

JOSIAH P. HUNTOON INTERVIEW Reel #1 Side A &B

Interviewed by Mary Firca July 20,20t)l

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Jo, can you tell me how your family came to Bayside?

My earliest knowledge is my great grandmother came down here either during the camping meetng times or soon after that and bought the cottage that Jack and Fleta Metcalf are now living in; it's the street that runs up from Blair's.

Main Street?

No, it's one over from Main Street.

My grandmother and her sister, Anna Ayer, lived in that cottage for a number of years until she married my grandfather, Ralph Lindsay Flanders. She and my grandfather finally moved from that cottage and rented what is now the Crofoot's house which then was owned by Ira Cobe. I recall in the early 1900's or in 1910 or 1912 or thereabouts Cobe was building a new house up on a hill above there which is later became Pingrees and ...so forth and so on. And at the time he completed that house my grandfather bought the house that the Crofoots now live in. And my great aunt inherited the cottage that they formerly had and sold that and then purchased the cottage two houses down the Shore road from my grandfather's. And lived there until she died.

What was her name?

Her name was Anna C. Ayer.

And what was your grandmother's name?

Mary Ayer Flanders.

That house together with a garage/barn across the road above it and to the right a caretaker's cottage and a lot which now contains another house were the original purchase my grandfather made. He later sold the cottage site that now has a green house on it to a family from Philadelphia and then was passed on to several families.

Question missing. From answer seems to have been 'How long did you stay?'

That would be Oct. 15? The normal turn-off date? October 15 was the normal. shut off period, May 1 the normal turn on period. However, from the way the waterlines run to our house for the summer water, it goes through an area where the ice stayed in the ground a lot longer than other parts of town so we were late in getting our water turned on. There were only some four houses that use that water line, so there was no real immediate need to have the water on. My cousin was the first one here in the summertime and she has the house turned on around May 1st. We on the other hand came as early as March or April. After the water was put on a year long basis we decided that

we would like to be able to come here year round and working with an architect we planned the winterization of part of the house in the addition so we could come up here. What we did was pull out everything north of the kitchen and added a new bathroom, and sitting room and insulated the kitchen so that within the house we have a year round suite that we could use being able to turn the water off and on at will.

Tell me about other changes. What other changes...like water and telephone?

As a kid, back in the early thirties, and comparing it to today, the things I remember is that our hot water in our house came from the wood-burning stove we used in the kitchen with the pipe running through the stove and up into a holding tank in the ceiling. So that we had hot water only when the stove was on. Later on we converted that to a manually controlled hot water system where you had a system that said high, low, medium and off. Once you turned it on it didn't go off until you turned it off. And in several instances, we forgot and had nothing but steam in the system, then we remembered to turn it off. The other, probably, most dramatic change was the use of telephones. When we first came here my grandfather was on an eight party line. This was probably in the 20's because I know in the 30's we graduated to a four party line. The kids always picked up the phone to see who was talking and very quietly listened, while the people were on line.

Like wire-tapping?

That's right. When people talked too long, you asked them politely, if they would get off so you could talk. The most interesting thing I remember about my grandparents' home was my great aunt that lived two houses down and would eat with us on many occasions and what my-grandmother would do was crank the phone twice to let aunt Anne to know it was suppertime and to come on up. And during the 30's and 40's there were few cars, if any, around here. MY family had a car during the summers we were here. In my grandfather's area there were something like four or five different sectors of the family were coming over, so someone always had a car.

What land of cars do you remember?

The earliest car I remember, I think my mother had a late Model T convertible. My grandmother was the only one that drove; and she used to have a four-door Ford. Her sister, who was a traveling saleslady for a greeting card company, had Pontiacs.

This was in the 30's'?

This was in the 30's. In the 40's, I had another aunt that moved to Boston -she drove a Dodge. Most of the other people, during the war, I remember, had no cars. After the war was over, you began to have people come down for the summer, and several of the men commuted by car to Bangor. We had several school teachers who had cars. The cars.... in hot weather (??), didn't come here until the 50's and 60's. There were no washing machines or dryers in the houses; people went to Belfast for their laundry.

Did they have people here in Bayside who did laundry?

I don't remember, the only thing I can remember is the laundry in Belfast and that's where everything went.

I noticed on one of the old postcards that with a picture of Broadway and had a sign, "laundry". That was in 1910. That was before your time.

That was before my time and in an era when Bayside had lot more commercial establishments. As I said some time before, I remember almost three or four stores in Bayside in the 30's and 40's and then of course in the 50's when people starting having cars everyone went to Belfast, anyway to do their shopping. And then the stores here died.

Prior to that people shopped in the village?

Most of people did do their shopping at Hastings or at Tibbets They didn't have cars. It was very difficult to get into Belfast during the war....During the 30's I just don't remember how many people here were in Bayside. It seems to me that many of the houses were vacant.

Do you remember ration cards?

I remember ration cards very well. I said during the war, we had here in Bayside a sailing school which was run by Marion Eaton, a teacher from Ridgewood, New Jersey whose roots were in this area and she was always trading the meat stamps for other stamps. The word being that the camp lived on peanut butter and jelly rather than on hamburg and meat.

How did you learn that?

I have no idea, I just heard it, and you would have to ask Dick Lagner or somebody who was in the camp.

(Inaudible section)

How did the people get the word out to each other, there were no telephones, other than your grandmother notifying your aunt by ringing the phone.

People didn't use telephones. They used themselves, as far I can find out, I just don't remember. I think most of my grandfather's friends had phones, but I know that most of my wife's friends, who spent their summers here in the forties, did not have phones.

Did they walk more then?

People walked all the time. As a kid, I spent the entire time on foot around here, and no one had bicycles. There was a public phone at what is now Blair's building. So people

could call to get things or they needed to make calls somewhere they had that use. But I just don't remember cars around here or people calling on the phone. If you wanted someone, you went out and looked for them.

Were there any parking spots?

No, there were no parking spots. In fact, one of the things I remember during the wintertime one year we were up here, we were up here one winter, I take sled from the intersection from Cobe road and Shore Rd and slide all the way down to the wharf. Because there was no sanding and the roads were slightly used. The Corporation as such turned off the water supply in the fall completely; the lights were turned off in the fall, because there was just a minor amount of families. The first winter water supply came in here probably in the early 50's, when my aunt and uncle got my grandfather's cottage and he ran a winter line from the then reservoir to his house in order to get decent water because the existing water was no good.

This is the house that David and Beverly Crofoot live in. Then that water line ran from his house down into where Ruggles Park is, as I remember. And the other way it ran down about four houses and stopped where Hill White's father lived year round after retiring from the Cambridge area and it stretched from there. As various people winterized their houses or wanted to stay there later in the year, they would add on to the system. Each person paying for the cost of extending the year round water system.

You mention lighting. Were the streetlights shut off? To my mind, I don't remember a lot of streetlights. I know by Ruggles park there was some street lights. I know that there were some out by the intersection by the golf course and I think there were several down on the South Shore road. I'm not sure where lights were at other places. I'm sure there were some up around Merithew Square. I don't remember an awful lot.

Do you remember hearing about gaslights from your grandmother? Cobe, when he built the house, far I can discern from what my grandmother said, put in a gas lighting system. That is, my grandmother told me when the house was electrified; the electric cords were pulled through the old gas lighting system. And from the way the lamps were positioned in the house with the bulbs going up rather than down, that certainly indicates that it was originally a gas system.

Was this house originally a gas system?

No. As far as I know, as far as my cousins were concerned it was electric. When we moved in here the capacity of the system was 25 amps and it is now 200 plus with the electric heat. We found out, inadvertently, when we used hot water, the hot water tank was wired to 110 volts rather than 220. You could take one bath, and then wait all day for hot water to come back. For my cousin, who was single, that was enough.

I was talking about the water heater. We found out this out and got an electrician down here who rewired it for 220 volts and increased the average to 100 amps so we could have hot water in the house. The other thing that happened over time is that dishwashers, washing machine have come to Bayside. Most houses it seems to me now that get renovated seem to wind up with dishwashers. Many houses now have an extra bathroom, most of the houses when I was a kid would have a lavatory, a sink in the kitchen, and perhaps a sink in the bathroom and some had tubs and some didn't have tubs. Most of the people had tubs, but I know several houses that did not have tubs just a sink.

What did they do?

They used the sink. Some people used them as day houses and didn't wash.

Were there outhouses, here?

I don't remember outhouses, but the early, and this is back in the late 1800's, and probably earlier than that when they had the society cottages here for camping, they talked about the women's walk and the men's walk. Which indicated they had outhouses in one corner, the upper corner and the lower corner of the camp meeting area, as the houses did not have indoor plumbing. And that's exactly where the first sewer systems started. I have an idea when Ira Cobe was building his houses; I know he built sewer systems. In fact, there was sewer line that ran from his house up on the hill down by my grandfather's house into the water, which we were attached to. And I know that other sewer systems were added later on because of outfalls, one by the wharf, one about halfway down Shore Road. It turned up, and had to be adjusted so that when we redid the sewer system a number of years ago.

Did Ira Cobe still own the house your grandfather bought?

He was building the mansion. From what we can find out from the paper, my grandfather rented the cottage for one or two years and then bought it and at this time Ira Cobe was in his new mansion up on the hill.

So he rented it out while he was building?

I doubt it, I would have to go back, and I think that paper talked a little bit about it. But my feeling is that my grandfather rented it when Cobe was just moving in up there. I don't think Ira would have not been in here for a couple of summers. But it talks about the Flanders family renting the cottage and having some sort of party there at the time.

Did you hear of any stories about Mrs. Cobe being deathly afraid of fire? And that was one of reasons he had the brick mansion built?

No, that is the first time I heard of that. I didn't know much about Cobe at all, other than what my grandfather and my aunts and uncles told me about him.

Were there many stories?

No, the only thing I can remember as a kid about Ira Cobe's place, it was the early 30's when I was a kid before Pingree bought it. He had a caretaker, and one time I went up with the caretaker and went through the house that seemed absolutely black in midday because the curtains were drawn and the electricity wasn't on, and fixed up so it wasn't going to be used, kept in half-way decent condition.

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About cousins downstairs in the house. ??????????. That doesn't surprise me a bit. Because there was no fire department here, as such. I don't remember one as a kid. I don't know when the Northport fire department was organized. I do know that during my time as a kid that there was one extensive fire on the South Shore that burned down three or four houses.

Was this during the 30's?

During the 30's: I was pretty sure it was during the 30's. I'm not sure. And I also know that the house that Sybil Kuhnle and her mother and grandmother lived in on Bayview Park had a house immediately to the north of it. Back towards the Shore Road.

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No this was just north of Sybil's house; it would be the second house up from Bayview Street.

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And it burned down one day.

There is a lot there now?

Yes, the lot between that house and the one that Bob Leonard's mother owned and it burned down. I've heard stories that they were very worried about it. The way it could be contained. I'm not sure what fire department was there for them. There was always a lot fear of fire here.

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Right. And this is one of the reasons that the early zoning laws in Bayside was to have people when they repaired their houses put fire proof shingles on their roof so that if a fire came there was some hope that the fire wouldn't spread.

When was that?

Forties, I think. John Dykstra's father, I believe, was the man who drew up the first zoning.

I notice then, I heard there was a fire near your house?

About 1986, the house immediately to the north of us, which is owned by Chris Eldridge's father at the time, one Sunday morning, it burned, unfortunately, both the senior Eldridge's who were in the house, suffocated, and the fire departments here in Northport and Belfast were able to put the fire out. Several years before that or after that the house further up burned up, I'm not sure which one it was. Bringing water to either one of those fires was a very difficult thing since there were little if any fire hydrants in the area.

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We have now, three or four fire hydrants, before the hydrants they had to pump the water from the reservoir.

Where is the reservoir?

The reservoir is on the Bluff Road~ south of the golf club.

That's where the water station is?

That's where the water- station is.

Speaking of water, have you noticed a big change in the terrain along the ocean?

We've had erosion, we are on clay here, and the water did collapse part of our bank. In Auditorium Park it collapsed the banking both in the park and the house formerly owned by Gordon Fuller. To the point where the entire foundation was left standing out in the open. On the south shore, several of the shore cottages had some erosion. I don't think any really dramatic erosion. The house that Handlers have, had a granite seawall built on it, right after it was built the first year or second year a bad storm and all the granite rocks were disturbed and I think after that they put a much more practical seawall by rip-rapping rocks rather than having random blocks. We've also had some erosion further down, where Hill White lived, where the top section of the bluffs went some, and Adelaide Lincoln's house has had some serious erosion from top down. Besides the surface water gets into the clay and it slips. We had some erosion from storms but we lost one or two feet at the most from that direction. It's really the surface water getting under the clay and having it slip down caused us to put our seawall in.

You mentioned storms. Do you recall any really bad ones?

We've always had-Northeasters in the fall. The most dramatic one, I remember, I was a freshman or sophomore in college, was up here late one fall, standing with Sybil down by the yacht club and at high tide, the seas were sending sprays six to ten feet high over the sea wall that was there, then. Later on, maybe ten years ago, we had the remnants of a hurricane come up. We sitting here, actually, saw the eye of the hurricane, or what was left of it to come through the Bayside area--strong wind, then absolute dead calm, the reversable of the wind coming from the other side. It came up from the south originally and turned around northerly. Fortunately, for us the hurricane did not come directly into

Bayside. The other interesting thing that happened whenever a big storm comes, by and large, every active body in Bayside meets down around the wharf and they start hauling every boat in sight and put it in Ruggles park. Everyone brings their trailer down and gets in the water, put their boats on the trailer, puts them up in the park, and go through the system until they can get every boat in. Other people go out to make sure the boats that can't be brought in are adequately tied to their moorings, and all the loose gear is tied down. It's a real community effort.

What other community efforts are there at Bayside? .

Of course, as I mentioned before, during the war, a number of parents worked together, to make the kids recreation activities have some supervision, some purpose. After the war, we had Walter Downs start up a sailing program, which was probably one of the better things that has happened to Bayside. Parents have been at work with the yacht club, had junior yacht club programs. We now have the Historical Society that gives some areas of social activities for people, who aren't truly really interested in water activities.

How about music?

Music is dead for intents and purposes at the present time. During my grandfather's era, because of his relationship with the Boston Symphony, and the Conservatory of Music Cobe used to have musicales here and other social activities of that type. We also, had a number of social activities up at the golf course that I can remember - dances at various times. And other social activities my grandfather referred to, but as to their nature, I don't know. The only other thing I remember about the golf club during the early 30's, is that they did have some slot machines up there. I guess we kids would slip up and use up our change.

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During the war, as I mentioned before, Eleanor Fuller was prevailed upon to provide her phonograph records, and every Tuesday night and Saturday night practically every kid in town went up to the community hall for a couple of hours, for those who could dance, danced, and parents had a social hour as they sat alongside and watched the kids and talked.

Were there live dances there?

After the war, there were a couple of live dances. Our niece organized one, one time, and it was a huge success, to the point where the cottage that we were living in just south of the community hall, absolutely vibrated from the music.

The caretaker's cottage?

The so-called caretaker's 'cottage, right. After the war, in the forties and early fifties, but they had a dance pavilion down in Rockland I think it was called Oakland.. And those of us who had cars, or access to cars used to take our dates down there and dance to a five or six piece band. There was an open hall where the windows were opened up so that you

were open to the night air. I think the dance ran to twelve, and I can remember going down there for two or three years, sort of the after effects of what our older brother and sisters had during the thirties, with all the big bands. They had everything down there. There was some jitterbugging, some fox-trotting, I just don't remember. Everyone that could have a chance went down there.

I would like to see them have a live dance, I'm sure there a lot of people who would.

One of the problems with this band,' from' the aspect, was noise and one of the stories that relates to the community hall is that several families that lived near there, when live music was being played got very upset and tried to have the community hall condemned.

Did they?

This was in the sixties. And there was a meeting of the overseers where they were talking about closing the community hall down. Anne Rice happened to be at that meeting, and was very upset to the point that she went back to her husband and they had a meeting of several people of their own age, including us, and the Witherills and I forget who else, where she reported what was going on and her husband went up to the community hall and inspected it and said that this was not the case, and with a few minor repairs, we could save the community hall..

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Oh no. They thought people, the music was getting people on their mind and they didn't want to be repaired. So Don on his own account, had the community hall re-roofed, and put the word out, that it cost \$2500. and anyone that was interested, could contribute to a community hall fund that was established and from that time on, parties were had, and fund raisers were had to maintain the community hall, including putting under-pinning on and strengthen with wire cables and upgrading the community hall at times. To a point where the corporation finally put a concrete foundation to get a decent support and now has put rafters in the ceiling to support it further.

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This took place when I was president, which would have been in the late eighties, early nineties. One interesting story I remember about the old community hall was before its foundation was (repaired) after my youngest daughter Wendy was married, we had a wedding reception several months after she was married, at the community hall. With the old under-pinnings. And Dick Tardif spent much of that reception underneath the community hall, shimmying up the posts so they wouldn't fall over because of the good times that were being had by the people up there.

The other interesting thing that happened at the wedding reception is that her husband, Amro, is Egyptian and Lebanese and he and his mother did a traditional wedding belly dance that normally takes place at middle eastern weddings. This brought down the house since most people had never seen this type of stylized dancing.

Not literally.

No, not literally

Because Dick Tardif was making sure it wouldn't happen! This happened when? T

Ten years ago.

Anything else that you would like to talk about? Special people or events?

Well, one of the things, that is interesting to my mind, is the water system. The water system when I was a kid here, had a reservoir where it is located now, but the water supply came from a spring the other side of Route #1. This then developed into a couple of wells being built driven in town with the reservoir being discontinued and a holding tank and a treatment facility put in. We then ran into the problem as Bayside expanded we were literally running out of water in the summertime and had to have it trucked in from Belfast. Now, being on Belfast water supply, with no water problems, there is a good source of water being available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Where just before we went on to this, , we were never sure, in August, if we would have water or not.

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The well water we were using had a tremendous amount of rust in it. It required extensive treatment and if the treatment wasn't absolutely 100% perfect, the water was very, very, bad, badly discolored. Just before the Belfast water was installed here, I had a filter on all water coming into the, house, and that filter had to be replaced every two weeks, because of all the impurities in the water.

And just one more thing about your family. You noted earlier that the families used to stay here all summer but now that is changing.

Yes. When I was a kid I used to come up May 1 and go back Oct. 1 when school began. Later on, when we lived in Illinois, we would come as Soon as school was out and go back just before school started up again. When in Washington, DC when I was there, our kids were able to do the same when we moved back from Atlanta to Boston area.

However, most of my children's friends, when they were getting to the point where they were having families could only spend a week or two weeks or maybe a month in the summertime. Cottages were beginning to turn over, as the descendants of the original owners weren't here all summer and the cottages began to cost substantial amounts of money to maintain and they didn't think it was worthwhile. This again seems to be changing right now as my daughter has now two or three friends that spend the summer here, so this tide seems to be changing somewhat back to as it was when we were kids, giving some stability to the kids in the area so they can have a friend here all summer, rather than one or two weeks at a time, which is still the case I would say for 80 to 90 percent of the people. But hopefully, this tide will change and people will be able to spend some whole summers here, again.

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I don't remember renters. I am sure they were here: But the kids I played with in the summer were always in the same cottage. It was either their parent's or grandparent's cottage. Our kids were pretty much the same way. The problem came as these houses increased in cost. The cottage Zelma's aunt bought in early forties for \$600. furnished is now going for probably about \$100,000. The whole economics of owning a house has changed to the point where you have to rent them to make it economically feasible to maintain a cottage here. For instance, the first year I owned this house, I paid a water bill of \$42, which is now around \$500. There was no sewer bill until ten or fifteen years ago. The average sewer bill is now \$240. Taxes on this house probably tripled to quadrupled from the first year I paid taxes. If you add this all together, and if you have a mortgage on the house, the cost of maintaining without renting it out is fairly stiff, even for a family has two people bringing home adequate income.

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We had some good friends who sold their cottage for the princely sum of \$78,000. I did some calculations that it was going to cost them \$500 or \$600 a month to maintain that house. They did not live in the area, they lived down in the Mary land, Washington area, Probably could be up here for only two or three weeks a summer and for some \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year to be here for only two weeks. You just can't do, you would have to rent it, and in that case, they let their parents sell it. It wasn't worth their time to keep it.

Anything else, Jo, before we finish?

I can't think of anything.

You were talking about Cobe's original purchase.

Right, the original purchase. Cobe, as I understand it, owned from the waterfront to Route 1 at that time. Running from the edge of the Crofoot's property, running from down, essentially, to the creek and then some distance back.

More than 10 acres?

God only knows. . I think the Pingree estate as I call it has some 40 acres. My grandfather's place was probably, at the maximum, a couple of acres. The other house that we lived in was the caretaker's cottage which we lived in when I was teenager, and then after I was married, we used the cottage for a number of years and then later on, we inherited the house at 78 Broadway which was owned by a cousin of my grandfather's, Vaughan Hamilton, and his wife Julia Hamilton, who also lived in the Boston area at the time.

What was your grandfather's occupation?

My grandfather was the general manager of the New England General Conservatory of Music and Vaughan was an accomplished musician, and was a violinist at the New England Conservatory, also, and at the BSO. A couple of interesting thoughts about

Vaughan was that he was a very close friend of Pierre Monteux when he was a conductor of the BSO. My cousin Julia used to sit with Mrs. Monteux at concerts. He was a good friend of Arthur Fiedler, both of them having been to this house. Probably, the more interesting thing is that Harry Ellis Dickson was his student, and during the time that after Vaughan retired, Harry had Vaughan's chair at the BSO.

Do you know how they originally found out about Bayside?

Vaughn and Julia found out about 'Bayside from my grandfather. During sort of the heyday of its existence, a number of people related to the BSO and the New England Conservatory, visited here and to some extent bought houses. The only other one that I know that was with the New England Conservatory of Music was a family that lived down by Kelly's Cove by the creek. Her niece or nephew now owns the cottage I knew her as Aunt Alice and she was a very colorful redhead that taught singing, I believe, voice. Julia also talked about the time at the Cobe house where they used to have musicales and I think at various times probably some members of the Conservatory or the BSO were up here as part of those concerts from the way Julia talked.

They were drawn to the area?

They were drawn to the area originally through my grandmother's family. My grandfather married into it and related families that came here through association with my grandfather.

Were they Methodists? Did they come to the campground when it was active?

As far as I can find out, the Methodist campmeeting had no effect on my family's residence here in Bayside. My family, to be polite, was not a church going type of group. One of my memories growing up, was every night in the living room of my grandfather's house, two tables of bridge would be set up with a slight challenge of two cents a hundred for the score which was kept very accurately and a side table that, shall we say, did not hold soft drinks.

What years are we talking about?

We're talking about, as best as I can remember, is probably '33 or '34. People, I remember at this time. through my grandfather and my mother. Starting with the south shore, there was a family called Mortimer? He was an engineer from New York. There were the Mannings, another engineer from New York who lived in Englewood, New Jersey who had two children, approximately my age, Hugh and Judy. Then down on what is now Rogers Lane, at the foot of the street was a family called the Glasters. He was with the Great Northern Co. Above him in John Crowe's house was a person I knew as "Bro" White who had a grandson Al Clements who I played with, and above that was the Roger's cottage, now owned by the grandsons of the Rogers (i.e. the Websters). Bobby Webster, she and my mother were contemporaries. She was then Bobby Rogers. Another good friend was Dolly Crapon.

Zelma, do you remember what Sybil's mother's name was? She is identified for this purpose as Sybil's mother--Dolly Kuhnle and later married an architect from the Boston area called Dan Sawyer. Dolly had two children, Brent and Sybil, who we grew up with. Brent was, to my knowledge, a fair amount older because he was at MIT when I was wandering around here.

Who was the most colorful character who you can recall?

The most colorful character I can recall was a guy called Captain Goodwin--actually there were two of them--and then there was Jack McClaskel (sp?). Captain Gooden ran a boat that was hired out for lobster bakes and various types of parties. We used to go over to Marshall's Cove on his boat and have clambakes. Jack was the local trash collector and ice delivery man. I remember when he used to deliver ice into our icebox, and more importantly, Jack was known for counting the liquor bottles in the trash can and reporting throughout the community how many bottles were in each trash can. My grandmother had a very good solution to this, as David Crofoot found out after he bought the house. Because of the number of people in our house, there were always a few extra bottles to be disposed of, and she used to throw them over the banking every morning. When David started to clean up the bank one time he found all this broken glass which was the result of probably of forty or fifty years of disposal of inappropriate garbage.

You created your own little landfill.

That's right.

What made the first character—the lobster boat man so colorful?

Well, Captain Gooden just because he was Captain Gooden and was probably the first boat I ever was on and going over to Marshall's Cove at my age of six or seven seemed to be about the end of the earth. And McCaskel just because he was sort of a crazy old man.

You remember what he looked like? Was he tall, heavy?

Captain Gooden, have no idea, no idea. Jack McCaskel. I remember was sort of a thin, average height, older man.

Were they married?

That I don't know. Jack, had what seemed to me was a 1924 pickup truck. Who knows what it really was.

Did they live right here in the village.right here in the village?

Captain Gooden, I believe, lived in the house that Peter Allen now has lives. Where Jack McCaskel, I have no idea.

Did they die here?

They disappeared off the face of the earth as far as I'm concerned.

That makes them a big mystery.

Right

A very colorful mystery.

Another group of people I remember as a kid, was Harry Emmons. He lived diagonally across from my grandfather's house in a group of three houses. He and his father had the rear most house. He was the town constable and somewhat the caretaker of my grandfather's house.

Below his house, on Shore Road was a family called Predo ,the spelling I have no idea of, who had two children, a boy and girl. The boy I played with extensively. One day in the fall when I was up here I actually went to school with him.

You went to school here?

One day.

What was the name of the school?

I have no idea.

In Belfast?

No, it was right here in Northport at the corner of Belfast Road and Cross road. It is no longer there. It was a one-room schoolhouse. Later on, on the other side of the road was the original version of the Bayside school. The gas station was run by a guy by the name of Harry Pierce? He had, I guess it was after the war, a mechanic. called "slim."

World War II?

Yes, World War II.

The gas station was relocated to where the Bayside Country store, the Bayside Store, is now when they relocated Route 1 which used to come down Cross St and then go down Bayside road.

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During the war, who knows? Coming up to Bayside, I never came by boat. My grandfather when he was up here during the summer, if he had to go back to Boston, back in the early thirties, I can remember, I going into Belfast, and he was taking the boat back to Boston for business. I can remember, one time, my mother went back with him.

Coming back up, we used to drive from Massachusetts, it was a long day. We would come up the first of May and go home the first of October. We were pulled out of school

and came up. Would drive up through Portland, then up to Augusta, and then to Belfast by some road I don't remember.

A two-lane road?

Very early, basically, tarred roads. The reason they didn't go through Bath was because of the ferry. Once they put the bridge in, we came up through Bath. Later on, I lived out in Illinois we used to come every summer, from Illinois, taking three days to come over the highways. Most of the time going through Detroit into Canada and coming out somewhere around Buffalo. One time, we took the ferry from Buffalo to Detroit. When the war came, we moved to Washington, and came to Bayside by train.

Did the war have any impact on the community here?

During the thirties, Bayside in my estimation was a fairly quiet place. The people I talked with, the friends I played with, was a guy by the name of Robert Leonard, whose house was above Dolly Crapons. It later burned, and his mother later purchased the cottage that is now on the corner of Sea St. and George St. which was originally located down by the creek by the community hall and was a candy store. When Sybil's mother bought it originally, it stayed there as a sort of refuge for kids playing and later made it into a small cottage that Sybil stayed in. When Mrs. Leonard's cottage burned, she bought it and eventually relocated it where it is now.

I wanted to ask you about the effect of the depression on the community. Did a lot of people come into the community during those years?

The Depression as I remember was mostly vacant cottages. I did not know many of the people that lived within the main area of town and down by auditorium park. I don't remember a single person, I played with further down or I was up here in the north end of town. All of the houses could have been empty during the depression or could be full, my feeling is that they were basically empty. We had, I consider, I think less than fifteen boats in the harbor then. I only remember two or three. A gentleman by the name of Collet who was Janet Pattee's father had a big runabout with an outboard motor. Captain Gooden had his boat and there was a Chris craft owned by Evan Basset. I believe that John Short had a sailboat. That's all I remember.

Did the depression have an impact on your family?

No. Not a bit. Once the war started, however, Bayside was a haven for children. There were a number of people who had cottages down here that brought children during the summer. We had a community of fifty to a hundred kids who wandered around and played. Early in the war, my grandfather and the overseers allowed the Community Hall to be opened up twice a week so the kids could have dances, and shows and anything else they wanted; so the kids had something practical to do.

So do you look back at that time as a turning point with children, wives here in the community being more attended to with entertainment?

Yes, we had at that time, we had three or four parents that worked very hard, working with the kids. We had Kelly Crosskill who lived in Bangor and whose family was down here. We had a guy by the name of Mulvaney, who was a school teacher in Keene, New Hampshire and spent the summers here, we had the Shorts, we had George Bryant and with his father ran a jewelry store in Bangor, and was interested in kids. We had Heloise Leonard, Bob Leonard's mother who used to run treasure hunts. They and other people, who I can't think of at this time. Spent a lot of time working with the kids.

When we set these dances up, we were very fortunate to have Mr. Crosskill's eldest daughter, Eleanor Fuller, down here in the summer time, who had a Victrola. She volunteered to monitor the dances, and provide the music so the kids could dance, Tuesday and Saturday nights. Gordon Fuller's mother.

You were a teenager at this time?

Right. High school.

You were born in 1928?

Right.

So, during the war years you were thirteen to eighteen.

After the war, I don't know much about the fifties, since I wasn't around here, except at odd times during the summer weeks. We moved to Atlanta, came up for two weeks in the summer time. In 1966, moved back to Boston permanently and started to spend our summers here. As far as I can find out about this during this time, more and more people were coming to Bayside either through family relationships, or because of the location of Bayside to the water and other areas. It was a convenient commuting place for more and more kids who were spending the summers here. During his time, a gentleman by the name of Walter Downs, retired as a schoolteacher and decided to set up a sailing program for the kids. For my mind this was probably one of the most important forward movements for Bayside since most of the kids around here immediately decided to learn how to sail. They started out with three cat boats that the yacht club purchased, winding up with six and running a sailing boat program for 15 to 20 years using. The children that grew up and learned how to sail under this system to teach the younger kids. This in turn, let these children, such as my two daughters, Lindsay and Gwendolyn, or Wendy, they want their own boats. And most or many of the boats at Bayside stay are the result of that sailing program.

Any particular memories of the dock?

The dock, when I first grew up, the dock had a house on it, which was later used by the yacht club. The house also had a place where you could store equipment, and several of the people I knew used to dive off the edge of the roof of that into the water.

Very daring.

Henry Van Fleet was one, and members of the Lightner/ Metcalf family, and there were others. The wharf at that time had only a boat float which we used to swim off of, with there not being many boats, it wasn't much of a problem. Sometimes, and I am not sure exactly when, my cousin, Vaughn had a swimming raft which he donated to the town, which they used as the first swim float, when the activities became too heavy for people to swim off and have boats off the boat float.

Were most of the people using the dock from Bayside or were they coming in from Belfast?

(Transcriber's note: A large part of the end of side A was found missing)

Josiah Huntoon Reel #1 Side B

What do you remember about Belfast?

I remember during the thirties Belfast was an expedition, so I don't remember anyone from Belfast. In the forties, we started to get some of kids from Belfast come down here, working and playing with the summer residents, and I think it probably built up from there, Wendy and had a number of friends from Belfast which meant most of the kids coming down here had cars and people having cars having access to Bayside. The cars, as far as boating was concerned. I don't remember any of the people from Belfast having boats down here, but I'm sure there was a stray boat or two down here. Once the war was over and people starting coming back to Bayside.

So you inherited your house from your second cousins?

Something like that. Vaughn and Julia Hamilton.

Do you remember your mother and father staying here?

Our family, until I inherited this house, basically stayed in the compound my grandfather bought which comprised the house that the Crofoots now own, the barn behind it, the caretaker's cottage.

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We always knew it as the caretaker's cottage. And then my great aunt Anne's house which was two houses down. Growing up there was what we can the big house. My mother, myself, and my mother's older sister, Frances. The elder sister, Evelyn, and her family lived in the caretaker's house. The barn, which was with the old servants' quarters

for the Cobes, had something like five bedrooms in it, which we used at various times for surplus family and to house various people that there were no other houses for within the family.

With all these relatives?

As we go forward, I had also, once we got a little further on, a brother and sister. My sister lived in the garage with Ralph at a later date because there were two apartments. Apparently, in town, as residents. My sister who bought the house that was rebuilt on the site where Harry Emmons lived after those houses burned. My cousin Ralph and his family, my wife, have also summered in Bayside. My wife also summered in Bayside. Her roots were in the Bangor area and her aunt had a cottage here.

Your wife's name?

My wife, Zelma(ed. nee McCormick) Huntoon; her aunt was Francina Morey, who owned the cottage on Main St. which Zelma's nephew, Ken Lopez owns now. And we lived here. In addition, my cousin Ralph's nephew spends time down here some times. In the cottage that my aunt Anne at one time owned which passed on to my aunt Evelyn, was owned by her older son, Snelling, who sold it a couple of years ago. He wanted to remain in North Carolina in the summer time, because his child was getting to an age where coming to this area was

Do you remember the names of any childhood friends?

Childhood friends? Yes, Adelaide(ed. nee Barrack) Lincoln, Sybil (ed.nee Kuhnle) Head. Growing up, Eleanor (ed. nee James) Lagner moved up here during the war and was part of the great bunch of kids that were wandering around. Bob and Jean (ed. nee Thompson) Witherill, Jean spent her summer here, she was from Massachusetts; he was from Waterville, Dick Lagner spent his summers here, at the sailing camp where Eleanor lived in the same area. Then there was the Short family. Had three daughters, Joanne Coughlin, Pammy Trenholm and Mary Ellen Conner. Joanne was several years older than we were and as a result that during the war she pretty much graduated from high school. Her middle sister, Pammy, was the same age as my wife, and they became fast and lifelong friends. There were a number of people who have come and gone. Bob Leonard, we have pictures of Bob and myself playing on the beach as year old kids. Til he died, he spent his summers here. Sybil, Kuhnle, now Head still comes up here periodically.

How did you meet your wife, Zelma?

Zelma's aunt Francina spent her summers in Orono ME. She rented her house in the winter to a schoolteacher who lived in Orono, and spent his summers here in Bayside. He was a man named Tibbets who also ran a store where Blair's real-estate operation is, the store was also the post office. One summer, Mrs. Tibbets asked Francina if she wouldn't mind coming down and taking care of the kids while she canned in the Orono house. Auntie Fran said she would and brought Zelma down here. They stayed for two weeks and at the end of the two weeks, Zelma said she wanted a house down here and Auntie

Fran bought a house. So the next summer Zelma was up full time and I got to know her then.

What year was this?

Forty-three, or forty-four. The summer of 1946 Zelma spent the summer carving her name, address and, I believe, phone number on the wharf, and I moved from Chicago to New Jersey and looking for someone I knew in the area, copied Zelma's phone number off the wharf and called her up that fall. And we started going around, off and on, in '47 and finally married in 1955. One of a number of Bayside marriages, the Lagners being one, the Witherills another one.

Have there been many other Bayside romances?

Well, I would say over the years there was probably a fair amount. Several of my daughter's friends have met people at Bayside, I can't remember who they are. The Metcalfs, she and George Metcalf, Judy (ed. nee Sheehan) met here. Others, I just don't remember.

Did anyone else carve their name in the wharf, was this an acceptable thing to do here?

Carving on the wharf was a time-honored tradition and seems to remain a time-honored tradition so. right up to the present time.

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The problem is that the last reincarnation of the wharf put plastic wood on the deck which cannot be carved. Otherwise my feeling is that the base of the wharf would be filled with initials. That's the first thing anyone did once they got a hold of a knife when they were a kid.

What did they do before the wharf was put in?

The present wharf was put in because the former wharf was condemned.

What year was this?

Zelma, can you remember when they replaced the wharf? Talking about the wharf, there were a number of wharves which were demolished by sea action. The latest wharf came as a result of the previous wharf being condemned because the pilings had eroded to the point where they were only two or three inches thick. It became unstable to a point where it couldn't be used. We were very fortunate that the state came up with probably 95%-99% of the cost of rebuilding it. So we were fortunate to watch as the wharf came down.

One of the first things off it was the old windbreaker, which had years and years of initials on it. At the time they brought this over on the shore with a crane it was sort of

four or five parts and then Dan Webster the third, as he is known, and the son, the fourth, started taking the wharf apart and saving the various initials planks with some idea they might have some use in the future. Blair Einstein gathered them together, and what happened after that, I don't know. Those initials were saved as much as they could be, and at the time they were dismantling this, I believe a number of people gathered around and picked up boards with their initials on them.

Let me talk about the various businesses that used to be here. You mentioned the candy store, a general store, restaurants.

When I was first a kid here, I remember a store at George Street right kitty corner to where the public library is now. Where the Bartlett's house is.
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This is the store (ed. house) that the Weisenbach's now own. It was a general store. The building that Blair was in now, I don't remember what it was when I was a kid, because the building right below it was the post office, and I don't remember anything else being in it but the post office. Then up in the house that I believe Jack and Judy Metcalf live, was a photo place. Those were the only three stores that I remember as a kid. A store used to be up on the corner of George St., the cottage the Bartletts were in, was the Hastings store. Later on, the building that is Blair's, Jason Tibbets put a store in.

What year was that in?

I'm talking about the wartime. The post office was relocated up there. Jason Tibbets had a general store in there during the war, so there were two stores. By that time the photo shop had closed down.

What kind of photo shop was there?

All that I can remember is that there was a photo store up there and I think it was in the Metcalf's house. I just have a bare memory of it.

How about restaurants?

When I grew up here in the fifties, there was nothing here until Madelyn, the wife of the guy that owned the water company. Madelyn Howard, built a store, a restaurant, at the corner of George and Broadway, best as I can define it and opened up a small restaurant there, that was there for two or three years and then closed and was later converted to a private home.
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She was an excellent cook. Later on, my aunt and uncle, the Robinsons, when he retired he opened up what he called the Little River Inn, here at Little River and Madelyn cooked breakfast up there. They were breakfasts that I remember.

What do you remember about them?

Just that they were marvelous breakfasts. What ever you wanted. I think what she basically did down here at the small restaurant she had at Bayside. What happened in the twenties here. We did have an inn here. I believe they served meals but my knowledge of the Inn was as a private home, so I don't know when they stopped using that as an inn. When they stopped feeding people.

Do you remember the smells in Bayside?

The only smells I remember in Bayside are seas.

How about Beans?

No Beans. Well, at my grandfather' house. I don't ever remember it. We may have had beans on Saturday night, I'm sure it was there but I don't remember it.

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Because of where we lived and the only thing I really did in the wharf area was swim off the wharf; I don't remember anything in the park. Where we used to play as kids, we played in Bayview Park. There were a number who lived in that area. Our evening games like kick-the-can were played in Bayview Park. I never played in Ruggles Park. I can't remember anytime I played in Ruggles' Park

Any other games you remember?

That was our basic nighttime game.

Did you ever have a curfew?

I never had a curfew.

Was there a curfew?

There was a curfew in Belfast, I remember during the war at nine o'clock was when the fire whistle blows. But I don't remember, here, any kids, that all of a sudden said, "Oh, I got to go home". When it got dark and you couldn't see anymore, we went home or went to someone's house. But that more and more as teenagers, but with the advent of the activities at the community hall, pretty much where the kids congregated. During the summer

You mentioned there were dances at the community hall?

Dances twice a week, Tuesday and Saturday night with Eleanor running her Victrola. We saved up enough money to buy a Wurlitzer phonograph which we were acquire a lot of records. We, also, during the summer had a variety show. Mr Mulvaney and Mr Crosskeill were the endmen and the kids did various and sundry things. I don't know what else we did.

Did you have movies at the community hall?

Movies at the community hall ended in the twenties, because, as I remember, we still had the projection booth, but that was all. During the thirties and forties when we were here, if it was a rainy day and you had transportation, you go to the matinee in Belfast. I can see us climbing into my aunt's car which was a coupe with a huge trunk in it. The kids packed into the trunk and sitting in the front seat going into the two o'clock movie.

Anyone famous here in Bayside?

Well, Cobe was probably most famous. He was a gentleman who married a lady from Belfast; he owned what my grandfather referred to as a traction railroad company in Chicago, built the house my grandfather later bought and built the big mansion on the hill. It was reported he left money to educate Waldo county students and at one point in time and according to some of the records, tried to have Shore road relocated to go around his property rather than through his property.

Jo, what offices have you held in Bayside?

After we moved back from Atlanta, I was a member of the yacht club and wound up as treasurer and later commodore of the yacht club. Later on got active with the Northport Village Corp. served on the Board of Appeals, was an overseer, and later a president of the corp. where I served five years. This last position to me was sort of very important to me because my grandfather served as president of the corp. for 25 years. It always been sort of a childhood dream that I could follow in his steps.

What major changes have been made?

Starting at the beginning, very few people here, little boating, not alot of people I knew other than family relationships. When we moved back in the sixties, wefrom the group that was here during the forties with lots of families with their kids spending the summer here and active with a lot of close friendships that lasted to today. This has changed with the problems of both parents working today, most of the kids parents come today come one to four periods, one week, two weeks, maybe a month. Another big change that happened over the years is the boating activity that has taken place from few if any boats during the thirties to the yacht club program in the forties where there were few boats racing, to the fifties and sixties where more and more boats racing and probably the high point in the sixties and seventies where in one race we had twenty boats racing in a very active yachting program. With the change in family styles, racing programs has decreased to some extent where they are racing nine or ten boats on an active basis. Many, many, families have boats. During the summer we count up seventy or eighty boats in the harbor ranging from where I live on the north shore to Kelly's cove on the south shore. These boats are not maybe raced as much, but certainly actively used by the people that own them.

End of Interview.

What about architecture changes? I would say the major thing that has happened at Bayside, has not been really architectural changes but preservation. Practically everyone that buys a house here starts fixing it up.