumped all this mess in the -- Euwh!! Well nobody liked going over there, the smell was horrible. That's how they cleaned the fish. It all went in the, it was before they had any regulations, you see.

KOVATCH: Sure. Did the wind bring the smell up to your house?

DOWSETT: No, you know it's funny. I never really remember that odor, unless you're really close to it. Because, they didn't--at the end, there was no place for them to put the stuff if they didn't dump it in the creek. Cause everybody dumped everything in the creek. We used to swim up there where the yacht club is now.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: We call it the Old Severn Boat Club. And that, the sewer system came right down Spa Creek. And, Dr. Purvis used to worry because we used to swim there.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: And he used to worry because we were all going to come down with Typhoid Fever [Laughter]. We never did.

KOVATCH: No one ever did?

DOWSETT: No one ever did! [Laughter]

KOVATCH: Oh, that's good. That's good.

DOWSETT: Never did! But anyhow, but the peop--I'm trying to remember. The Jacobs lived on Holland Street. And then there was the Collins. I can't remember whether they lived on King George or Holland.

KOVATCH: Can you remember what these people did for a living? The Jacobs and the Collins?

DOWSETT: No.

KOVATCH: No?

DOWSETT: Well, they could have been watermen for all I know.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: Some of them worked at the Naval Academy.

KOVATCH: Doing what kind of jobs?

DOWSETT: Oh any kind, you know, just either day laborers or did whatever needed to be done. Cause when I was growing up, they were still building a few buildings down there, and doing things. But that was when I was a very little girl. But then uh, I don't remember them building, but then they, by the time I was able to realize what was there, it was all built. Everything was all built up. But the people worked at . . . a lot of the Naval Academy employed a lot of people, of workmen. And so, some of those people could have done that. I don't know where else. Or they worked on the saloons around on the corner. I haven't any idea where people worked. I really, it never entered my head, you know, I didn't have to think about it.

KOVATCH: You know I heard something interesting today about the name "Hell Point", that perhaps . . . I understand that there were some people that lived on boats in the water. That . . .

DOWSETT: Of course!

KOVATCH: . . . they were very rowdy, and so that's perhaps that's where the name came from.

DOWSETT: It probably did.

KOVATCH: Have you heard that?

DOWSETT: No, I don't remember that they were more rowdy over on the boats over at the Dock . . .

KOVATCH: Oh, really?

DOWSETT: . . . than they were at Hell Point.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: 'Course there were probably rowdy people down there. I'm not sure there wasn't a saloon down there, I really am not sure, on King George Street.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: I'm not positive about it.

KOVATCH: So, King George and Holland? Or King George, closer to the water?

DOWSETT: King George and Holland, on the corner of King George. I'm not sure that there wasn't a saloons ther--I'm not really sure.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: 'Cause somebody, there was a Jewish family that did own a store, but that was on King George Street. I'm really so vague, if I could see a plot again, I would remember, but uh,

KOVATCH: What kind of store was the . . .

DOWSETT: Just a grocery store.

KOVATCH: Grocery store.

DOWSETT: Little grocery store, yes.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: And so, I just didn't uh . . . And a lot of the people, they used to call us, those of us who lived . . . 'lot of people think Prince George Street was Hol--Hell Point. It wasn't.

KOVATCH: It wasn't?

DOWSETT: No, it was not. Prince George went right down to the wharf.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: And there was a wharf there. 'Cause the Emma Giles came in there.

KOVATCH: Oh, the steamboat?

DOWSETT: Yes, the steamboat came in there, and then people who lived up and down that side of the street either worked for the steamboat company

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: and worked around town or, let's see, the Turner's -- Turner worked over at the Naval Academy. Lot of them worked over at the Naval Academy. And they were nice houses. They've all gone now, of course.

KOVATCH: Can you describe any of those houses?

DOWSETT: No, they were just-- there was a row of houses down close to the wharf and there were t-- I think there were two and, well the first one was larger and that belonged to the, was it the Franks? I think. F-R-A-N-K. The Franks.

KOVATCH: Thank you.

DOWSETT: And then, uh, there was . . . the Francis' lived in one, but then was another one that had two, you know, duplex houses.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: I can't . .

KOVATCH: So they weren't falling apart.

DOWSETT: No, no, no. Those--the houses on Prince George Street were well kept.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And some of the houses on Holland Street were fairly well kept, too. But, it depended on who owned 'em.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: And whether they kept them up, but they didn't have running water.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: No, I don't know where the pump was. Maybe they had it out in the back yard, I don't know.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: But, they didn't have flushing toilets or anything like that.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: So, uh, you see Hell Point wasn't . . . there were houses up on West Street that didn't have running water either, they had outhouses. And that's what a lot of those houses had.

KOVATCH: So it wasn't unusual then.

DOWSETT: Huh?

KOVATCH: It wasn't unusual then.

DOWSETT: No, of course it wasn't, because we didn't have the facilities in those days.

KOVATCH: Why do you suppose Hell Point is regained so much interest? The neighborhood itself.

DOWSETT: Well because the people who lived there have gotten a, or some of 'em who lived there have really pulled themselves up by their bootstraps. And they really, they're really excellent people.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: And I'm not going to tell you, one of them happens to be married to a Navy General, I mean a Marine General, I know. And uh, she lived in, well her family was very nice.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: There were a lot of nice people down there. They all weren't rowdy, they all weren't poor white trash.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: There were poor white trash people there but there were a lot of very nice people.

KOVATCH: What kind of things made them nice? Like, what did they do for each other that was nice, or that struck you as being good people?

DOWSETT: Well, they all got educated.

KOVATCH: Oh really?

DOWSETT: Yes. [Laughter] That was one thing. And uh, there were some of them that did have problems, but then there were one of the boys, I think, was, was uh, I don't know whether he was arrested for robbery or something or other. He straightened himself out and went in the Navy.

KOVATCH: Wow.

DOWSETT: Now he joined the, he became a sailor.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: And he was a nice kid. Really.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: So you know, I mean, you just can't say they were all poor white trash, it was not, they were not.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And they were nice people. Those who wanted to be. Now they may be some, there were some, a few girls that turned out to be real lemons.

KOVATCH: Can you tell me about them?

DOWSETT: I don't know who they, I can't remember. One of them I remember. Lived in the house across the street. There was a big, tall apartment building. We called it the Flats.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Across the way, right across the street. This was during the war, though. Second World War, not the First. The Second World War and she was a prostitute.

KOVATCH: Really?

DOWSETT: Yes.

KOVATCH: Do you remember seeing people go in and out of there.

DOWSETT: Oh, yes. That was what was wrong with the Flats. It used to be a nice apartment building.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: And I don't know who owned it originally, but then it -- somebody else bought it. I don't know whether Mr. Goodman bought it or who it was. But, they let it go to pot. They just rented it to anybody who could afford it. And there were people who lived in there. There was a woman who lived up on the top floor and she was married to a either a Marine or a sailor, and you could hear, they would, she would leave the children all by themselves. And every night, one of the babies would fall out of bed.

KOVATCH: Oh no.

DOWSETT: And I could hear it. I, the reason I could hear it -- this was during the War -- my Aunt had had a heart attack and her room was right upstairs. And you could hear everything, we kept the front window open. And you could hear the child crying and of course she'd just had a terrible heart attack.

KOVATCH: Oh no.

DOWSETT: And it worried me to death, and then all these sailors and girls were running up and down the street. Well they didn't live there [Laughter] they were, the boys were, the sailors were looking for dates and whatever they could find. And so, it was, I had to have that whole area put out of bounds, I called the Admirals at the Naval Academy and told them that something had to be done, because the noise was ter-- they only did it for a month. It wasn't forever, but . . .

KOVATCH: So sailors did go in there then.

DOWSETT: Yeah, they went in there and they went in the house next door.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: But they had dates, with those-- some of them married the girls next door.

KOVATCH: Really? Okay.

DOWSETT: And it was not uh, but anyhow, it just was, it was a rough area even during the war. It was dreadful.

KOVATCH: So you were in your twenties then, you were older.

DOWSETT: I was in by thirties then.

KOVATCH: Thirties.

DOWSETT: It was when Ann my daughter was first born.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Oh, my second. It was in [19]44. That's when that was.

KOVATCH: Where you ever afraid? Or where you . . . ?

DOWSETT: No. I lived on the West Coast by myself [Laughter] When my husband was at sea.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: So you have to get over being afraid.

KOVATCH: Independent.

DOWSETT: Is that blinking? Is it supposed to blink? (At this point the tape recorder power light started flashing)

KOVATCH: It's supposed to be on.

DOWSETT: Oh, it is? Okay. But anyhow, there were things around here where, that you accepted as part of the Navy life or the way life was during the War.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: And then even before that you accepted some of it. But nice people lived all up and down Prince George Street and nice people lived on Holland Street and nice people lived on King George Street. But, there was an element, too, that was rough and ready. And really uh, you know, that lived down there and they drank and I guess like everybody else. Course when, in Prohibition, there were bootleggers around town. But, there were none down there that I know of, that I was ever aware of, even. Cause when I was a reporter, I don't remember ever hearing of a bootlegging place down there. I've heard of one on King George Street, up on King George Street, not down there.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: But uh,

KOVATCH: Wha-

DOWSETT: Uh.

KOVATCH: I'm sorry.

DOWSETT: They didn't make their own liquor.

KOVATCH: Uh huh. Was there a lot of tension between the rowdy people in the neighborhood and the nice people?

DOWSETT: Hm. Well I don't know even if there was. The only way I noticed it, that the children didn't get along. Some of them didn't get along well.

KOVATCH: Really.

DOWSETT: But a lot of them used to come up and to play with us, and we played with them. But, they called us the Prince George Streeters and they were the [Laughter] Hell Pointers.

KOVATCH: Why would they call you the Prince George Streeters?

DOWSETT: 'Cause we were Prin -- we lived on Prince George Street [Laughter], just like they were Hell Pointers, we were Prince George Streeters.

KOVATCH: But were you ...? You were friends then. You did play together.

DOWSETT: Well, some of us did. Not. They didn't come up very often.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: No, they really didn't. They didn't, they some of them, well a lot of them went to the little chapel up the way, on the corner where the Synagogue is now. That was the chapel, St. Ann's Chapel. And uh, a lot of them went to Sunday school up there. And, but we, so did we. I went to Sunday school up there, too. Then I went to St. Ann's, too. It depended on how I felt, whether I wanted to go to St. Ann's Sunday school. But it was closer to go to the chapel. And Mr. Smiley, my godfather, had the chapel.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: So, I used to go up there to Sunday school. But, I didn't, we didn't play as we got older, we didn't play together. We all went our separate ways.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And uh, I dated midshipmen and a lot of those girls didn't when we were older, you see. And some of them did. Some of them married midshipmen. And, consequently, they and some of them who didn't marry midshipmen married sailors or married other when they moved out of . . . Some of those girls were just delightful people. And they still are. I know 'em, I haven't seen a lot of them lately, but, I've known them so long that, that uh, they all speak to each other. And one of the girls, Dorothy Williams, who lived down there--I never see her grandmother, Mrs. Hubbard. I thought Mrs. Hubbard, I think, lived in the house on the Dock. She uh, Dorothy used to come up here, Dorothy Williams, to get money for her grandmother, because she was a pauper or you know, really quite poor. And, Mr. Smiley was very charitable. He would give money to her so that they could uh, her grandmother could--she went to school. And she really did quite well apparently. And she wound up managing the A&P, which was, during the War, it was right on the corner of Craig Street and Prince George Street. They tore down those houses down there and put the A&P in there.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: So, it was a good store and she was the manager. Well, for awhile she wasn't, she worked as a, just

as a clerk. And she got so she was really so smart. She married a Filipino uhm, sailor.

KOVATCH: Was that unusual? To date . . .

DOWSETT: Well that was the problem, one of the problems we had in Annapolis. The Filipinos married blacks and whites.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: And uh, we almost had a race riot once up here on the corner.

KOVATCH: Really?

DOWSETT: Well, it wasn't a race riot. I don't know what it was. It was just a fight. And uh, because. I don't remember when it was, but after the Hoburger's owned the house right across from us, it was a nice house. And he died and then after Mrs. Hoburger died. He was a -- he made cigars down in his basement.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: Yep. And so, but anyhow. After he died, then Mrs. Hoburger died and she had several children grown up.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: And then they sold the house. And the Filipinos either rented it or bought it, I don't know. I think they rented it. And they had a club over there.

KOVATCH: What kind of club?

DOWSETT: Well, I don't know, just some place for them to go.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: You see, they were the mess boys down at the Academy.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: Or they, and they uh, I don't know whether they were in the Navy, as sailors or not. I don't remember that. But, they were the Mess boys at the Academy.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And they used them down there as, and a lot of them came over here and they had parties and things and meetings and one thing and another. But then, that's when they had this fight. Up on the corner. But a lot of them married Black girls and a lot of em married, not a lot of 'em, some of them married Black girls and some of them married white girls. And that made for, you know, unrest. And then, I don't know, suddenly, they closed that place up. And they stopped having Filipinos as Mess boys.

KOVATCH: Do you know why?

DOWSETT: The Academy started having Black boys.

KOVATCH: Why would they do that?

DOWSETT: I don't know, they. Course I guess they needed the work [Laughter]. I -- you know, I think the Filipinos were sailors.

KOVATCH: Oh, it was a second job.

DOWSETT: Yeah, uh huh. I don't know, I've never. No, the Mess boys were not, were most always Filipinos until they started bringing in the Blacks. That part I don't understand.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: So, maybe you'd better not say anything about it. It really, 'cause I don't understand what happened, I am very vague about that.

KOVATCH: So even though there were interracial relationships, the different ethnic groups kept to themselves pretty much. Is that right?

DOWSETT: Yes, they did.

KOVATCH: So, did you ever play with Filipino children or Black children?

DOWSETT: Well, there weren't any Filipino child--or I played with uh, when my brother, when we were little, one of the uh, maids we had came with her little boy and he played with my brother all the time.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: And stayed with us. He would stay all day while his mother was here.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: So, that was not a -- 'course we had a lot of different Black people working for us. Off and on. Not all the time. When we were broke, we didn't have anybody. [Laughter] It's that simple. When you didn't have money, you didn't have anybody.

KOVATCH: Sure.

DOWSETT: But uh, when they were little, they did play together. But uh, Annapolis was strange. I don't believe

that there was really the racial feeling that exists today, then.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Cause we had aldermen who were black.

KOVATCH: Really.

DOWSETT: Yes, we did. It was later, it was in the thirties.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And I don't remember the first Black, when the first Black man went in as an Alderman, or something. And that's, well I thought that had gone off, but it hasn't (pointing to the tape recorder). It's still .

* *

KOVATCH: It's still running, but I think I'm going to stop this side of the tape, okay? Then we'll continue on the next side.

DOWSETT: Alright.

KOVATCH: This is side 2 of tape 1 of my interview with Mrs. Dowsett. We're continuing now. Okay, let's talk about the Naval Academy. What kind of uh, view did you have from your home? Did you see it?

DOWSETT: Oh sure. You see when the, that house down the street that belonged to Dr. Peurvis, the big stucco house didn't have a back part on it. He had a big barn back in the back where he kept his horse before he got a car.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: He had one of the first cars in town.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: And then, but then but. And they had a big yard back there. The house next door didn't have all those garages in the back. That was a yard, that was a garden back there; and we knew everybody in the neighborhood. And, uh, we had, of course, a garden out here and my and the house on the corner lived my two great uncles and two great aunts.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: And the Sands, their name was Sands. And they had uh, oh Aunt Ann died when I was two or three I guess it was; but there was Aunt Nell and Uncle Will and Uncle Jim Sands, my mother--my grandmother's brothers.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: And uh, they lived in that house. They built that house much to my grandmothers, my mothers grandmother's disgust. 'Cause they inherited prop -- this property belonged to Aunt Sarah Sands . . .

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: . . . And Aunt Emily and they died in 1900. One died in 1902 and one died in 1901, I guess it was. Aunt Emily died first. Oh, she died before that, I take that back. But anyhow, Aunt Sarah and Aunt Emily lived here alone. There were three sisters Annie, and Emily and Sarah. And they all lived here and when they died, my grandmother got the house. She -- well, nobody else wanted it, you see. They had a lot of nieces and nephews and it had to go to court, they had to sort of partition it because nobody wanted it except my grandmother.

KOVATCH: Why didn't they want it?

DOWSETT: Well they didn't -- all of them lived someplace else.

KOVATCH: Oh, okay. Too far.

DOWSETT: Except for the uncles next door. And they got enough money so they could build a house and they built that monster on the corner. And grandmother -- they tore down a dear little house that was in the back, back here [points into back yard]. That was a Sands house.

KOVATCH: What did that look like?

DOWSETT: I don't know, it was just a box.

KOVATCH: Okay

DOWSETT: And I've got a picture of it somewhere.

KOVATCH: Great.

DOWSETT: I think Mame Warren has a copy of that picture up there. But anyhow, at the Hall of Records. But, it was a nice neighborhood. And, as I said, down the street and the house two doors -- wait a minute. One, two, three, four doors down the postmaster lived there.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Thomas J. Linthicum, with his family. For a while he lived there. They lived there and he had a

daughter -- two daughters and a son, Polly Mary Knight Linthicum was the oldest girl and Catherine Harwood Linthicum was the middle child and Thomas J.-- Thomas Jefferson Linthicum was the third child [Laughter].

KOVATCH: Did you play with them?

DOWSETT: Oh, sure. We all grew up together.

KOVATCH: Sure. What kinds of things did you do?

DOWSETT: Hmm, we played kickball, or whatever you want out here in the street [Prince George]. We could play in the street, then we, of course we -- everybody had a backyard. And we -- in the summertime we always had a sandpile. But my brother and I got one for his birthday, which was the 11th, I mean the -- I guess it was the 11th of May. And every year, 11th of May a load of sand was brought in here . . .

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: . . . and put out here in the back yard. And so all the kids in the neighborhood -- by the end of the summer there wasn't any sand left; everybody came with their sand buckets.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: But we did all kinds of things, built houses out of it and one thing or another, played in it. And the boys all played. One of my young friends -- one of our neighbors who lived down behind us, the Burts lived in the house that's right behind here now. They -- belongs to Vince Paskalouchi (?) owns this barber shop

KOVATCH: So it's on Randall Street then?

DOWSETT: Yes, uh huh. Its the first house on Randall Street, really, after the Sands House, that's on the corner. And it's a Stucco house. And his mother was always -- he was the only child, and she always had nice birthday parties. And we all went to the birthday parties, and the little girls, one of them, we little girls all got china dolls, little china dolls with crocheted, little dresses on them.

KOVATCH: Wow

DOWSETT: Well, Mrs. Burke would -- well there were only five or six little girls and I don't know -- I can't remember what the little boys got, but anyhow, cause one thing, we playing with the dolls one day out on the street and Kitty Linthicum's doll fell and broke its head off. And, oh, it was terrible! And so my brother, Rebel, who's - - his name was Rebel Moss -- and he decided that we were going to have a funeral . . .

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: and so we got a box from Dr. Purvis' place, we had a wooden box [Laughter], empty one of his medicine boxes or something, put the doll in it and we were having the funeral out in the back, and so we buried it and everybody cried and went on. Had a funeral for the baby doll, and then later, my brother somehow -- how I got wind of it -- my brother decided that he was going to dig it up and cremate it in the furnace, but the furnace wasn't on [Laughter]

KOVATCH: Oh, no.

DOWSETT: Anyhow, we had a furnace. Anyway, out there at the back of the house and he was gonna cremate it. And, oh! I found it out and I got Kitty and we all screamed and hollered and called my mother and my mother came and she dug it out of the furnace after he put it in [Laughter]. So Kitty took the doll home and her father mended the doll eventually. But it was really a riot [Laughter]. We were always doing something like that and we had -- we were always having all kinds of things. We had a bazaar during the 1st World War. We had a bazaar down at Dr. Purvis' and the sol -- that has a parapet out in front.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: It did have, I don't know if they've taken those, those -- it was like a box out in front made of stucco and inside they had trees growing. But I think, isn't that silly? I can't remember, now I haven't been down there lately it's still there; but anyhow we had sold things on the, outside of the parapet thing and we would collect things, a cake and candy and sell those things, and soft drinks and people would come and buy em. Or we'd go in some or we'd have it in the back yard, too. We had Peurvis' back yard once. We had the bazaar back there and they - - people came and bought things; and we used the money to buy records for the, for the -- they had a place for the, up at the Armory, which is still there on Rowe Blvd. The Armory where, the National Guard Armory is; and we went up there, we took all these records for the soldiers.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: This was in the 1st World War, yes.

KOVATCH: For dances, or?

DOWSETT: Yes, for their dances or whatever, just to keep em busy. To amuse them. We didn't have many. We didn't make an awful lot of money, but we were able to buy four or five records, I think, for their victrola that they had up there. You know, the records of the day, the Jazz or whatever they wanted to hear. So, I mean, we

did all kinds of funny things.

KOVATCH: Who bought, uhm, the cakes and all the things you sold?

DOWSETT: The neighborhood, the whole neighborhood. Everybody in the neighborhood would make a cake or candies or whatever and they'd sell them, and every -- just I guess a Church bazaar, really.

KOVATCH: So it was like a community effort then?

DOWSETT: No, it wasn't a community, it was just this little neighborhood.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: It was a neighborhood effort.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: Cause the Hill's lived down the street, the Hill's only came, they lived in, really in Baltimore, but they came to Mrs. Summers who owned Gibson House, which is right down the street, that's now a bed and breakfast. It's a brick house, it's nice, that's one the Navy left up, they didn't take that house, fortunately. But, it was uhm, it's a nice house, a big brick house. The Hills lived there with, would come down to visit their grandmother there and then they lived there for awhile. Their father was in the Navy, and he was a commander and he traveled a lot so they'd come down here and stay for a visit in the Summertime. But then,

KOVATCH: So, you did have some interaction with the Naval Academy, or the soldiers and . . .?

DOWSETT: Oh yeah, well the midshipmen. The midshipmen came in on Saturday afternoon, we might have two tables of bridge. The midshipmen, mother taught them all how to play bridge, mother and my father. And, they'd sit here and play bridge and, or read or do . . . we had a table here that had drawers in it. They couldn't smoke in the Academy for awhile

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And so, we let them bring their pipes and their cigarettes and they kept them, this table had little compartments in it, and each one had a place to keep his cigarettes and his pipe, or whatever. I had a marvelous childhood, I think. Then, when, what was it? Eskimo Pies first came in,

KOVATCH: Yes?

DOWSETT: Well, I was, I don't know how old I was then, but anyhow, some of midshipmen when they went around and got a whole box of them and bought them from the store around the corner, there was a candy, confectioner's store down on the corner of the Market Space and Randall Street.

KOVATCH: Uh huh

DOWSETT: And they went around and got a box of these Eskimo Pies one Saturday afternoon and we had the best time.

KOVATCH: Oh

DOWSETT: Oh, it was delicious! [Laughter]

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: Then on Sundays, Mother -- not every Sunday -- but Mother always made delicious cakes, she was a very good cook. She had tea on Sunday afternoons, and a lot of the midshipmen and their drags-- we knew them all-- and would come by and have tea with Mother and eat cake, or they'd dance in the parlor. Why the parlor floor didn't fall in, or the chandelier didn't break loose, I don't know. KOVATCH: Why would the floor fall in?

DOWSETT: Cause the floor just would, well, they did the Charleston, they did everything!

KOVATCH: Oh, I see [Laughter].

DOWSETT: And it was amazing [Laughter], what they did do!

KOVATCH: Were they formally invited by your mother?

DOWSETT: What?

KOVATCH: Were they formally invited to the house or was it just they'd drop by?

DOWSETT: No, they were friends.

KOVATCH: Or was it just that they dropped by?

DOWSETT: No, some of them, my cousin used to come down from Baltimore and then she would bring her school friends with her and they had dates, so they would all come and spend the weekend, the girls would.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: And then the boys would come after they had been to a hop or something or other; or during the afternoon on Sunday afternoon. They would be invited. Mother always invited them for dinner.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: We had dinner in the middle of the day, on Sunday. And they had dinner here.

KOVATCH: What kinds of things would your mother make for dinner, for Sunday dinner?

DOWSETT: Everything!

KOVATCH: Really?

DOWSETT: But we always had roast chicken or roast something or other, or roast beef or whatever.

KOVATCH: Was it special then?

DOWSETT: No, it was just what we always ate.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And we had dinner about 12, one o'clock, I guess it was, cause we always went to church. And, not always. We went to church on Sundays, but always dinner at one. And so, the midshipmen would come, sometimes with girls, and sometimes not with girls, but we usually had two or three people extra for dinner. It was my mother lived here, my grand -- my aunt, my grandmother died in 1917, but my aunt, Margaret Revel, and then my mother and father and my brother and me, and then Mr. Smiley. Sometimes he'd come to dinner, usually he had dinner with us on Saturday, he wouldn't have dinner, he'd go eat with somebody else on Sunday. 'Cause he, well he was invited by some of his parishioners.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: To have dinner or something, so we didn't always have Mr. Smiley to Sunday dinner. But usually on Saturday night, Mother was going to have hot rolls, she did.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: So he would always have hot rolls with us.

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: On Saturday for dinner, if we had ham he always had ham and cabbage.

KOVATCH: Oh, really?

DOWSETT: Mr. Smiley [Laughter], he was a funny little old man. He had a white beard and I remember when I came back from the West Coast after my daughter had been born. She was born on the West coast, my oldest daughter, and she was about 14 or 15 months old or something, and we came back here and the first time she saw Mr. Smiley, 'cause he had a white beard and real bushy and he was a little man, but the first time she saw him she looked at him and she said, "Doggie, doggie" [Laughter]

KOVATCH: Oh, no!

DOWSETT: Poor Mr. Smiley! [Laughter] We didn't realize, well, we finally convinced her he wasn't a dog. She was only fourteen months old.

KOVATCH: Yeah.

DOWSETT: And she was just learning to talk, but she learned how to say, "Doggie, doggie" and that's what it looked like to her. [Laughter]

KOVATCH: Oh. It sounds like you and Mr. Smiley had special relationship.

DOWSETT: We did. I grew up with him.

KOVATCH: What kinds of . . . ?

DOWSETT: He was a marvelous old man and, well, he was a Socialist.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: He was a Socialist

KOVATCH: Unusual?

DOWSETT: What?

KOVATCH: Was that unusual?

DOWSETT: Well, it was in that day to have an Episcopal minister who was a Socialist

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: But, he wasn't permitted to preach from the pulpit.

KOVATCH: Really?

DOWSETT: Yes, because he went around polmenting Socialism, not Communism.

KOVATCH: Uh huh.

DOWSETT: This was a different kind of Socialism, this was Christian Socialism as they called it back then, and he was a marvelous old man. He was good to everybody; people adored him and he, well he helped so many people over the years.

KOVATCH: Uh hm.

DOWSETT: And they didn't pay him, they wouldn't pay him. The church didn't pay him for the longest time, til one of the ministers, a new minister, came here, Dr. Berger. Mr. Berger came when Dr. Johnson died and he spoke to the bishop about it because he said Mr. Smiley deserves to have some. But Mr. Smiley said he was

miraculously taken care of. We never knew where he got his money from. He never did either, I don't think. Who sent him money every month? Somebody did.

KOVATCH: Really?

DOWSETT: Yes, there were a lot of people who took care of him. KOVATCH: Wow, that's nice.

DOWSETT: Because he was so good. He was a good man. With all of his Socialism, he also spoke Esperanto.

KOVATCH: What's that?

DOWSETT: That's still in existence in today. That's the language that they tried to use around the world instead of Engli -- I mean, instead of having a conglomeration of languages.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: Esperanto. I'm surprised you haven't heard about it.

KOVATCH: No.

DOWSETT: Well, in College, sometimes it's brought up and I never could learn. I could have learned how to use it, but I didn't have the energy to do it. Mr. Smiley tried to teach me Esperanto, but it never, I had enough trouble learning how to speak French. I spoke French much better than I did Latin. [Laughter]

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: But, Mr. Smiley really was a very kind and wonderful old man. But, he had a lot of strange ideas about things; so, a lot of people shunned him for that reason, but then there were a lot of people who liked him and he went everywhere. Everybody knew him. He lived here until -- he came here in 1906 and he lived here until 1956, when he went blind.

KOVATCH: Oh.

DOWSETT: And Mother came downstairs, it was when my Aunt was dying, she had a heart attack in the [19]40's, but then she had, what do you call it? A congenital heart condition, or something. But, anyhow, and it really developed and so Mother came downstairs and found him wandering around, he was out in the laundry. We had a laundry in the furnace room off the back here, and he was out there couldn't find his way, where he was. And so, Mother had to send him up to Church Home and Hospital in Baltimore, that's the Episcopal Hospital. And then, so then he never returned, because he was, he became senile. Really.

KOVATCH: That's a shame. What kinds of things did he do for the Hell Point neighborhood?

DOWSETT: Well, he took the -- a lot of times, he took the ones that were Episcopalians, he would give them communion and go down and see how they were and talk to them, just to visit them. And make visits, and then Mother, many times, if we had, if Mother had made a big pot of soup and we weren't going to use it, he would take the soup down to maybe Mrs. Hubbard, or somebody else whoever it was that needed it, who he knew needed food, or anything that Mother had that they needed he would take down there. He did a lot of really wonderful things for people.

KOVATCH: That's great.

DOWSETT: Made life, tried to help them as much as he could. He was a very naive person. Very naive, cause he knew absolutely about sex [Laughter] of that I'm positive. But anyhow, he wrote a book called The Young Sir Gallahad, I think that was it. I had to help him proofread it. It was so, really weird. It was a nice story, a sweet little story, but we have a copy somewhere around here, I think there's one at the Hall of Records.

KOVATCH: Interesting.

DOWSETT: Uh hm. I'm sure there is.

But anyway, I don't know what else to tell you about the Naval Academy, except that I knew everybody down there. My brother graduated from the Naval Academy, my husband did, too. Yes, my brother was in the class of [19]31 and my husband was in the class of [19]36.

KOVATCH: Did your husband live in this neighborhood?

DOWSETT: No, oh he did when he was going to prep school. He lived up the street.

KOVATCH: I see.

DOWSETT: That's where I met him. And uh, of course, at that time I was engaged to someone else. But, that didn't matter.

KOVATCH: [Laughter]

DOWSETT: As I was telling someone, that engagement we broke off in the cemetery up in Staten Island [Laughter]

KOVATCH: How interesting.

DOWSETT: Well, I was talking to this friend of mine, I was talking to her about it and I said, "Thank God I didn't marry him", 'cause I had his ring and he had graduated, and he decided this gal that he had been engaged to before

he was engaged to me -- and I had her ring -- and she told him she was dying and so, he decided that he probably ought to marry me, marry her instead of me. So, I gave him back his ring. [Laughter] And he kept coming back and back because he found out she was lying to him; but she wasn't dying, she made up the story. He married somebody else, fortunately.

KOVATCH: So you, I mean your brother and he went to the Naval Academy. Did any boys from Hell Point go to the Academy?

DOWSETT: Well I don't know. I really don't. Because a lot of them might have gone into the Navy, but didn't go to the Naval Academy. You have to get, you know your Congressman had to give you an appointment to the Naval Academy. That's the only way you could get in.

KOVATCH: Okay.

DOWSETT: And so, if you didn't, if you weren't really up on the ball at school, and your Congressman didn't know you, if you didn't have an in with the Congressman, you couldn't possibly get into the Academy. It was pretty unfair. But, except I don't know if any of the boys down there ever went to the Naval Academy.

KOVATCH: You mentioned that there were some taverns in Hell Point, did the midshipmen ever frequent them? [The tape recorder malfunctioned in the middle of this question, and would not work properly afterwards. The following information was pieced together from notes that I took during the interview.]

DOWSETT: Well, I said there may have been a saloon, but I'm not sure.

KOVATCH: Did you know anyone whose house was torn down when the Naval Academy took over Hell Point.

DOWSETT: Well the fire chief, Fisher, lived in a nice looking house below Randall. Jesse Fisher, but he was older, so he probably wasn't the fire chief then.

KOVATCH: Do you know how they felt about it?

DOWSETT: What do you mean?

KOVATCH: Well, it was shortly before Christmas wasn't it?

DOWSETT: They signed an agreement and were paid for it. We were afraid they were going to take this house. We didn't know what to do.

KOVATCH: Why do you suppose the houses on Prince George St. weren't torn down?

DOWSETT: I don't know why. I guess we had a little more pull.

KOVATCH: You had said that you were born in this house. Was there a midwife in the neighborhood?

DOWSETT: Dr. Claude delivered babies in neighborhood. [Laughter] He called me "coquette". I don't know why he did. I didn't grow until I was around 11. He made me drink a jig ?? of milk and a 1/4 lb. of butter every day. I was in a wedding when I was 11 and the newspaper said that I was 4 years old. I was a small, little thing.

KOVATCH: Where did you get your clothes?

DOWSETT: My cousin, who was a nurse, sewed and crocheted. Or we went to the Hub in Baltimore. It was owned by the Hecht family. It was a department store. There weren't any department stores in Annapolis. There was a dry goods store. Mother had some lovely tailored suits. She worked there as a shopper for them when we needed money.

KOVATCH: How did you get to Baltimore?

DOWSETT: We took the train. Oh, I hated to ride the train. I miss the W/B and A the most, but I got train sick. We picked it up right at the corner.

KOVATCH: Did everybody ride the train?

DOWSETT: Yes. There were Jim Crowe Laws, so the negroes sat in the back.

KOVATCH: Did you ever notice them on the train?

DOWSETT: Sure. That's just the way it was then.

This ends the transcript