

Adelaide Barrett Lincoln~Oral History

We just going to get started here. We are going to be talking to Adelaide Lincoln. My name is Gina Cressey. David Crofoot is with me. Today is Friday, 07/09/2012. We are sitting around the dining room table in Adelaide Lincoln's cottage. And Adelaide for future generations, will you tell us where this cottage is for someone who doesn't know.

AL.: It's on the North Shore at 64 Broadway.

G.C.: And why don't you start by telling us how your family first came to Bayside.

AL: My grandmother bought this came here in 1893. Her brother owned the house that's now the Gerrity's. We have no idea, excuse me, because nobody ever asks questions, we have no idea how Uncle Charlie got here. But anyway, he was there and he says to his sister, my grandmother who was a widow, and she had two daughters, my mother was 12, my aunt was 10. So he said, why don't you come down to Bayside and buy the house next door? And so she did. 1893. And so then my mother grew up here, I grew up here and my children grew up here, my grandchildren grow up here, and now I have 2 great-granddaughters who are the sixth generation. In Bayside, we are the longest running extended family in the same house.

DC: That's amazing.

AL: Isn't that amazing!

GC: It's something to be proud of. My goodness!

AL: This is where you go home. I grew up in Boston, You can't go home to Boston.

GC: Just Bayside.

AL: I had the best of both worlds. Mother and I were right in Boston all winter, and here all summer. What more could you ask?

DC: When does summer start?

AL: Well, the day school ended, everybody would be packed, they'd get off the bus, go to the bathroom, get in the car, and here we were. And the day before school started, we would pack up here and leave. We always stayed to the "nth" degree, which I do now. I'm hoping to stay to the end of September, if I don't freeze. It's like your heart and soul are here, you know what I mean? I'm going to be buried in the old cemetery here.

GC: Beside me? AL: right by Gina. We're going to be together for eternity. We never had the picnic.

GC: It's not too late. We're still on the upside. AL: We were going to have a picnic up there.

GC: You might be invited, David.

DC: It sounds like a great idea. Would it be temperance? You wouldn't be allowed to...

AL: Oh, no! We just buried my sister-in-law in Romney. We drank wine at her grave. That was very apropos for her. She was 93. Lived a wonderful life. So, Magdalena and Elaine were there first, and Martha Block's mom. And Fred goes up to clean the grave and put flowers up there. '

GC: Do you want to talk about what Fred's role in your family has been???

AL: Fred, he is like the family person in this family, everybody loves him, his sisters all love him. Of course, I adore him. He has done more for us than anyone could ever imagine.

GC: I saw him yesterday carrying a dresser out of Claudia's house.

AL: He is just a wonderful person, a very wonderful person. Fortunately, he now has a very good job, and can now support this house. I spent all my mother's money bringing up the children.

GC: But you did a fine job. Money well spent.

AL: We lived... Well, what more could you have than this? You were rich if you came here, you know. Besides we could eat. We weren't extravagant, but we had a good... a good... Meredith said to me, the other day, "I had a wonderful childhood." And I said to her, "You did?" She said "Yes." And I said, "Well, that's nice." And Sister, she said, "because I had a wonderful childhood too." Isn't that wonderful? And we had some havoc.

GC: And you know, I think being a single mom is the hardest job on earth.

AL: But sometimes it's easier. Had we stayed together, it would have been difficult. Meredith was six and Fred was only ten. So he started working when he was fourteen. He worked in a restaurant when he was fourteen years old. And everybody else, when they got into high school, had little jobs. Of course, they worked here. Many of them worked at Kob's Lobster Pound. And, of course, Meredith baby sat for the world in Bayside. She was saying the other day, "I babysat for two people at once. Maya being one of them, Maya Robinson. So everyone did their little help, bought their own clothes for school.

GC: And how about chores around the cottage? Who did what?

AL: Well, no, the girls all helped clean. Fridays, they came home from school and we cleaned the house.

GC: What about cooking in the cottage? AL: Cooking? I cooked just enough to keep us all alive. I was brought up on very plain food. My mother was of English descent, and it was meat, potatoes, vegetables and fruit. To this day, I do not like, spices and herbs and gourmand food. Well, somebody said, "You never cooked." And I said, "I brought up eight kids, of course I cooked."

GC: How about lobsters? Did people cook lobsters in your kitchen?

AL: We used to, but it's been forbidden, by me and Fred. Because it smells up the whole house, and sometimes people get careless and it's all over the stove, and it's a mess. So you go and you order lobster cooked and you bring it home and have a fine old time. So when everybody comes up for their vacation, and, of course, we have to have lobster. There's a picture of me out in the... well we call it the "cafe" out in the corner, where we always have lobster. But, you know, my friend, Betty Chittick, she loved lobster all the time. I've had two this year. That's enough.

GC: Do you want to talk about your childhood friends? Who was around?

AL: What a wonderful child here. There were loads and loads of young people, plus they had the sailing school, so we had dances Tuesday and Friday, every Tuesday and Friday at the Community Hall, and Gordon's mother, Eleanor Fuller and Mrs. Hook?? played the records. And we had more fun. You know, today the kids would be "Like what?". And so some of us got to go out sailing with the counsellors so we got to do everything that people were paying money to go to the Camp. So we had a wonderful time. And, of course, my cousin Bob (Bob Leonard) was here, too, with his mother, and so I did a lot of sailing and all that kind of thing. Fortunately, Mother didn't know anything about it, sailing or anything, so she had no concept of when I came in, in the middle of a thunder and lightning storm, with Marion Eaton standing on the dock going "Oh my God!!"

DC: What were you sailing in those days?

AL: Well, Steven and I were in a Dark Harbor 12. She had a couple of those. My cousin, Bob, did. We had a lot of fun. And the campers never got fed enough, but they never told their parents.

GC: Peanut butter.

AL: Oh, they ate allover Bayside. And, of course, they never went home and told their parents because they wanted to come back again. If they did... some of them came several summers. We had a lot of fun, we really did. And my children had a lot of fun. Fred always said, "I think this was the last generation that really had... fun." But you know, not that they were innocent, but it wasn't like today. You know, they did pranks and stuff, but they didn't injure or break something. It was just stupid little stuff, you know-like toilet papering the dock.

GC: So, who were the kids?

AL: Today there's about ten or twelve of us left. There's Jo Huntoon, and me, and then, Jeannette (Tardif).

GC: She was a Hook.

AL: ... and Ellie Lagner (of course she went with Dick when Dick was a counselor), and, of course JoAnne (Short), Jim

(Coughlin) and JoAnne, and JoAnne was exactly like she is today. We were all teenagers. And then of course there was Ralph (Robinson).

DC: and Suzie (Reardon)?

AL: No, Suzie was younger, though. When you're young or a teenager, two or three or four years is like a chasm, like huge. And then, let me see, of course, Bob and Jean Witherill.

GC: What was her maiden name?

AL: I don't know. Isn't that terrible? Her parents came, and she had two sisters, Jean had two sisters, and they were kind of latecomers. Well, you know, they didn't come in 1870.

DC: They didn't come until 1905. So they were "from away."

AL: and then Bob and Jean started to go together. And, I'm probably leaving somebody out, but there's not too many of us left, really.

GC: Marion Eaton, was that her name? The Sailing School?

AL.: Oh God, yes. She had no insurance. Nobody wore life jackets. Nobody died. In retrospect, it's unbelievable.

DC: And the boats leaked?

AL: Well, they stayed afloat. I mean, everybody was having so much fun that nobody complained. They didn't want it to end. I mean, when you're a teenager, nobody's going to complain about minor things-like holes in the boat. We had a really wonderful time with her, and my children had a wonderful time also. It was a big group of kids.

GC: And they keep in touch with their friends?

AL: Yes. And the thing of it is, in those days, it was: the mother didn't work, and the mother came and spent the summer, but that's no longer the case. So, you see, somebody's here for two or three weeks at the most.

GC: Now, you were a kid during World War Two, right? Can you give us an idea of how it was different then?

AL: No. It really wasn't different here. But also... I worked at the Post Office.

GC: In Belfast?

AL: No, In Bayside.

GC: Where the Blair Agency is now.

AL: And we had two deliveries a day. And I would be lying, you know, before we knew that the sun wasn't good for you, we would be laying on the dock, you know, like this... getting cooked.

DC: Getting cooked, with your red hair? AL: Yes. Cooked. I was lucky, my mother wouldn't let me go down until after one. And other people went like, from morning 'til night, I don't know where they are now. But anyway, we'd be lying, and I'd see the mail truck come down, down the hill, and I'd get up and run up to the Post Office and sort the mail. And this was, like I say, this twice a day mail came. And I worked for Mrs. Tibbetts. The Tibbetts owned the store, and I worked for Mrs. Tibbetts.

GC: Was work at the Post Office sort of a special project?

AL: Yes, it certainly was, because people met there twice a day. And then when it wasn't there any more, people really missed it, because you saw everybody, you know. And that was when people wrote letters and actually communicated, somehow or other...I think, more than they do now... but, I'm not into technology at all, but...

GC: Now, could you, for example, find postcards like some of us now collect, could you buy them right there at the Post Office?

AL: Probably. Of course, that Post Office was always there.

GC: The one in Belfast?

AL: The one in Belfast. But, can you imagine, twice a day mail delivery? And Saturday, also. Amazing.

GC: Was that same place, now the Blair Agency, also an ice cream parlor at some point?

AL: They had a little store. It was a store. You could actually buy things. It was a store. And Terry Samway, at one point in time, when my children were young, he worked there and Claudia used to call him the Bubble-Gum Boy. But, no, it was like Grovers'?? Corners years ago, that doesn't, oh I suppose it exists somewhere, but I don't know where.

GC: Now, during the war there was rationing, and so... AL: Yes, there was. But if anything was more God-awful than the bag of something-or-other with an orange spot on it that you mixed.. butter. Margarine. Oh, what a nightmare! But we were then, it was just my mother and I, so we didn't really, we didn't feel ***** . GC: Was there a truck that came to Bayside during that era, selling food? AL: No. There would be a little man driving around selling fresh fish. Or somebody would be driving around selling berries, you know, blueberries, raspberries or whatever like that. And when I was a child, we had a man that came with ice, for the icebox, big chunks of ice, you know.

DC: Pond ice. AL: And I think it was Mr. McGaskill, and he brought the ice and he also collected the garbage.

GC: Multi-tasking? AL: Yes, Mr. McGaskill. And people would run down behind the ice truck, you know, and he'd give the kids little pieces of ice.

GC: So people, when gas was being rationed, people were not running up to Belfast two times a day.

AL: No. Not at all. Really, we got here and it was like, this is where you were. You know, Mother would go out grocery shopping probably about once a week. And if you wanted anything in the way of clothing, you brought it with you, because you didn't go up to the store and buy anything. So, we did get shoes at the old brick store.

GC: So did it feel like you were away from everything?

AL: Oh, absolutely. And we still feel that way. DC: It is like being out on an island, almost.

AL: When you come here, you come here and it's like, the world is away. It's all right in here, also what you make of it. And when my children come up here, we just, really, we just entertain ourselves here. Allison and Jeff made that nice deck that we have, before the... before you couldn't have a deck... and we just enjoy it here, and there's always room for one more. People say, "Where do you put everybody?" When people say that there isn't room, or there isn't room in a car, I just go "I came up here with eight kids and a dog and a cat." I grew up right in Boston; Mother and I lived in a hotel. It was the Hotel Canterbury, which was right in Kenmore Square. When Kenmore Square was residential; now it's like really hooky-tonk, sort of. Because BU has taken over and there's all kinds of pizzas, whatever, but it was strictly... and the Hotel Brainerd and the Hotel Kenmore. Now the Hotel Kenmore is BU; I forget the name of the new upperscale, supposedly, hotel now. But when I was a child, the Red Sox... the visiting team would come and stay at the Kenmore. Of course, we'd go tripping around the corner to sit in the lobby and see who we could see. All the ballplayers. Ted Williams was playing when I was in high school.

GC: Any famous people ever come to Bayside in your memory?

AL: Yes, indeed. Arthur Fiedler came over here to Cousin Julie's because her husband was first violinist in the Symphony. James Cagney supposedly came when the Shea's owned where the Eldridges are. And, of course, the Moores, the Wiechas, Mary Moore's father was in the theater business. So they had like opera singers and actresses. I don't know who they were. I, I saw Spencer Tracy over in Searsport. Mother and I were out to dinner at the restaurant, it was called the Down East Restaurant, and, you know, I had learned, that if you see famous people, that you don't dash up to them, but they always know if you know who they are, so he knew. . . I was like sixteen. . . and he knew I knew who he was, and he was facing me. And so when they got up to leave, he came by and gave me a big smile. Oh, and I saw **Dick Haynes. You probably don't know who he was. Dick Haynes was a singer in the musicals and movies and stuff. He would like appear at the Bayside Store one day, I mean the Bayside Restaurant. I went in to get something and he was sitting at the counter. And I looked at him, and he looked at me, and I smiled, and he smiled, and that was about it. I've seen a lot of things what with being in Boston, but I don't. . . My latest one was David McCulloch down at the Waterfront.

GC: Certainly, you don't want to forget Mel Gibson.

AL: Yes we do. Yes, we do. We wanted to forget him. That was too bad. I spoke to him personally. When he came back to do your house and everything in the park.

DC: In the autumn...

ML: I was standing down by, I still call it Lulu Crapon's cottage, where the Conover's were...but it's still Lulu Crapon's to me, she was like a grandmother to me. She made me lobster newburg every fall before I went home. She was sweet. Anyway, I was standing there, and they were like over there, and anyway, I thought, here I am. And I said, "Mr. Gibson!" And he came over. He was hardly any taller than I was at the time. And I said, "I just want to commend you on how well you did the whole production, your crew was very good." Because he was decent then, and he said, "Thank you very much" And then, later, I don't know what happened to him.

DC: He kind of went over the rails.

AL: He went somewhere, then.

GC: Explain to us how you were related to Bob Leonard.

AL: My mother and Bob's mother were first cousins. Bob's grandfather was Uncle Charlie. My grandmother and Bob's grandfather were brother and sister.

GC: So, because he didn't have a family of his own, he kind of became part of your family.

AL: Oh, yeah. We were very close. We always said we were kissing cousins, Bob and I. And because I was adopted, when he retired (It was very difficult for him to retire. When you've been in the Navy and have been saluted constantly for many years, it's hard to come out of that. He had a very hard time. I know he alienated people. But underneath, he was a very sweet person. He had a problem. It was like, he was at Pensacola, he was the top person at graduation, you know, the one who receives the sword and all that stuff. But in those days, they worked hard all day, they flew everything, and then they went to the Officer's Club and drank like fish. Because it was probably fifty cents for a drink, you know what I mean? And Fred my son, now, deals with a lot of retired, you know, admirals and people in his job, and you know, they all work all day and at the end of the day, they say, "Come on, Let's go, let's go down to the bar. It's just a way of life for them. You wonder how anything, ever... . . . No, Bob was a sweetheart. He had a problem. But you know, whatever.

GC: So, when we look around your cottage, I'm thinking about modern conveniences that we take for granted now, that we didn't used to have.

AL: A lot of things here, were here when my grandmother was here. I try to keep things. . .

GC: The furniture?

AL: ... this came down on the Boston boat (the dining room table)..

GC: What wood is it made out of? It's gorgeous.

AL: I have no idea. Besides, Antique Road Show would tell you that it was a mistake that Sis and Fred redid the top, you know what I mean, but I love it. I always think. . . talk about "If These Cottages Could Talk", what if this table could talk? But, a lot of the chairs, they're a hundred years old. Can you imagine a rocking chair lasting. Of course, it's only used two or three months out of the year, but still-those things wouldn't last today. And we haven't had anything done to them either. I mean, of course we've had the covers redone, but, you know.

GC: What do you see when you look around here?

AL: The pictures are like, "What are they?" But that's where they were, so that's where they are now. Somebody said the other day, "Oh, are those cats of your grandmother?" I said, "I couldn't tell you."

DC: That's a Bill Eldridge, the picture of the young boy? AL: The boy in the straw hat? That's me, way up there. I keep it up there so the mice won't come around. You know, there're things here like: David Hurley did that picture. And the lady next door painted that vase; she went to the Hazleton School of Art.

GC: What about the books?

AL: Those have been there since forever. But those are like the female... my aunt and mother's books. In the corner over here, we have the Joseph Lincoln and those kind of books. And it's funny how I learned of Joseph Lincoln books and I married a Lincoln. There's a lot on the table, things have been here forever.

DC: Does your radio still work? AL: That was my mother-in-law's actually. Now, somehow or other, God knows how I got it.

GC: It's an old one. AL: But it doesn't work. And the table came with it So there it is. It was the perfect spot for it.

DC: And these would have been oil lamps?

AL: Oh, absolutely. Up to....no electricity. GC: But when you were a kid, there was electricity.

AL: Oh, yes.

DC: But not a refrigerator.

AL: No, there was an icebox.

DC: Apparently, when Cobe built the mansion, he brought telephone down and electric power down to the village.

AL: Well, let me tell you, nobody in Bayside had a phone when I was a kid. You went down to the Post Office; there was a pay phone on the porch. Some of the things we overheard people say we overheard over the phone were hysterical. We still laugh about them.

GC: Without giving any names, can you tell us some of them?

AL: Some mother called up her husband and said, "So-and-so has had several beers!" We wondered what he was going to do about it. But all sorts of funny things like that. But, no, when I got a phone was when my husband and I split up and my uncle decided I should have a phone. So that's when we got a phone, I think that was about 1970.

DC: Do you have memories of the Camp Meeting or was it pretty much all gone by then?

AL: No. And I'll tell you, not to sound snobbish, but from here up, nobody was involved with "Bayside". My mother never came to "Bayside". . . She came to "Northport".

DC: And it was the North Shore.

GC: So "Bayside" meant something to you?

AL: Yes, it was basically, as you know, a Methodist Campground. I was not allowed to walk to the Post Office until I was ten. And the Collett's, Janet Collett Pattee's parents, owned the house opposite the Conover's. Mr. Collett said, 'Does your mother know you walked into town all by yourself?' I remember that. . . so funny.

GC: And what did parents fear could befall a young child at that time? AL: I don't know. I think it was the idea that we lived in Boston, and she couldn't let me out of her sight on the street, so it took her, you know, a while to think that I was able to walk to the Post Office by myself.

GC: There are still parents that come here, renters, that come here, renters from cities.....

AL: I know. They have no idea.

DC: You, as an only child, your mother probably wanted to know where you were most of the time.

AL: I always say to everybody, Do not have only one child! because it's very difficult on the child, and it's very difficult on the parent, and my mother was a single parent, which made it even worse. I felt like I had a light shining on me, and I said, " I will never have only one child," and I had eight!

DC: When your children were all of these various ages, they went where they would?

AL: Yes, when Fred came up here, he said, "Mom, we'll see you Labor Day." There were rules. They had to tell me where they were going, when they left the house, and they had curfews. They had to be home at specified times. My son, I never gave a curfew to, because he was so self-disciplined himself, and he was the only boy, and I didn't want him to feel confined with all the sister females, but he was very disciplined himself.

GC: He was never out 'til three in the morning.

AL: With the others it would be like, "Oh, we're going to sleep on the porch!"

GC: That old line.

AL: Well, they'd be up and Hoorah! Al Keith says he found Meredith in a rowboat down by the dock at two in the morning. "Does your mother know you're here?" Meredith went, "Yes."

GC: "She sent me here."

AL: She told me to come and row around." That's what people did. "We're going to so-and-so's house, the other person is going to somebody else's house."

GC: The oldest game in the world....

AL: They're having a blast. But they weren't terrible kids. They were good kids, they had fun! Fred said to me one day, "I thought you knew what we were doing and you just wanted us to have a good time."

GC: You know, kids do the same thing here that they do everywhere else. And that might include even having a beer. . .

AL: Absolutely. Out in the woods.

GC: Yes, but the fact that they're not driving... They're walking... sneaking up to the golf course... and drinking... .

AL: In my day, there were a few boys that would go way up somewhere and have a few beers, probably had one or something, but that was... whatever. This house, you know, this house used to be parallel with the red house.

DC: And they moved it back?

GC: Why?

AL: Well, take a look. DC: The bank is falling into the bay.

AL: We would have been over the banking. My son just spent a fortune to have a wall put in up here, because it erodes from the top, not from the bottom. You know, where the seawall is and the deck.

DC: So did the kids have anything like your twice-a-week dances?

AL: No, not really. They would try to have things down at the Yacht Club. People, in the beginning, sometimes would come, but then it got so, like, I don't know.....

GC: That was a more unstructured era. There are more organized things now. AL: No, there were dances when my kids were younger, but it kind of phased out when, I don't know, when people became more sophisticated.

DC: Who were the good dancers?

AL: Probably Jeannette Tardif.. . Jeannette hooked up with Dryden Dutch. They were the best dancers. They would do jitterbug, they were terrific. The older people, some of the mothers would go up and sit and watch, and they'd say, "Why aren't you dancing?" Those were the days when people "went with" somebody, you know, and everybody went steady with somebody.

GC: Were there summer romances? that actually ended up together.

DC: The Witherills.

AL: And Zelma and Jo.

DC: Of course, that's quite a few, actually.

AL: But they weren't going together here. They didn't get together, I mean, we were all friends. Jo and I go back to when we didn't walk, but they got together more when she was in New York and Jo was in New York. No, everybody was friends, but people did kind of go with somebody. In fact the guy I used to go with, his wife passed away, and he came back about...I don't know, whenever it was... Steve!!! and we had fun, we had a good time, and then one day, I said something about James Perry, and he said to me, "Who's James Perry?" And I said, Whoah!!!" Now I know why I broke up with the guy. But, no, it wasn't anything. I had told him from day one, I do not want to get married again. And I never... we didn't... but we had fun. That was about it.

GC: Do people keep in touch with one another in the winter?

AL: Yes. People would write letters. People wrote letters. Back then, people wrote letters.

GC: Because now, I can see, for example, that your son, Fred and Lindsay Huntoon keeping in touch...

AL: Lindsay and Dan aren't that far away. Sis and Fred both live Arlington...

DC: In those days it was penny post and at most three cents a letter, to send a letter.

AL: Exactly. But the thing is, I have letters that my grandmother wrote, and people aren't going to have anything like that to look back on.

GC: Do you have anything like... ? You heard about, Rob Fairchild**** from letters. She wasn't here, your grandmother....

AL: My grandmother, no. My mother and my aunt were, and they made a lot of friends, had a lot of friends. In fact, my mother's fiancée came from here and he died in the Flu Epidemic. . .

DC: in 1918 or 1919.

AL: So that was it. She never married. So, you know what I mean, that's what happens to people. Somebody's husband died, she was never with another man. She took her engagement ring, put it in the vault, and it stayed there until Meredith got her divorce. I promised her, when she got divorced, I'd give her my mother's ring.

GC: Good one, Adelaide.

AL: No, she came to the house that day. Fred happened to be there. We had champagne, we drank champagne, and Fred said to me, "Mum, didn't you promise Meredith you were going to give her that ring?" And I went, "Oh, yeah." I went upstairs and got it for her. It's a beautiful ring. It was never worn. It stayed in the vault for years, the old ****cut and everything. So, Meredith has that.

GC: And did you family have any customs that you do in Bayside. Didn't you tell me that, for example, when you'd drive over the line into Maine, they'd all Yahoo!

AL: Oh yes, they all would yell and holler and scream. Of course we were all laughing. Because we used to make sandwiches, my mother-in-law would make them when the kids were little, and we would be backing out of the driveway, driving down the street, and Sis would say, "Open the sandwiches!" and we'd be like two minutes away from the house.

DC: Are we in Maine yet?

AL: You know, the other day, we were having *****. "It's time for the sandwiches!" But, no, the kids were as ecstatic as I used to be coming over the bridge. And my grandson, Meredith's son Adam, was just here for a whole week.

GC: So what's different when you're walking around or driving around?

AL: I don't know so many people. You know, you walk down the streets not knowing who the people are. Sometimes you say "Hello!?" and they look at you as if you're not right. ""Hello?! Hi?!" and they look "Who are you?", and unfortunately,

sometimes you go places, my group, and people hardly speak to you. It's weird.

GC: So it doesn't seem as open and friendly.

AL: No. Let's face it.

GC: There aren't many of us left.

AL: We're like the Last of the Mohicans, in some ways.

DC: But in your day, you spent the whole summer here, you knew your neighbors, and that went on for a long time.

AL: Right. As I say when it comes down to something at the Yacht Club, the younger generation has taken on the aegis and very rightly so. But there aren't that many of us left.

GC: You feel at times invisible.

AL: I feel like maybe two or three people might say hello. I mean, they certainly know who I am. But it's like Junior and Freddy. Junior said Fred was my first friend here...

GC: Who is Junior...?

AL: Junior Allen. We still call him Jojo.

GC: I do, too.

AL: Yeah. He said Fred was his first friend. And Junior's sister, Janelle*, she was a character. I think they were fourteen, she said, "Would you like a daiquiri?" And, of course, they're like fourteen, and they're like, "Sure." And it's, you know, when you live in Boston, and you're looking back, compared with some of the things that go on today, I don't mean necessarily here, it's all very innocent.

DC: They referred to Park Row variously as Paradise Row and Rum Row.

AL: Um-hmm?

DC: Was there any reason to call it Rum Row?

AL: No idea. I didn't really know anybody...I didn't really know people there. I mean, I knew Sally Wilson. And, of course, I knew Peg (Lovejoy). Peg and ***** grew up together, best friends. They were exactly ten years older than I. I'm so happy to see Teddy (Lovejoy) back at the house. He has a lovely wife.

GC: Tell us a little bit about Betty Chittick.

AL: Betty grew up here also. Her father used to own the Inn.

GC: Her maiden name was?

AL: Stoll. Betty Stoll. Her parents owned the Inn. They would rent out the Inn for occasions, like when the Masons would come for their parades and things, and Mrs. Stoll would cook. She was a fabulous cook. And Betty was a fabulous cook, she was a gourmet cook, and when Betty was alone, she was still making herself three-course meals when I was having a dish of cereal, you know. But Betty and I knew each other from the time she was sixteen. And at that time, you knew everybody; you might have hung around with a different little group, but you just knew everybody. And then, of course, we both got married and had children, and when Betty and I got back together, really a lot, was when she moved back to Merrithew Square. And then, she and Chick split up, and so that kind of brings you together when you're both alone. So she was very nice to us. Yeah, I remember, poor dear, she didn't have much money and she rented the house, and people in Bayside had a great hoorah about it. "Oh, she's living alone. It's terrible!"

GC: Ohhh!

DC: Those Methodists!

GC: When you were a child, was there a cop? Was there a lifeguard?

AL: There was a lifeguard for the children, not when I was there. But there were a lot of people around. There were always people sailing and people in boats. Like John Short and Ken Parks**; they came from Bangor, so they didn't have that far to travel, so they were here a lot. And they'd be sailing. There were a lot more boats but not so much actual sailing during the week. A lot of the men had retired, so they were here all week. The dock was always crowded. I suppose, if somebody was around, somebody would have saved them.

GC: It was this summer. It was mobbed this summer. AL: Was it really? GC: Really crowded this summer. People were *****

DC: The bathing attire?

AL: I always say, if my mother came back, she'd faint. Look on TV, if my mother came back and ever saw the things on TV, she'd faint.

GC: So did you wear a nice modest Catalina one-piece suit?

AL: I was never allowed to wear a two-piece suit. I had to wear a one-piece bathing suit. Meredith is the only one to get me in the water, when she's here, she gets me in the water. God awful! It's so funny. When we go in the water, the rocks are slippery, and I broke my back about five years ago, and I'm so afraid of falling. But we'd be ***** , I think. I'm so afraid of falling, because I don't want to break my back again.

GC: So we're sitting at the table and we're looking at this beautiful book that Adelaide's daughter Adelaide and her son Fred put together for her on her 80th birthday. And there are just beautiful pieces about memories of the cottage, and we're going to take turns reading it. OK. It's not very long but it's very meaningful. Do you want to start?

AL: "Each of us have wonderful memories of Bayside that will last a lifetime and beyond. The blessing of coming to the cottage each summer is more than anyone will ever know. When we think of summer, we think of the cottage. Memories of growing up in the friendly home are deep in our hearts. With each new summer, we add to those memories."

DC: "No one can ever take away what this family means to each of us. It is because of you, Mom, that we know what family means—love, commitment, and being there for each other. We love you because you love us."

GC: "You mean the world to each and everyone of your children, grandchildren, extended family." Wonderful!!! Lovely!!

AL: I am so fortunate that I have such a loving family. Everybody loves each other, and they all love me, and it's just, it's wonderful.

GC: You can't ask for better than that.

AL: Not that people might not get provoked with somebody, but nobody ever has a face-to-face argument. Can you believe that? I'm the hub, of course, so I get to hear things... Why did so-and-so do that?.... 'cause I'm the hub.

GC: So it all goes to you, and you calm people down?

AL: I'm the peacemaker, but no one is in*****. We're very fortunate.

GC: And so, how many grandchildren now?

AL: I've got twelve grandchildren, and my youngest is three, four years old.

GC: And they've all been to Bayside?

AL: Oh, yeah. I shall show you my little great-granddaughter. She was here this spring.

END OF FIRST TAPE