

ORAL HISTORY OF JOANNE SHORT COUGHLIN AUGUST 3,1998

Interviewed by: Gina Cressey

Transcription by: Sandy Hall

Gina: Joanne, I guess the first question I'll ask you is, "Can you tell me a little bit about how your family first came to Bayside?"

Joanne: I don't really know when they started. I have an idea they may have rented before they bought, but my grandmother purchased a cottage in 1927 and it burned to the ground in 1977 and it belongs to the Fields now.

Gina: Can you tell us whereabouts that is located?

Joanne: It's at the top of Main Street. When I was young, the Husseys lived in the cottage that is on the Main Street side of the fire house, and there used to be a well there. In 1927, my grandparents owned a brown Victorian cottage, and there was what they called a woodshed that went along with it and we used that as a playhouse. We stayed with my grandparents until my parents started their cottage, which was 1929, right next door, and they owned all the property up to Bluff Road. And the woodshed was made into a bunkhouse by my father. The property passed from my grandmother to my father to my uncle, and then to Angela Field and her husband, and when my father owned it, he made it into a bunkhouse for my sister Pam and I. And then he deeded it to my uncle and my uncle enlarged it a little bit and made it into a guest house. And then, when the Fields purchased it, they kept it as a guest house until the brown house, the main house, burned down. And then, Angela rented right behind the yacht club for two or three summers, and then she had that building made into a very small cottage for herself. And then, a few years ago, her son enlarged it quite a bit, and now it's gone from the little woodshed to a nice, sweet little cottage.

Gina: Were you in Bayside when that house burned?

Joanne: Yes, I was, and in fact we had just arrived from Florida. My father had died two years before, my mother spent the winter with my sister in Andover, Mass. I stopped in Andover, picked up my mother, and came up here, and we were only here about two days, in June, when the house caught fire. Angela's granddaughter had been staying there, and she had everything all packed up to go back to Connecticut for the weekend, where she lived, for her sister's graduation and she came running up in the middle of the night, around 2 AM I think, 1 or 2 AM, and "Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Coughlin. I've got a fire!" And oh, what a scary thing that was!

Gina: I'll bet. What started it, do you know?

Joanne: Well, we never really knew.

Gina: No?

Joanne: No. It just, it started in the shed; my grandparents had a wooden stove in the kitchen, and that was right under her bedroom, and in fact, I had a bedroom there too, when my grandfather was alone, I stayed there with him, and so I spent many years in that cottage even though I ate at the other cottage. All my belongings were there, I had my own room so it was just like, even though it wasn't in our family any more, it was still...

Gina: In your heart.

Joanne: Yes! Oh, it was a terrible night.

Gina: It must have been.

Joanne: And of course, you know, those old cottages, once they catch fire, they go so fast.

Gina: They do.

Joanne: I went running down with her and we tried... she wanted to go back inside, 'cause her pocketbook with her car keys, her money, her presents she was bringing home everything was right there, and I just didn't dare let her go back in.

Gina: It was good you were there, to dissuade her.

Joanne: Yes. So we pulled all the furniture off the porch before the fire department got there, and when they got there, there wasn't even any hope of saving it. They tried to save the guest house, and then my sister's cottage behind was very close, and when they got there, they said that was at flash point, and they managed to save that, and it was a good thing they got there when they did.

Gina: It is. Because our cottages are so close together, and it could have been worse than it was. Okay, so I'll

let you get back to telling me now the rest of your history, and about your compound up there.

Joanne: All right. So, I think it was in... I forgot to think about the date when... well, my mother bought the property in back on Griffin Street from the firehouse right on up to Bluff Road in 1940, and then I think it was around 1951 or 1952 that she deeded the lower lot, that's probably three or four lots, to my sister Pam, and they started their cottage, and then in 1953 (I was married in '50,) she deeded me the corner lot, and then my father owned on the Main Street side, he deeded the corner lot on Main Street to my husband.

Gina: So that would be the corner of Main and Bluff.

Joanne: And Bluff, is in my husband's name, and the corner of Main and Griffin is in my name, and then the next two lots down were still my mother's, but now my sister Mary Ellen owns their cottage and those two lots, and Pam's daughter Lee Ann owns the lower part, the lower three or four lots. And then, somewhere along the seventies, I believe, or maybe even close to '80, my nephew Steve, Pam's son,...

Gina: Trenholm.

Joanne: Trenholm, right, bought the house across the street.

Gina: Across Griffin Street.

Joanne: Right. And renovated that. And then my sister Pam and her husband had already bought the top part of Griffin and Bluff, and way over to where the little red cottage is next to the water works. And when I was young that was called a ball ground. On the map, the Greenlaw map of the corporation, that shows ball ground, and I can remember... when I was very young, my father and my uncle and all their friends used to have baseball games up there, all the time, right across from the water works.

Gina: And so who owned that land?

Joanne: I really don't know. I have no idea. You know, it was a big, long field then. There was nothing along that road at all then, except down going towards the mountain on Bluff Road, there was a farmhouse on the left, which belonged to the Bryants, and I don't know the name of the people that live there now, and across the street on the property that we bought in 1978, we bought from the Water works down to Evans'...

Gina: That's a very large piece of property. Can you describe the size of it in any way?

Joanne: It's 8 and one-fourth acres, and it goes back to the golf course.

Gina: So for Bayside, that's huge.

Joanne: Yes:

Gina: It's not only big, but it's beautiful, so you have to make sure you tell us what you've done to it. What was it like when you bought it?

Joanne: Well, before that, I remember when I was small, there was a two-story house on the property, right across from the little cape that's there now, around the corner from Main Street, and there were three sisters who lived there. They were called the Pitcher sisters; they had a cow, and they grew vegetables, and they had several out-buildings. They had a well there.

Gina: Did they live there year around, or just summer?

Joanne: Yes, they lived there year around, and I can remember going over visiting them and watching them make their own soap. There was a frog pond out in back. And that's where our pond came from. Once we purchased the property, it was a jungle, the house had fallen into the cellar, and when we cleared the land, we had to get a bulldozer, because of that vine that creeps all over the trees and kills them, it had completely been a ruin, all the trees. It was really just a jungle, and we pushed as much of the debris as we could into the cellar of the house. There was even the remains of a piano in that cellar. So we started over at the water works side and gradually cleared, and then built a garage there, and then after we got that done, we enlarged the pond a little bit, and then kept on clearing over to the other side of that cape across the street, and that's it, we're not going to clear any more. It's too much work to keep up!

Gina: And how did you create the beautiful fountain, or... is that what you call it?

Joanne: Yes, right. Well, that was my husband's idea. It was something he wanted to, you know, keep the water moving because it was getting stagnant and we were having a lot of weeds in it, and he thought maybe if we had a fountain that would help keep the weeds down and move the water around a bit.

Gina: So it's the same water that keeps going up and coming down.

Joanne: Yes, right.

Gina: Well, it's very beautiful.

Joanne: Well, thank you.

Gina: What would you care to tell me about your own personal background. How do you feel about disclosing your age, for example, or would you rather keep that private. It's up to you.

Joanne: In Bayside, since there are so many of us that grew up together, it's no secret. We all know how old each other is.

Gina: Then you might as well tell us what year you were born, Joanne.

Joanne: I was born in 1926.

Gina: You are just a spring chicken!

Joanne: In August, and I have been here every summer since then, except for three summers. One, I was in Germany, one I was in Arizona, and the first year we moved to Florida, I planned on coming, but with moving and an operation and starting college, I just never had the time to get up, so that's only three summers in my life I've missed.

Gina: That's pretty impressive! I don't know that there's anybody else that can beat that record! That's pretty darn good. Do you want to tell me what career background you've had for all of your life? Was there anyone thing you did, or...?

Joanne: No, I did several different things. I worked for the telephone company. I worked in real estate. I worked for the State of Florida in the Unemployment Division, and I graduated from Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City where I majored in art, and then I studied interior design at Florida State University.

Gina: So you were a Floridian yet you've maintained such a wonderful New England accent, now how does that work?

Joanne: Well, I'm originally from Bangor, and I've never lost my accent.

Gina: No, you haven't! How old were you when you left Bangor?

Joanne: Ummm, let's see, I was twenty-three when I left Bangor. And people are always asking me if I'm from New England or Boston. They never ask my husband. They always ask me!

Gina: And tell us where your husband grew up, where you met him.

Joanne: He grew up in Bangor; we went through school together, right from kindergarten through high school.

Gina: Were you high school sweethearts?

Joanne: No, no, he was my boyfriend very briefly in the sixth grade, and I was absent when the school pictures were taken. He wanted a picture of me to put in his album, and I didn't come through with it, and he got mad at me, and that was the end of that.

Gina: How many years passed before you renewed your relationship?

Joanne: Oh, I didn't start going out with him until we had been out of high school one or two years. Two years, I think.

Gina: So you brought him to Bayside, essentially.

Joanne: Yes.

Gina: And, why don't you tell us about your other family members. Your children who summered here as well...

Joanne: Well, I had four children, and they've all been here up until they were married and lived far away and couldn't make it every summer. My son Jim was the lifeguard when he was in high school. I don't remember whether

he was for one year or two years, but I know he was one, and he enjoyed that, and he usually manages to come every year.

Gina: I've certainly met him. He's a good Baysider.

Joanne: And my son John lives in Montana and he hasn't been here since he graduated from high school, but my two daughters live in Panama City, near us, and the youngest, Jamie, always comes every year. She'll be here tomorrow, and the older one, Jill, comes about once every five years. And all the grandchildren, so the grandchildren are the fifth generation in our family to be here.

Gina: Terrific. So you probably do have the biggest family compound in all of Bayside, wouldn't you say?

Joanne: Oh, yes, probably, we have four cottages all right together there. And in fact, when Kennedy was president and they would talk about the Kennedy compound, people here at that time called our place the Short compound.

Gina: And Short is such a famous name in Bayside, this would a good chance maybe to tell us something about your parents.

Joanne: Well, I think Dad is probably best known for sailing, 'cause he was out in his boat practically every single day of the week. He was a traveling salesman for a hardware company in Bangor, and he had a regular schedule, which... one week he'd be away three nights that week, and then the next week he'd be away two nights and then the third week he'd be home every night. So the minute he got home from work, he was right out on the bay. He had a Dark Harbor 12 which he raced, and he talked a couple of other people into getting them. Arthur Mulvaney was one. Dad painted his red. Art Mulvaney's was yellow, and there was another one. I can't remember who owned that in the beginning. I think there was also a Dark Harbor 17 around, too, and they really got the races going. Then George Bryant, he was a big racer, too. And that was the big thing, you know, in his life. And that's the big thing in my son Jimmy's life.

Gina: Interesting. It's in the blood, perhaps. And did your father teach other people to sail?

Joanne: He used to take all the kids out. Now, Bob Leonard used to go out with him a lot, and Bob Witherill used to go out with him a lot, and he was always coming in and asking at the dock if anyone wanted to go out for a sail.

Gina: That's great, because I know the people who were young people then remember him fondly for that reason. Now did your mother enjoy sailing?

Joanne: Yes, she did, she was right out with him, every day.

Gina: Good for her. Good for her! And the age you were when you first came here was what?

Joanne: Well, I'd say one.

Gina: One, okay. I won't ask you if you remember.

Joanne: I could have even been here when I was a few days or weeks old, I don't know. I wouldn't be surprised.

Gina: When you would come from Bangor, would you come at the beginning of the summer and stay in an uninterrupted way, or would you go back and forth?

Joanne: No, no, we stayed. We would come every weekend as soon as it was warm enough and Dad would work on his boat. He did all the work himself, getting it ready to go in. And back then, all the boats went in on Memorial Day weekend, without fail. The float went in, that was it, it was done, then. And everything came out on Labor Day weekend.

Gina: Interesting.

Joanne: And we would come weekends until school was out, and then we'd come a few weekends after school was out, as a rule, 'til he got the boat ready for the winter. But when school was out, we were all packed. The minute we got home from school we were on our way down here.

Gina: So you were definitely looking forward to it. This was where you wanted to be.

Joanne: Oh, yes! That's right.

Gina: And you got here in your parents' car?

Joanne: Yes, well Dad had a car from the company he worked with, and we were very lucky because, you know, way back then not everybody had cars. But he was able to use his company car personally, so we always had a new car every year! No problem with transportation!

Gina: Did it take a bit longer then to get here or no, not particularly.

Joanne: Well, probably a little bit longer; I'd say about an hour and fifteen minutes and maybe fifteen or twenty minutes longer then, because the roads were more twisting and turning and they weren't as good, they were narrow.

Gina: Sure. Do you have any memories of anything particular happening on those trips?

Joanne: Well, I remember we always looked for the Burma Shave signs. We always did a lot of singing. And we always counted animals and signs and different things like that. Having a contest - 'this is your side of the road and this is mine.'

Gina: It's a good way to make the time go by. Anything about your cottage or your family's cottages that you would want to mention; any changes to them, or ways that they are different now from then?

Joanne: Well, my parents cottage, Maine Stay was the name, hasn't really changed at all, except that when Dad retired and they started going to Florida in the winter, they would come here first of May then leave around the middle of October. Then, they did some work inside, you know that hadn't been done before, like putting in ceilings and a new kitchen and things like ... wall to wall carpeting. But structurally it hasn't changed since it was built.

Gina: That's nice - I think. Let's see. Any other places in Bayside besides your family compound that have special memories for you?

Joanne: Well, of course the frog pond across the street. We had to go through the woods to get to it when we were small and it seemed like such a long walk to get to, and we all loved the frog pond!

Gina: Did you catch the little frogs?

Joanne: Oh, yes, we'd catch frogs and we'd walk on rocks and we just loved it over there. And then, across the street from the water works, in back of where my nephew Steve has, well I call it, it's a Quonset type hut type building where he keeps the car, in back of that is a huge boulder. And we used to love that. We'd take our lunch and we'd go and sit on the boulder and have picnics, we'd play house there, we just loved that place. And then, another place we liked, was up in back of the school, the cove up there. We'd walk up there sometimes, but a lot of times we had a rowboat, so we'd row, and we thought nothing of rowing up there. We'd bring our lunch, and there was a fish weir up there, and we fished a lot then. Now I wouldn't waste two minutes fishing nowadays, but then, we used to fish all the time. We'd go up and spend the whole day up there, and then row back. The same with Kelly's Cove. We'd row all the way down there, we'd swim, we'd play around there, 'cause the beach was much nicer down there at high tide, and row all the way back, and we did that all the time.

Gina: And your parents were pretty relaxed about letting you - what age would you have been when they just let you go rowing around?

Joanne: Oh, I'd say probably eight to twelve we used to do that, thirteen, and then after that, all we wanted to do was sit on the dock and sunbathe.

Gina: Well, yes, that's what happens when the teenage years... Do you have any dock memories in particular? You certainly logged a lot of time down there.

Joanne: Yes. I can remember when there was a house on it that was in pretty bad repair, and then I remember when they fixed it up and they had a really nice room there to hold the yacht club meetings. They had lockers across the back. They built like a deck on the water side in the front where all the men who were running the races went up there during the races.

Gina: It would be nice to have that, I would think.

Joanne: Oh, yes, it was wonderful!

Gina: 'Cause you run a lot of races in the broiling sun with very little help. How about the stores that were here, do you have any particular memories of shopping in them?

Joanne: Oh, yes. I can remember that Hastings Store used to be Perkins, but I really don't remember much about

it. I remember Hastings very well. They had a beautiful garden on the corner there, and there were only two telephones here at the time. One was at Hastings, and one was where Blair is now, just didn't have telephones then, and so if you got a call someone would come running and say, "You have to go to Hastings or the Post Office for a telephone call!"

Gina: So that did make it seem a more isolated place, I'm sure.

Joanne: Yes.

Gina: And there were local delivery trucks that would come through. Anything that you remember being delivered to your house?

Joanne: I can remember ice before we had electric refrigerators, I can remember there was an ice truck, I don't know the name of it, but they would go door to door and you would buy blocks of ice for your icebox, and they'd give us slivers of ice to eat. I can remember a man named Jack McAskill in a funny, old-fashioned truck that he had, and I don't know if he picked up the trash or what. I think he must have, because I can't think of what else he would have done. And I can remember a man who used to come around in sort of a van type auto, and he sold all kinds of things like lipstick and make-up and it must have been when I was probably twelve or thirteen that he'd come along, 'cause we'd save all our money and we'd go out and buy that sort of thing from him. But that's about all I remember as far as that goes.

Gina: How about fashions of an earlier era? Do you have any particular memories of dressing up in anything that would seem very different to today's young people?

Joanne: No, it seems like we lived in shorts all the time.

Gina: So that's not really... were there dances that you would dress up for?

Joanne: The golf club used to have formal dances. I know I went to my first one I think the summer after I got out of eighth grade and I always went to them every year after that and even after I got out of high school I remember going, and my husband coming down for them too. And that was something that everyone enjoyed; they loved them and they were really crowded and very popular. And then when the sailing school was going and I was in high school I'd say at least I know from '39 to '43 or 4 maybe, we used to have dances in the Community Hall twice a week. And the mothers would take turns chaperoning; we had records for music; we always had a grand march...

Gina: A grand march! Oh, I never heard of that before.

Joanne: Yes, a grand march. You'd have a partner and you'd march around to the grand march, and I can't remember, you know, if you did anything special at the end. But I do remember the golf club dances, they always played 'Good Night Ladies' at the end of the dances. That was time to go home!

Gina: And did people always go to these dances with dates, or did sometimes just in a group.

Joanne: The golf club dances, yes, we went with dates, but the ones at Community Hall, everybody just went.

Gina: Well that's nice, too. What else do you remember happening at the Community Hall. When it was a movie theater?

Joanne: No, that was before my time.

Gina: Before your time. Okay. Any shows or anything there?

Joanne: I remember one in particular that was I guess you would have called it a minstrel show, or maybe not, but it was sort of like a variety show, and Mother and Dad directed it, and all the kids who were able to do anything, singing or dancing or things like that, and I can remember Mother sang "A Bicycle Built for Two" and she rode a bicycle across the stage. And she was so mad at Pam and I 'cause we weren't talented enough to get up or sing or dance, we had to be in the chorus.

Gina: Well mother had a theatrical spirit.

Joanne: She did.

Gina: Get out there and go. I'd like to see that. How about inns and hotels? Do you have any particular memories of them?

Joanne: No, I can remember the Inn as always being there, and I remember way, way back, Louisa Holmstead, who is

Janet Pattee' s cousin, her father ran it at one time, and then mostly I remember Betty Chittick's family running it.

Gina: Any memories of the Cobe mansion? Were you sneaking around?

Joanne: Yes, in fact, when I was small, the caretaker lived in the gray cottage on the corner of what used to be Flanders Road and Bluff Road, and , I can't think of his name right now, but he had a beautiful collie dog, and I used to love to go down and play with that collie dog. I still have a snapshot with that collie. And one year, he took us, it was in the fall, when no one was around, my sister and I and Mother and Dad, he took us all through the mansion. But then in our teen yea , we used to, when we had cars, drive right up to the front door and say, "Is this where the Koutimens live?" And they'd say, "No, they're on the South Shore," and so we'd go down to the South Shore and drive up to the and say, "Is this where the Pingrees live?"

Gina: Harmless entertainment for teenagers. That's funny! How about the Post Office? Was that a gathering spot? Where was it?

Joanne: Well, I remember, way, way back, Metcalf's cottage had a post office there, and that's all I remember, that there was a post office and all the boxes. And then I remember the building this side of Blair's, there was a post office there for a long, long time.

Gina: The house the Woolseys own now, probably.

Joanne: Yes. And then, I remember it being in the building where Blair is now.

Gina: Okay, and people would go there once or twice a day?

Joanne: Three times a day we had mail. Morning, afternoon, and late afternoon, which is unbelievable, really. And it was a store too, and of course, they sold ice cream, so that was quite a gathering place.

Gina: I'll bet it was. As was the wharf. We talked about the structure down there. Do you remember steamboats?

Joanne: No, I don't. The only thing I remember is the Boston boat coming in to Belfast. And I don't know when it stopped coming here, I don't remember the year, but I don't remember it coming here...

Gina: Yes, you were too young for that.

Joanne: But I remember the steamboat wharf in Belfast, and I remember at least once going there and seeing it come in. And then, after I was married, the building was still there and I used to take my sister and her friends up 'cause there was a skating rink there. And they didn't have transportation so I'd take them up and pick them up.

Gina: Was Belfast the same? Did you go there as often as we do now? We think nothing of going into Belfast.

Joanne: No, no we never did. I don't know how Mother managed to get groceries, 'cause it seems like I'd run in every two or three days!

Gina: Doesn't it seem that way? But there were stores here...

Joanne: Yeah, we had stores here, so I guess they did all their shopping at the two stores.

Gina: Yes. So that's a difference again, in terms of feeling that you're really far away in a special place, I guess.

Joanne: Well, people didn't have the cars then, either.

Gina: True, true.

Joanne: And you know, if the husband, like a lot of men who worked in Bangor would come back and forth every night. Many of us would ride back and forth with George Bryant.

Gina: Now who was he?

Joanne: He was here when I was probably, oh, eight. I remember all the Bryants from then on. Billy Bryant, his father, ran Bryant's jewelry store in Bangor and he had a place on the South Shore. And then George worked with him in the store and he built a place way up in the woods. The entrance walk was right across from Billy's place, and you had to walk a long ways up into the woods and it wasn't that far from Bluff Road, so when we played with the all the Bryant children, we'd go over Bluff Road and down through the woods to their place and

it wasn't far at all. If you went down to George Street and the South Shore and up to their house, that was a long ways. But they had a, I'm trying to think what kind of a boat it would be called, it was two masts, I can't think what it was called, but he was a great racer too. He went back and forth every day, so anybody who worked in Bangor who wanted to come back and forth, you'd get a ride down with George. He'd say, "Be in the parking lot at 5" and you would run like crazy to be there at five to get a ride down with him.

Gina: Well, that was a good service to be able to take advantage of. What about police? Were they are relatively recent phenomenon or were they always...

Joanne: I never remember such a thing as police when I was young. There was just never a need then. Never.

Gina: Lifeguards?

Joanne: Not when I was young, no. I really can't remember when that started.

Gina: Were parents around?

Joanne: Actually, you know, we were just, no. Mother and Dad never hung around the dock. No.

Gina: You were just - off you go.

Joanne: We were just - we learned how to swim when we were probably 4, 'cause they had races and I think the swimming races started maybe around 1936 or 38, and at the time, the first one, my sister Pam and I were the youngest ones in the race, and they had us in one race together because there weren't many... any other kids in that category, and we really didn't know what it was all about. And, we started from the shore, I believe.

Gina: Right down by the wharf?

Joanne: Right. By the swimming float, and we were swimming towards the swimming float, and she was behind me, and I kept stopping and turning around to look and see if she was coming. It was like 'Hurry up', you know! I kept waiting for her! And they kept yelling to me to go ahead, and I'm trying to wait for her! And it was written up in the paper...

Gina: That's funny! How many years did these races last?

Joanne: Oh, gosh. I remember in 1940 I won the cup for the girls (I still have it.) and Jack Metcalf's brother Ed won it for the boys. So, it ran at least four or five years anyway.

Gina: Did they handicap you for ages, or just girls and boys.

Joanne: I think they had age groups, in girls and boys.

Gina: And who actually ran the races? Who sponsored them?

Joanne: Oh, just the men who were more or less running the yacht club. You know, it's like now, the same ones run everything.

Gina: You noticed. How little \_\_\_\_ you have to call your own. But this wouldn't be the wonderful community that it is if there weren't people like you. Dedicate so much time to it. Harbormaster? Did you have one of those?

Joanne: I don't remember any.

Gina: OK. But you must remember Al Keith being around...

Joanne: Oh, yes, Al was always around, and his brother, he had a younger brother too, who died a few years ago. I was driving...he was my age, and Al was maybe four years older or something like that, and I was driving through Virginia on my way up here and picked up a USA Today in the motel and there was a little article how they have something from every state, that Al's brother had died.

Gina: Aw. Isn't that something?

Joanne: Yes. Well, he was one that I grew up with.

Gina: Sure. Let's see. Golf! Well, that's something that you do. How long have you been a golfer, and tell us some of your golfing memories.

Joanne: Well, I started golf right after I got out of high school and I took lessons from Charlie... what's his



name? Charlie... can't remember his last name, up at the Penobscot Valley in Bangor. And when I was young, I loved the golf course. I loved to walk on the greens in my bare feet. And I used to follow around with my father and my uncle when they played, and then there was a woman I used to follow around too, and I probably drove her crazy, and I think her name was Martha (Myra, ed.) Ferguson, I'm pretty sure, and she lived in the house that is Savitz's now.

Gina: So it just appealed to you even before you knew how to do it! Who were some of the Baysiders that you have played with over the years. I know you played with Janet Pattee - who else?

Joanne: And I used to play now and then with Peg Lovejoy, with Frances Samway, with Claire Dean. I think that's about it. It's strange there aren't many women here who play golf. Janet and I are the only regulars who play now with the ladies up there, and Jane Badershall used to, but she only plays with her husband now. And we're the only three I know in all of Bayside who play golf up there.

Gina: And where do the other players come from? Are they mostly Belfast people?

Joanne: The majority. Especially early in the year and late into the fall, but of course, a lot of tourists play up there... it's open.

Gina: Oh, I didn't know that.

Joanne: So you'll see people who rent up there a lot.

Gina: Has it changed in any important ways over the years, for better or worse.

Joanne: Not.., no, they change the greens and the fairways a little bit, and they do have additional 50 acres now, but they're hoping for nine more holes when they get the funds. They're, you know, it's in the planning stage, but it won't take place until they get the funds.

Gina: How did...where did they get the additional 50 acres?

Joanne: Um, it's, I believe it would be, on the western side in back of Evans and in back of what would be the 7th fairway, out that way.

Gina: Um hum. Is it in Bayside?

Joanne: It's...well, it would be...

Gina: Don't know. Certainly it's in Northport.

Joanne: Well, it would be along the southern side of Cross Street and probably over on to maybe the southern side of Route 1 for a wee bit. I don't really know for sure.

Gina: That's interesting, because those of us who do not play golf which as you pointed out is the majority, we know next to nothing about what goes on up there, so...and that's a nice old building. When was it built, do you know?

Joanne: Oh, yes. I think it was built in the early 1900's, and Cobe who owned the mansion at that time is the one who built it. He wanted to play golf so he actually paid, as far as I remember, I could be wrong, but I think, he is the one who actually built the golf course. I know they formed a corporation, and he may have had other investors in it, but he was the one that really started it.

Gina: Yes. So we think this is a sailing community, but it certainly has some history of a golfing community as well. So we've talked about fishing, and that was certainly a part of your past. Were you ever a tennis player?

Joanne: Yes, in fact there used to be a tennis court at the golf club.

Gina: At the golf club!

Joanne: Yes, as you drive in, it was on the right. And we used to play there all the time, and I remember one year we even had a tournament there, and I really hated to see it when they tore it down. They just didn't want to keep it up. They kept saying they couldn't afford to keep it up. But it was a shame, because it was the only one here. Even the mansion didn't have one at that time.

Gina: And who were some of the Baysiders that you remember playing tennis up there?

Joanne: Oh, the Crosskill girls, (Arnie and Estelle,) and Arnie is Arnie Merrithew now, and Estelle married, oh, let's see, John, can't think of his last name, Rosetti. When I was young, we used to have a lot of families who came up from the Canal Zone. The fathers worked down there and they would save their leave for maybe two years, and they'd come up here and spend maybe two or three months instead of just thirty days, and the Rosettis were one family that we went around with in our teenage years, and there was a...several other families as well.

Gina: Do you remember the names of some of them?

Joanne: Phillips was one, they lived in the top house on Maple Street, the little brown one in the woods, and there were two older sisters and a son my age, and they were ones that I used to row up to the fishing weir with a lot. And then there were three other girls, I don't remember their names, and the Van Fleets were originally a part of that group who came from the Canal Zone.

Gina: And is there anyone left, do you think?

Joanne: No, I don't believe so, no, not that I can remember.

Gina: From that Panama crew. Well, that's an interesting bit of Bayside history.

Joanne: They were also, you know, as far as playing tennis, Jeanne Mulvaney, and I heard that she... they sold their cottage when she started college, and they never came back that I know, and I heard a couple of years ago that she had died in an automobile accident, but I don't know if that's true, and their cottage was the one that has the sign Bluewater.

Gina: Oh, yes. Want to tell us where that is?

Joanne: It's at the top of Park Row but on the other side of Broadway, corner of Griffin and Broadway.

Gina: Let me just interject to say that you know street names better than anyone that I've interviewed! Most of the people say 'that street over there; I have no idea what it's called!' You've been paying attention.

Joanne: Well, I should, after all this time.

Gina: A lot of other people just haven't bothered! So you are able to explain where things are, which is useful. All right. So that's tennis, and we've covered the fishing, and we haven't gotten to boating and you. We talked about boating and your father, but tell me about your own...what boats you've had or enjoyed over the years.

Joanne: Well, the one boat I think I enjoyed more than anything was the kayak that Dad built for us, Pam and I, in the garage one winter. And I loved that! I really enjoyed that. And I don't remember how long it lasted or what happened to it, but I remember I loved it.

Gina: Where did you put it in, and how far did you get?

Joanne: Right down on the beach. And I'd go up and down all around. And I liked it because it went so easily; it was easier than rowing, and it would go fast. And I enjoyed the rowboat, and I used to go out with Dad a lot in the sailboat, but I never was really much of a sailor myself. I would steer it once we got away from the dock, but I was terrified of bringing it into the float. I just wouldn't do it. Pam was much better on that score than I was. She had the nerve to bring it into the dock, but I was always afraid I was going to crash. And then, when I was married, the year we came back from Germany, we bought a small cabin cruiser, and we had that for two or three years, but my husband wasn't really crazy about the upkeep of it, and he was really never a great water person, so we finally sold that.

Gina: And which of your kids would you say have a love of boating and which ones can live without it?

Joanne: Well, all of them can live without it, except my son, the oldest son Jim. He loves it. He has a 38' sailboat now that he cruises with...on.. the Chesapeake. He lives in Richmond, Virginia, so every weekend is spent on his boat.

Gina: Wow, and those are beautiful sailing waters, aren't they? Maybe not quite as wonderful as ours, but... they are nice. Let's see. Let's talk about the people that you hung out with in your youth, and which ones are still in Bayside today.

Joanne: Well, the ones that aren't around, there was a girl on the corner of Main and

(END OF SIDE OF TAPE).

Gina: So, before the tape ended, Joanne, you had just started to tell me about some of the people that you used

to hang out with and you said that you were going to start with the ones that were not here right now.

Joanne: Oh, yes, Betty Geroux who lived in Hendrix' cottage now. Belonged to her grandfather then, he was a dentist in Rockland, and it had the tower room, and we used to love to spend the nights, overnights, up in the tower room. And she was a great friend until high school, and then she disappeared. She only lived in Waterville, but still I never saw her after that. And, then Jean Mulvaney, who was here until she started college, that was the end of her, and Sybil Kuenley who lived across from Janet Pattee's place, her grandmother was named Crapon, she owned the cottage then.

Gina: And she does come from time to time?

Joanne: Yes, she comes once in a while now, but she never came regularly after, like high school I guess, like the rest of us did. And the Burbanks, they had the cottage over on Broadway, the green in that area, where the Savitz's and the Huntoons are. They were great friends all the time growing up, and they come periodically. And, Jean is now dead and Christine was staying at her mother's place in Belfast for several years until her mother died, and, let's see, and then, I think as I got to be more of a teenager, I started going around with the Crosskill girls. The oldest one, Estelle, lives in Canada, and she and her husband John Rosetti come once a year. Arnie married a Belfast boy; Ronny Merrithew, so she's around. And Zelma, Zelma Huntoon, she was really my sister Pam's best friend for quite a few years, but the five of us all went around together, the two Crosskills and Zelma and Pam and....

Gina: What were some of the things you would do?

Joanne: I also remember Ellie Lagner and her sister, and all the sailing school kids, we were friendly with all of them. We used to all gather in the park every night when there wasn't a dance (these were through the high school years). Two nights a week, Tuesday and Friday, we'd have the dance. The other nights we'd gather in the park and we'd play games. And Jack Metcalf was there, I remember that, let's see, who else?

Gina: Were they organized games, or just... ?

Joanne: No, we'd just, you know, do it ourselves, but we had a really good time.

Gina: And what time would it be over, would you say?

Joanne: When the street lights came on, we went home.

Gina: OK. That's pretty clear cut.

Joanne: We didn't stay out late like they do nowadays!

Gina: And people didn't have to yell at you for making too much noise.

Joanne: That's right. We did it, too! We came home when the lights went on.

Gina: That's pretty amazing. And what are some of the... any more people that you wanted to tell about?

Joanne: That's all I can think of right now.

Gina: OK. Any particular community events that come to mind? 4th of July celebrations, cookouts, picnics...

Joanne: I think we used to have band concerts, oh, and the picnic to Marshall's Cove. That was a big thing. The yacht club used to go over there, way back then, even. And I can remember one year, I kept inviting different people to go with us. We only had the Dark Harbor 12, it didn't seat that many, and my father had a fit. He'd say, "We can't get all those people on that boat!" And I'd say, "But I've already asked them! We can tow them behind the boat in the rowboat!" And he'd say, "No I can't." We finally got there; I think we divided the people up with somebody else's boat.

Gina: It always works, one way or another.

Joanne: Yes. But that was a favorite place to go.

Gina: And some people still do enjoy going there. In the category of memorable events. Is there anything that we haven't covered so far that sticks in memory ...anything that could be funny or scary or has had a reason to lodge itself in your memory. Take your time.

Joanne: No, but the one thing I do remember now is the horseshoe court, where they store the cradles for the

boats now. My grandfather used to love to play horseshoes.

Gina: What was his name?

Joanne: His name was John Short Sr. And I used to go down and watch him, and in fact I used to play, too. Yes, all of us kids used to play quite often.

Gina: So it wasn't just men?

Joanne: No, it wasn't just men, the kids would play, and it was really a very nice court. And, I think they had three places set up. They had benches that went all the way across the top, where you could sit and watch.

Gina: Do you have any idea who maintained it, or paid for the horseshoes?

Joanne: I would imagine the corporation did, I don't know. And something else I didn't think to mention, too, was that when my grandfather was older, he was, oh, eighty-something when he died, around the last several years of his life, all the men his age used to go down on the dock every night and talk. And we'd bring him down in the car and everybody would be on the dock every night and then we'd bring him back up the hill.

Gina: That's a nice custom. Very nice custom. And did you mention before we turned the machine on a role that your father had played in local affairs.

Joanne: He was always on the Board of Overseers. Always. And I remember especially that he and Joe Hussey who lived in the house below my grandparents, the last person I knew who owned it was Sandy Sherwood (?). I don't know if she still owns it or not. Someone else is living in it. And it was right in front of the pump on Griffin Street. He was always working for the corporation, like taking care of the roads, and the parks, and all that. And Fred Scribner. The three of them, I remember, were very, very active in keeping everything running.

Gina: And why don't you tell me some of the things that you've done with the yacht club over the years. Not take more than three hours... I'm teasing. Go ahead.

Joanne: Well, I was the social director for several years, and that was, you know...

Gina: What were your responsibilities?

Joanne: The post-race socials and running the dance. I don't remember for sure what date... what year we started the first dance, but we had it at the golf club, and it was really a great success. Everybody went, and it was a beautiful night. It was just so nice to be able to have it in the community. But then, the next year, the board of directors at the golf club decided they weren't going to rent it out any more. They'd had an incident there that did some damage both to the golf carts and to the golf course.

Gina: Did it involve Baysiders?

Joanne: Yes.

Gina: Too bad.

Joanne: And, so, they made the ruling that no more... anything! They wouldn't rent it out, and they still won't, to even their own members. So it was unfortunate. So then we went to the Shrine Club.

Gina: In Belfast?

Joanne: Right. And we had the dance up there for two years, I believe, and that was fine, too, and that was very nice. We just had to go out of the community. But then, the fourth year, I had reserved the Shrine Club, in the fall, and I came the next summer, and verified it with the man who had charge of it, and he looked at his calendar, and said, "Oh, I have a wedding booked then." And I said, "But I booked it last September!" and he thought for a minute, and he said, "I didn't transfer it from my old calendar to the new year."

Gina: Oh, no.

Joanne: And even though I had booked it months before the wedding party, he said they already had their invitations out and everything booked and he wouldn't let me have it. And there was no other place left beside the Curling Club. Well, the Shrine Club had had a piano there, and so did the Golf Club, we'd never had a problem with that. So I went to the Curling Club, and the space was fine, but the ceiling was low, it was kind of dark, and the man that I had hired, Frank Wareham, whose name is familiar with most everyone around here, I couldn't get in touch with him! And I kept leaving messages on his machine over and over, and it's a big joke with us now, but I found out, like the day before the dance, he came back. He had been visiting his mother in

Michigan, and I'd been trying to get him to tell him that the piano at the Shrine Club wasn't any good, it was...I mean, not at the Shrine Club, at the Curling Club. Yes, I tried it out, and I said, "There is no way this can ever be tuned!" I knew it, it was just too bad. And, I'd taken the liberty without asking him because I didn't know what he had planned for a band since I, you know, the piano part, since I couldn't get in touch with him, I rented one of these portable type pianos.

Gina: Good for you.

Joanne: At a music store in Camden, and he said that's fine, that would be adequate. And luckily I had a truck here that summer for moving my daughter up to Maine to go to the University of Maine. I took the truck to Camden and picked it up in the morning and brought it up to the Shrine (i.e. 'Curling', ed.) Club and called him when I got there and he came and helped me unload it and he tried it out. Well, there was a part missing. And, and he went all over Belfast trying to find that part. And he finally - and then there was one key that just didn't play at all; it was, you know, the whole thing right from beginning to end was - and it was ninety-something degrees that night. It was so hot, and we brought fans up, all of us who had fans. Well, one of the fans caught on fire. Oh, it was just a terrible thing!

Gina: Do you remember what year it was?

Joanne: No, I don't!

Gina: What a nightmare...

Joanne: I said "That's it! No more dances for me! I'm through with it!" I think maybe that's when I started shooting the cannon. I've had it with dancing; I'll try something else.

Gina: Good for you. Gosh. Now, how many years did you shoot the cannon?

Joanne: Oh, it's probably ten or maybe twelve, I don't know.

Gina: Why don't you explain to people why you're - explain to the tape recorder why you're shooting cannons.

Joanne: No one else will do it! In fact, when I reached my seventy-first birthday, I thought, you know, I'm really too old to be doing this, so I retired. But nobody else would do it. The cannon was not shot all last summer, until the Around the Island Race, and they asked me if I would come out of retirement to shoot it off for the Around the Island Race, so I said, "Yes." So then again this year, there was no one to shoot the cannon, so I've come out of retirement again, and I am shooting the cannon.

Gina: Does it require special skills, or strength, or what's involved?

Joanne: Not really, and for a man, he could just do it, he wouldn't even need to have anyone teach him, but I did show Gail Witherill last year, but she wasn't sure she could remember enough to do it this year, and then last week I showed Susan Spollett, so I hope maybe I have a couple of backups now.

Gina: I hope so. We'll get you to tape record the instructions, so that we can keep...

Joanne: I did write them down. Gail asked me to write them down.

Gina: Gosh, that's a big responsibility and it should be possible to find you a successor.

Joanne: Well, you'd think so.

Gina: You would. All right. How about any interesting or colorful characters that you can remember over the years.

Joanne: Well, I had to think about that, and the first one I thought of was Jack McAskill, the one I mentioned who used to come around in the funny old truck.

Gina: Yes.

Joanne: But I don't really remember a lot about him, just that he was, you know, kind of odd looking and his truck was really different. But then I remembered Paul Mahoney.

Gina: Who was he?

Joanne: He lived on Bluff Road, way down. There was, well there were quite a few family members in the Mahoney family who lived in different houses down there, but Paul was always down on the dock fishing. Always. And he

was just, I can remember him from way back, and his picture was in the Belfast paper quite a few years ago, and I have that. He only died maybe ten years ago, something like that, and what I remember most about him was, after we had built our cottage, we built ours in 1953, and the first year I came there was just one partition through the middle, and that was it. Nothing else. And my son Jim and I slept on cots and we used the facilities at Mother and Dad's until we got a stove and bathroom and all that. And we got Paul to stain (we put pine paneling all the way through) for us. Well, he was up on the ladder doing the ceiling, and he had a whole gallon can of Styroseal (?) and he spilled it. And that's the one thing, the first thing I remember about him, besides fishing on the dock all the time was spilling that whole gallon of Styroseal all over.

Gina: Then what did he do? What did he do next?

Joanne: Oh, well, he was kind of upset, but not as much as we were. We had to get more, and he finally finished it, but as a result, the ceiling only got one coat, whereas all the walls got two coats. 'Cause Jim did the walls, my husband, but he didn't really want to do the ceiling, and now the ceiling needs another coat.

Gina: I bet you'll be hiring somebody else.

Joanne: Yes.

Gina: Does anybody else come to mind?

Joanne: No, that's all I can think of.

Gina: Okay. Why don't you, since I have now run through all my questions, why don't you look through your notes and see if there's...take your time... anything that you'd like to add.

Joanne: Oh, I remember a hurricane in 1952. I don't remember the name of it. But I was living on Long Island at the time. No, it was 1954. And my father was, you know, trying to save the dock and trying to save this and trying to save that, and he had a heart attack. And besides that, I remember Clemens, who lived in the house across from the Community Hall. They had a cabin cruiser, and it ended up on the lawn. between the yacht club and the McInninch's place, which is the brown cottage right to the left, can't think of the name of the people who are there now. And, so, I remember...

Gina: Your father had a heart attack right during this storm?

Joanne: Well, either during it or after, I don't remember, you know, which. That was his first heart attack. And dangerous experiences. That wasn't really dangerous but we used to... the bell buoy out there, off Marshall's Cove, oh it was a great fun to jump off the boat and get on that and rock back and forth on it for a while, and then let the boat pick us up again. That was fun!

Gina: I bet it was!

Joanne: And, oh, scavenger hunts and treasure hunts. We had those all through high school. And Bob Leonard's mother used to do most of them for us. She was very good at that, and we had so much fun doing those.

Gina: Can you remember some of the places that they, that you went during them?

Joanne: Well, we'd always stay within Bayside, within walking distance. So, some of the places were like the well in Merrithew Square, at the golf club there was always something around the sign at the golf club. The water works. Somewhere in the park or down in back of the yacht club. This little park over here, Blaisdell Park, something there.

Gina: And you'd have to find specific things, is that how it worked?

Joanne: Right, the treasure hunts we'd follow clues. We'd form teams. Usually four. And because we had such a variety of ages, well, cause everybody would take part from the young kids up through high school, so we'd usually have two young and two older ones on a team, and we'd just follow our clues, and that was a lot of fun. And the scavenger hunts we'd just have a list of things and we'd run around the cottages, trying to find them.

Gina: And now has anybody in your memory tried to recreate any of those customs here?

Joanne: Yes, it seems to me, we used to have them, well, when my boys were probably teenagers, we used to have them then, and I can remember doing a couple of scavenger hunts for them. And, it seems to me, that's when they started the junior yacht club, when my children were young. Now, we didn't have it when I was young. But they started it when my boys were oh, probably twelve, something like that. So we'd have different activities for them, and one in particular I remember was that we rented the schooner Mary Day out of Camden for an all day trip for them, and I was one of the chaperones.

Gina: That's a great activity!

Joanne: Yea, that was quite... they just loved that.

Gina: I'll bet.

Joanne: So, let's see if I can... Oh, Bob Witherill was another person that... I don't know if I mentioned him, that we grew up with here. And Jeannette and her sister, Jeannette Tardiff..... Oh, and Jo Huntoon, Jo was always here.

Gina: How about World War II? Do you have any memories of what things were like in Bayside then? .

Joanne: Well, they were more quiet. 'Cause a lot...I was... you know I was in high school then, so a lot of the fellows who had been here were gone. And I remember the Coast Guard boat used to come in. A lot of the girls would go down and get on the boat, but I never did, and of course the gas shortage, that was a big thing. But we were lucky because of my father's work, he was able to get more gas than most people, and so we never had any trouble getting back and forth. But as far as, you know, teenagers running around in cars then, it was a problem.

Gina: I bet, I bet. Did you have blackouts?

Joanne: I don't remember, but I... we probably were, you know, not supposed to show a lot of lights, but I don't remember blackouts as such. But I do remember the house up on the property that the Hatfields bought on Bluff Road, next to Billy Page, yes, I remember they used to have a kind of a look-out up there. But I can't remember exactly, but it seems to me they were always watching for something there.

Gina: Another thing that I haven't asked you about is out-of-season visits. Living as close as you did in Bangor, did you ever get over here in the chilly weather?

Joanne: In the winter, no, we never did. We'd start coming, oh, well, probably weekends in May, and we'd come a few weekends in September, but we never did come in the winter. Well, one thing, we used to store the mast of the sailboat in the house. We'd take the dining room window out and bring it all the way through from the dining room to the living room and hall into the bathroom, so, you know, once the boat came out of the water, it wasn't too convenient to be in the cottage.

Gina: I guess not! It was either the people or the boat. But not both. OK. I can picture that. Does anything else pop out at you?

Joanne: No, I can't think of anything else, I guess.

Gina: Well, you have given me a very thorough, good, and detailed, and factual interview, and so I thank you on behalf of the Bayside Historic Preservation Society.

Joanne: You're very welcome.