

Interview Log**Interviewee:** Bertha Nelson**Tape #:** OH142**Interviewer:** Kelly Feltault**# of Tapes:** 1**Date:** February 24, 2000**# of Sides:** 2**Location:** McDaniel, Maryland**Topic:** Crab Picking Project**Corresponding Photography Log #:****Comments:** Phonetic spellings: Retifkin

BEGIN SIDE A

K.F.: All right. If I could have you say your name.

B. N.: My name is Bertha Nelson.

K.F.: Okay. And you were just telling me you were born just right down the road here in McDaniel.

B.N.: Yes, born right in McDaniel.

K. F.: Can I ask what year that was?

B.N.: 1921.

K. F.: Okay. And were you born at home?

B.N.: Yes.

K. F.: You were, okay. I guess they had -- oh, what's the word?

B. N.: Midwives.

K. F.: That's it.

(Laughter)

K. F.: I'm forgetting my words today. Midwives that came around then.

B. N.: Yes, yes. Right.

K.F.: Okay. So was there a community midwife then that would come around and

B.N.: Oh, yes. They went all over. You know, Bellevue, Easton, everywhere, you know. Anybody that required their services, they would get in touch with them ahead of time, you know. And my mother was a licensed midwife.

K.F.: Oh, really?

B.N.: Yes, she was.

K.F.: And did she do that full time, or did she have other jobs she did?

B.N.: Well she picked crabs, she shucked oysters, she skinned tomatoes, she worked in a boarding house.

K. F.: Okay, all right. And what was your mother's name?

B.N.: Arletta Horsy.

K. F.: Arletta -- oh, Horsy. That's a very well-known name in these parts, isn't it?

B.N.: Well around here, they just about died out, you know.

K. F.: Really?

B. N.: Those married, you know what I mean, the girls married and everything. But my sister, she still uses her middle initial, H.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: I never liked that name.

K. F.: No? Okay.

B.N.: Because when I was going to high school, my hair was very long, and my mother was braiding my hair when I was in high school. And they would come up behind me and get a hold of my braid, get up, Horsy. You know.

K. F.: Oh.

B. N.: And the fight was on.

(Laughter.)

K.F.: Now where was the school that you went to?

B.N.: In St. Michaels, on Dodson Avenue, called Dodson Avenue. And it burned down, you know. I graduated in 1937 from that school, and at that time, you know, we were only going as far as the 11th grade. The 12th grade hadn't come in until after I graduated from that school.

K.F.: Okay. Now you said you were born in this area. Were your parents from this area as well?

B.N.: My father was from Marion, Maryland. My mother was from Retifkin, Maryland.

K.F.: Where?

B.N.: Retifkin.

K.F.: Where is that?

B.N.: That's down by Quantico.

K.F.: Okay. Near Hebron and --

B.N.: Yes.

K.F.: Down that way.

B.N.: Yes.

K.F.: Okay. So how did the family end up here in McDaniel?

B.N.: Well a lot of times people would, like I say, migrate going for jobs, you know, in other areas. So this is, I know a lot of people from Marion found out later, came here to Bellevue and Claiborne, you know, to work in oysters. And then when oyster season was over, they would go back to their respective homes. But then some liked it so well, they stayed. You know.

K.F.: Okay.

B.N.: Yes.

K.F.: Well we're trying to figure out how people moved around for work.

B.N.: Yes, yes, for work. Yes.

K.F.: So that's some of the questions. Now what packing houses did your parents work at in this area?

B.N.: That one down there was Alex Haddaway down Claiborne.

K.F.: Okay.

B.N.: This was Harrison and Jarbo here at McDaniel, and then Harrison, they had one down Sherwood that was -- where they cut fish down there.

K.F.: Oh, a fish packing place.

B.N.: Yeah, a fish packing place. And then later on they started in the crab business. I think it was Harrison Jarbo also that owned that.

K.F.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). Yeah, I think it was. I think another project that we're doing was looking at that.

B.N.: Yes.

K.F.: Okay. And when did your mom start taking you into the crab house?

B.N.: Well as soon as school was over when I was nine years old, we had to go crack claws.

K.F.: Okay.

B.N.: Our parents picked the crabs, we cracked the claws from when school closed in May until school opened the week of September, like the first week of September. So we had to go down and crack claws. See my mother had -- oh,

my Lord. How many children did my mother have? Seven. And then she raised my -- she raised one of her nieces, so that was eight, see. My mother, my father, that was 10, you see.

K. F.: Wow. All in the same house.

B.N.: All in the same house. Yes. So we had to get out and help so we could buy our school clothes, help buy our school clothes, you know.

K.F.: Right.

B. N.: Yes.

K.F.: Okay. What did your dad do at the plant?

B.N.: My father, he shucked oysters and cut fish. And then he fished, you know, had nets, used to go fishing.

K.F.: Were they pound nets or just --

B.N.: Yeah, yeah, for where individuals could hammer them.

K. F.: Yeah.

B. N.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). And he would sell fish. Uh-huh (Affirmative). Yeah.

K.F.: All right. So your family is completely in the seafood business then.

B. N.: Yes, yes. But I used to live up Wade's Point Road here. You remember seeing the sign coming down?

K. F.: Yes.

B.N.: I used to live the house up there. And we used to have to walk out here in the winter time, wait for the bus. It was never on time. And we were standing in all kinds of weather. And I said, Lord, there's got to be a better way. So I called my sister who was living in Manhattan, New York, and asked her to get me a sleep-in job.

K.F.: What is that?

B. N.: Where you get a job with a family and you stay on the job, you know. You had your days off, and you stay on the job. And if you go for a housekeeping, you know, well that's what you did, you cleaned and you cooked. They had a nurse for the children, you know. So I said that's better than standing outside in the cold, you know. So I -- that's what I did. And in the mean time -- my children's father, he had got killed in an automobile accident right down the road here. It was a pick-up truck, rather. At that time, there was no insurance on cars or nothing like that, you know.

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: So you didn't get anything out of that. So what I did, my oldest son, I let my mother take him. And my youngest, I let my husband's mother take him and arrange for them to get the social security, and then I would send money, you know, too for them to buy clothes, things like that. And that's why I went, left from here.

K. F.: How old were you when you did this?

B. N.: Oh, about 25 I guess I was at that time.

K. F.: A young woman then.

B.N.: Yeah, about 25. And then my desire was in life to either be a beautician or a nurse. Now my mother, she wanted me to go with her when my cousin had

her baby. She carried on so bad, I left home. I couldn't stand it, I could not stand it. I --

K.F.: She wanted you to be a midwife.

B.N.: Yeah, she wanted me to be a midwife, you see. But I couldn't stand all that moaning and groaning and carrying on, you know. So I told my mother, mom, I can't do it. I can't do it. Then, let me see. I was in my 50's, and I got an opportunity to go to a nursing school in New York. So I applied for the -'cause you went through the state, you know.

K. F.: Okay, right.

B.N.: I applied for -- it was an R.N. course. And then right behind that came -- let me see. L.P.N. was first. They wanted, you know, you could apply, apply for that. Then I applied for the R.N. So I said I might as well go whole hog, you know. And I got my reply in the same week. So I took the R. N. course. So we had a crash course, two years to do four years' work in two years at Manhattan Community College, and that's what I did. And the Good Lord let me -- let my (indiscernible) start to stir up, you know.

(Laughter)

B.N.: Because I was 15 when I came out of high school. Because I made, I think like three grades in one year in elementary school, you see.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: So I was skipped. Yeah.

K. F.: Great.

B.N.: Yeah. So I was 15, and I would -- that was June. In August, I would've been 16, you see. And that's why I was out of school, you know, younger than -- those were 18, 19, you know.

K.F.: Right. High school and working full time too.

B.N.: Yeah. But we didn't, we just did in the summertime, you know, cracking claws in the summertime. 'Cause I think like round about September, something like that, they finished picking crabs. They didn't pick year-round like they do now.

K.F.: Oh, they stopped in September.

B.N.: Yeah, because oyster shucking was next in line. See right the 15th of September, something like that. Then it went into the oysters.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: So we were safe until next summer for cracking claws.

(Laughter)

K.F.: So did you finish nursing school?

B.N.: Oh, yes. I passed my exam the first time around. And I said thank you, Jesus. 'Cause you know, when you're up in your 50's, you know, and you've been out of school since you were 15, you know, you've got a lot of refreshing to get to school.

(Laughter)

B.N.: So anyway, I made it. And let me see, my first -- I start, one time I started for a nurse's aid, you know, at first at a Catholic hospital because I have had surgery, and my doctor, she was a female, and she told me she didn't want me

doing no heavy lifting, you know. That I should like work in doing day's work, you know, pulling furniture, cleaning, you know. And she said you know, you would make a good nurse's aid. And I did that. And then she told, Miss Nelson, you need to go for nursing. That's what you need to do. You know. And I took her advice. And like I said, the state picked up for R.N. course. And you got your loans. And if you worked 10 years for the city, then you didn't have to pay it back.

K. F.: Oh.

B.N.: You did not have to pay it back. Yes. So I did that. I think it was 11 years I worked, you know, after I graduated.

K. F.: Where did you work? What state and what city?

B.N.: It was in '71. Oh, let me see. The first hospital that I worked in was Frances Delaphile Hospital. And that was like 161 st Street and Broadway or something like that. And then after I did Frances Delaphile, that closed. That was a city hospital. That closed, and they sent me to Bellevue Hospital. And that's where I stayed until I moved back home in '79. I really liked it, but in the mean time, my husband had died, and it was too much for me to keep up this place here, you know, and then paying my rent and everything up there, utilities and everything. So that was like eating up my money, you know. So I said my best bet is put all my eggs in one basket, move home, only have to pay taxes once a year. I don't have to pay that rent every month, you know. And so I said I would, that's what I would be better off doing. And so then that's what I did.

K. F.: Now did your husband go with you to New York, or did he --

B.N.: Oh, no. That was, I met him up there in '59 or something like that.

K. F.: Oh, okay.

B.N.: No, '58. I met him in '58, and got married in 1960. That was husband number three.

K. F.: Okay.

(Laughter.)

B.N.: Number one, my children's father, got killed right down the road here. And my other husband, my second husband, I went to New York first, then he came later. So then he didn't want to act right, you know. So I had to get rid of him.

K. F.: Okay. I hear you.

B.N.: Yeah, got rid of him. So then I got, then I married this gentleman, he died, you know, in 1975. And I haven't married since. And somebody said when you gonna get married? I said when the strawberry vines grow tall as pines.

(Laughter)

B.N.: And I don't think that would ever happen.

K. F.: No.

B.N.: Then I worked Easton when I came home. I worked at the state hospital. You were supposed to work at least a year at a state hospital. That was the requirements, you know, from the city. You know, you had to work a year there, you know. Of course, you got your salary, you know. But I don't know what that was, but that's what you had to do, and that's what I did. And then I put in at

Easton Memorial. Well, honey, I was on geriatric fifth floor. Have you ever been to Easton Hospital?

K. F.: No, I haven't.

B.N.: They used to be on the fifth floor, geriatric. Thirty-five bed capacity. Now I always worked night shift in the city, and I like, 'cause my body was attuned to that, you know.

K.F.: Right.

B. N.: And I worked 11 to 7. And the L. P. N. that I had working with me, she went to move to Seattle, Washington. Then I found myself, I didn't have a nurse, you know. They floated somebody sometimes. But 35 patients and here I am the only R.N. on the floor.

K. F.: And you're the only one. Oh, my goodness.

B.N.: I had to get the NAACP to get me in there because they disregarded my application.

K.F.: Really?

B. N.: And I asked about --well, we must have misplaced it. So then I went to NAACP meeting, and they were saying, they don't have black nurses R.N.'s. They got some L. P. N.'s, but no R. N. So I told 'em about, you know, I had applied, and I didn't get a response. They just said that they must have misplaced it, and they would send me another one, but they did not send me another application. So I had a cousin worked there, and she said Bertha, your name is ringing all over Memorial. They want to know who is this black nurse coming from Bellevue Hospital that's going to come here. And so she said, she played dumb, you know. And we used to have some (indiscernible). She would call me up, you know, and keep me up to date what was going on. I don't want her on my floor, and those kind of things.

K. F.: Really. And this is the late 70's, I mean this is --

B. N.: '81.

K. F.: '81.

B. N.: '81.

K. F.: Well past segregation.

B. N.: I said I'm going to stick it out, you know. Since they got me in there, you know, I'm going to try to stick it out. But when they gave me, didn't send me a nurse, you know, and I told Schwartz, she was a sister administrator, she could not be administrator because she didn't have degrees. And I guess she thought someone didn't know that, you know, but things get around. And I told her, I said I don't feel right about it. I can not take care of no 35 patients. So she said well you have to pick your priorities. I said in nursing, everything is a priority, you can not pick. That's just what I told her. And I don't feel good about it. Well what would you like, a L.P.N. or a R.N.? As long as she's got a license, I don't care which, you know, whether she's R.N. or an L.P.N. As long as she can help me with the nurse's notes and give medication and dress anything. I can not do all that, you know. And the doctor came one night, and I was down there working, he got charts, his patients follow up. I said Jesus Christ. I said -- he said, yes. And I had to laugh. 'Cause I was so angry.

(Laughter)

B.N.: Oh, my Lord. So then they started floating, you know, someone to help me out. And I said my best bet is, I think I was 62 at the time. And I said no -- no, I was 65 because I wasn't going to come out at 62. Well won't you work until you're 65? And I said to myself, well I might as well, you know, since I was in good shape at the time. And I waited, you know. I said I'm going to -- they're trying to get over on me, I'm going to get over on them 'cause I'm leaving here. Because if I made a mistake in medication or something like that, that would've been on my record for the rest of my life. Yes, it would have been. So I said the best thing for me to do is leave. Then I go over to Mallard -- it was Mallard Bay at that time. I worked there. Some nights, you know, they would call me in and I would go. Then I had to get private duty, you know, since I left from Easton Hospital. So I haven't did anything for a while now. So I said well I know what I'm going to do. I love to pick crabs. I'll go back and pick crabs. And this way, I'm not on schedule, and if I have to go somewhere, then I can go.

K.F.: Right.

B.N.: You know. So and I said they don't talk, because Miss Schwartz when she interviewed me, well Miss Nelson, since you are an R.N., why would you want to pick crabs? I said because they don't talk back to you.

(Laughter)

B.N.: And my mother, incidentally, my mother brought some of her children in the world.

K. F.: Really?

B.N.: She told me that. She said because when she asked me what my age and I told her, she said well you're around the same vintage that I am, your mother brought me and some of my brothers and sisters in the world. Yes, she did.

K.F.: That's amazing.

B.N.: Yeah. But I love to pick crabs, though. I love to pick crabs.

K. F.: What do you love about it?

B.N.: I don't know. Just the joy of sitting there picking, you know.

K. F.: Yeah?

B.N.: Yeah, getting the pounds, you know.

(Laughter)

B.N.: Yeah. It's amazing what you can do with a crab, you know. I mean you can not be sitting there picking, and then you're going to cut that top piece and throw it away, I mean you know, you're losing money. You're working yourself to death for what, you know what I mean. So the meat's in there to be picked out, and that's what I do, I pick it out. And I get the pounds, you see. Some people get the crabs, but they don't get the pounds. I'm interested in getting the pounds, 'cause that's what counts.

K.F.: Right, right. Well since you picked back in the 30's and you're picking now, what do you see as the difference between then and now?

B.N.: For one thing, was the price. When I started down there cracking claws with my mother, they were paying three cents a pound. So now it's 2.25 a pound. That's quite a difference, isn't it?

K.F.: Yeah, that is.

B.N.: So that makes a difference.

K.F.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). Any other differences?

B.N.: Well I don't see where it's such a great difference, you know. And we used to have to wash our crabs all the time. You know, even in the summertime

K. F.: Wash them before you picked them?

B.N.: Before we picked them, you see. But now in the summertime when our crabs come in, you know, the Chesapeake Bay crabs come in, we don't have to wash them because there's no mud, or no nothing like that on them and you don't have to wash them. And some people do not like you to wash that fat out of the crab, they want that fat in the crab, you know, when you pick it. So that was a difference too. I don't know that anything else has changed so much, you know.

But now they tell me starting this week coming in that we're going to have to pick the meat in the can, you know, not pick it on the tray and bone it. And I -- they started that one time before, and I said to the inspector, I said listen, I do get bones in my meat, and I would like to go through my meat, you know, because people complain, they don't want a whole lot of bones in their meat, you know. And I said and I would like to pick -- they have stainless steel trays, to pick my meat and bone it some before I put it in the can. And he said it was all right. Now they don't want you to do that no more. I said now they'll be getting dead men and that hard crab fat, you know, and anything else that might go in there, dead men. But I trim my crabs so I don't get, wouldn't get that in there, but I do get bones in my meat sometimes, you know. And everybody else does, you know. But some get more than others. And then they tell me they're going to graduate you to picking in gloves. I said now I'm going to find another job.

K.F.: Really? They're going to make you wear gloves?

B.N.: Yeah, want you to wear gloves. I said that carries more germs than your hands because you wash your hands all the time, you know. And I said now I think I'm going to find another job.

K.F.: Wow. When are they going to start making you wear gloves?

B.N.: Well they're working up to it. I don't know just when it is going to be. But the fellow that works at the packing room, he told me that starting, gonna start this week coming in picking in the cans. And then after that, that's next on the list, is wearing gloves. Now the Cambodians, they wear gloves all the time. But see when they pick the crabs, they wash the crab as is, take the back off, and they wash 'em like that. How you gonna get that mud from under, you know, the dead men if you're not going to take it off first?

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: And then they take the crab and tear it up, throw it in the wash thing and wash it. It's still got mud on 'em, a lot of 'em is mud under there, you know. And then one time they didn't want to wash 'em. And so they always was trying to get on us about bacteria buildup.

K. F.: Right.

B. N.: And one day they took their meat, and guess where it was. A high count, a high count. So I said Uh-huh (*Affirmative*), picking on us, huh?

(Laughter)

K.F.: What's it like when the inspectors come in?

B.N.: Oh, you know, sometimes we had a coffee cup or something like that. You can not bring no food in there to eat whatsoever, you know. You got to have, you don't want no picking on the floor, you know. Want to be neat around you, you know. And then one time they used to let you use a cloth, but they don't want you to use that anymore. Use -- they get those recycled paper towels, them brown ones. They don't soak up nothing. You know. They don't soak up. It's just a mess. Just wasting paper, I call it, you know.

K. F.: Yeah.

B. N.: Because they're not absorbent at all, you know. And just make sure that you wash your trays and your hands and your knives and everything, dip the container that you put the meat in and the tops and all of that and keep it neat. So I use one them little square pans. After I dip my cans and my top, I put them in there. So put it to the left of me. So when I need it, I reach over and get the top and get the --'cause I pick backfin most of the time. So you have to make a topping for it, you know, so you put it on the top of the can, you know. And you turn it like upside down, the meat, and then when you put the top, you see, then the lump is showing pretty on the top.

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: So that's the way I pick it, like that. So if they want my bones, that's what they'll have to get.

(Laughter)

B.N.: If I can't pick it and bone it, then I'll just have to do the best I can. That's all I can do.

K. F.: Well now how many people do you work with now that you know from when you were a girl who pick crabs?

B. N.: Oh, my. I think we have -- let me see now. There's Gracie, Alice, and Alice Adams. Let me see. We got about 12, I guess, I would say on our side now. You'd be -- it's amazing the people who have died.

K. F.: Yeah.

B.N.: Because onetime we had 24 black pickers there. Now we only have--I don't know if we got 12 or not now. Because we have two spots where two men crack claws.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: You see, so only one is cracking now, and the other one's shucking, you know, because he could make more shucking than he could cracking claws. So

when they come in, then we got like four on each table, and we have three tables on each side, so that makes 12 people.

K. F.: Okay.

B. N.: Yeah. But it used to be 24.

K. F.: And they all passed away?

B. N.: So many have died. And then some are sick, and they can't work anymore. You know, one woman, her husband she had stopped because he was ill. She didn't come back. Martha's in the nursing home. And Marie is in the nursing home. And I don't know, it's just sad, you know. Really, it's really sad. Yeah. So they got all Cambodians over on the other side, see.

K. F.: Right.

B. N.: And they stand up and pick.

K. F.: Right. Did they come in from D.C.? Is that --

B. N.: They come from over across the Bay Bridge. Someplace over there they come. It's not a short ride, you know.

K. F.: Right.

B. N.: No, it's not a short ride. I think he picks 'em up like 4:00 in the morning.

K. F.: That's a long day.

B. N.: It is, it is. And then if they get tired or anything like that, he won't let them go out there and sit on that van to rest or nothing like that?

K. F.: No?

B. N.: He don't. Or they want to go eat. And he ripping them off, he's ripping them off right and left. See 'cause Sperry pays him for the pounds that they pick, and he pays them off, and he takes 75 cents out of each pound of meat that they pick.

K. F.: Wow.

B. N.: And some of them fast.

K. F.: Right.

B. N.: Because see they pick that top piece, and then they'll just cut that off and the legs all the same time. So the top they don't pick. But over on the side where the lump is, they shave that thin so that they will get a thicker piece of the lump, you know. It's pretty. It looks round almost like, you know. But they throw away, it's meat being thrown away like that, you know. And they stand up and they pick. And he get, like I said, he gets 75 cents out of each pound of meat that they pick. And they think they're making money, because see over there in Cambodia, they don't make nothing, like nothing, you know.

K. F.: Right.

B. N.: The wages is very, very low. They might get \$5 a day or something like that.

K. F.: Yeah.

B. N.: Wherein they're fast, you see. So they figure they're making a whole lot of money by him, I don't even think they know that he takes that from them.

K. F.: Who is this that's taking the money?

B. N.: It's a Cambodian. He calls himself an independent contractor.

K. F.: Oh.

B. N.: He brings 'em, and I think Joe pays him like \$75 a day for bringing 'em over here. And one time, he was bringing like 20. One day, he had 24.

K.F.: Wow. That's a lot of people in the picking house.

B.N.: They were sitting on the floors and everywhere, you know. Yeah. So they done stopped him a couple times, you know. And they found, they say as long as he got seats for them to sit. But, you know, it ain't no 24 seats in no van, you know what I mean.

K. F.: Right.

B. N.: So they go over there, just be sitting on the shelves, in the floor and everywhere else, I guess.

K.F.: Oh, my goodness.

B.N.: But anyway, that's the way that goes.

K.F.: Well can you describe tome what Harrison and Jarbo was like when you were there?

B.N.: Oh, the first time that I picked for them was in, they had a crab place in St. Michaels, you know. Down that way where Maritime Museum is, they had a big place down there.

K. F.: Yeah.

B.N.: Uh-huh (*Affirmative*). And you had a foreman then, they call him a foreman, who in charge of your working, you know, when to go to work and when to stop. And you was assigned a place to work, and this is where you worked. They would blow the whistle at 12:00. Everybody stopped, everybody eat the lunch. Then he blow the whistle and go back to work today. But then it got later on, they stopped that for some reason or other. Or the man, he died. Anyway, he died.

K. F.: Okay.

B. N.: The foreman, he died. And then they stopped doing that, you know, having you stop when you got ready to eat your lunch or whatever you wanted to do, or if you had to run up town, you know, for something, you did that. But the working conditions were very nice there, you know.

K. F.: Yeah?

B.N.: I shucked oysters there too. Yeah, I shucked oysters down in Claiborne at Alex Hadaways when they had their -- I shucked oysters there too. All I ever did my life was work anyway. Just work, work, work.

(Laughter)

B.N.: I would really loved to have stayed on working, you know, at the hospital. But it was a little bit too much, you know. I said it's gonna get the best of me, my nerves and everything else. So that's why I came out. And I'll tell you what. Nobody wants to own up to it, but black R.N.'s can not get private duty jobs. Because I guess they figure it's too much money for them, you know. 'Cause I went to Centreville to sit with a lady. She was in the hospital. She was having a lot of mini strokes, and her husband was in. Then he came home and he died suddenly, so she had to come home, you know, help take care of (indiscernible). So the agency got in touch with me to go there, and I did. I went there. And she was such a lovely person, you know.

And she said to -- her daughter said, you know, Miss Nelson, we would love to keep you because you are so good with my mother, you know. 'Cause I knew how to take her down the steps in the wheelchair and bring her up the steps and all that kind of stuff. Give her her shower, set her hair, then put her make-up on the day of the funeral, you know. And she looked so sweet, you know. And she said but we cannot afford, at that time they was getting \$22 an hour. And I said honey, I don't get that money. She said you don't? I said no, I don't. See they tell them, do not show the employee the contract. So when I found that out, I think they was giving me something like \$12 or something like that.

K. F.: Oh, a lot of it went to the agency.

B.N.: Yeah. And when I found it out, I waited a while, and then when they called me, I told them, I said I'm sorry. I said but I cannot work for that kind of money. I said you're getting \$22 an hour for my services, and you're just giving me about half of it I told them. Well we have overhead. And I said so do I. We have overhead. I said and so do I. So I didn't, and every time they'd call me, I was busy. I had, you know, I had a job already. And I didn't all the time, but I told him. I wasn't going for that, you know. They was using me, you know what I mean.

K.F.: Right, right.

B.N.: Yes. So I didn't go out for them any more. So like I said, you can't -- now if I was a sitter, no problem. And I put in an application at Hill Manor one time when they were building, they were accepting applications. I put my application. Never heard a word. I've put one in at House in the Pines in Easton. And the lady told me, she said well Miss Nelson, you know, we like to have ladies around your age for nurse's aides because they're more dependable. I said well, honey, that is beneath my category. I am an R. N. And I went look, I didn't come home, I had went to the agency. At that time, you were supposed to go look for jobs. I went right back to the unemployment, and I told 'em, I said I was offered a job as an aide at House in the Pines. And I said I told her it was beneath my category. I am not going beneath it. That's what I told her 'cause I didn't want them to come up with some stuff, you know. But I offered a job and wasn't accepted. I wanted to let her know why I did not accept it.

So I understand they got applications in now. But I did not apply. You didn't want me then, you don't want me now. Because I've got my Maryland license by reciprocity. Before I moved home, I went there and applied. 'Cause the lady, she was elderly, she was one of the instructors at the school up there in the hospital. And she told me, she said Miss Nelson, I'm going to tell you something. You put in now for your Maryland license, you know, because you can get 'em. Because later on, you may not be able to get them. And I still, I still carry my New York license 'til up about two years ago. And I let them go. But I can always reapply, you know.

K.F.: Right.

B.N.: So I keep my Maryland license up though. So in the event that I need them, because I'm sure if I wanted to, I could go to the nursing home, you know, and apply for a job, you know. But like I say, my son died in '98, my last son, and I used to have to go up there and stay with him because his wife worked. And I used to have to stay with him when he was at home, you know, when he wasn't in the hospital, I'd go. So this way, if I worked in a place where I'm on schedule, I could not do that, you see. So that's why I wanted to have my time so if I have to go, then I can go.

K. F.: Then you can.

B.N.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). Yes.

K.F.: Well let me ask you, did you experience any similar incidents of racism when you were picking crabs?

B. N.: Oh, no. No problem. No problem. Huh-uh (negative). No, no problem there.

K. F.: And were the pickers, were they mixed, black and white?

B.N.: Well you know, we only had -- I think up here to Sperry's, I don't think we had but one or two white pickers.

K. F.: How about at Harrison and Jarbo?

B.N.: Not any. Excuse me.

(OFF RECORD - TELEPHONE)

K.F.: That's what's going to happen.

B.N.: Oh, my Lord. Good Lord's keeping me going. Thank the Lord.

K. F.: And well we were talking about Harrison and Jarbo and if there was any racism that you experienced.

B.N.: No. No problem there. And even down to Ray Jones Seafood we had like clam shuckers, white and black mixed, and we had in the crab house. But everybody got along fine. Everybody got along fine. No problems. Very nice.

K.F.: Well what was it like going for your nurse's degree? When was, let's see, you were -- that was in the 60's or 70's you were --

B.N.: Yeah, '69 when I started to nursing school.

K. F.: '69, okay.

B. N.: The only problem that I ran into was, it was in sociology class. And it wasn't a big, wasn't a problem. And one of the fellows there, he said that his brother was a policeman in Harlem. And that's where I lived at that time. I had moved from Brooklyn 'cause I had removed myself from my husband's place, got my own place. And he said, and he doesn't like black people. And that's why they brought the dope in Harlem trying to kill off the blacks. And I don't think that we should have open enrollment at the college because there are some who can't keep up. So me and my mouth, I said now whose fault is that that some of us can't keep up? I said because you all had the best books. We got your leftovers. So what do you expect from us? Yes, I did tell him so. But I will speak my mind when I know that I'm right, you know.

K. F.: Yeah.

B.N.: I will speak my mind. So that was the only thing in that class. And then I had a teacher I could strangle her. Because I had an assignment to do, and I

was going on experiences, you know. Things that I had seen, you know, and everything. And something to do with children, you know, how some are treated, you know, and everything like that. And I was -- so she said because I didn't have a footnote as to where I got it, you see. And I said that's personal experience.

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: So I didn't have no footnote to put there. And she -- I should've gotten an A, and she gave me a D. Bless her heart. But I made it just the same. And then at Bellevue Hospital, see our class bumped a lot of people when they closed Frances Delaphile because the city found us places to go. So whoever had the most seniority, see, we bumped the ones who didn't have, you know. So they had it in for us. So then see Lord always has a ram in the bush. I went to school with one of the girls who worked at Bellevue Hospital. And she said Bertha, she said watch out when you go there because they got it in for you because they say we bumped them, so that put them out of a job there. I said well the corporation is going to send me there, and the corporation is going to be the one telling me to leave because I am not leaving unless the corporation tells me to leave. And the first night on the job -- you got that on?

K. F.: Yeah.

B.N.: Oh, that's all right. Well when I get to the point, I'll tell you.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: I said -- they told me that night to help one of the --they didn't call them senior aides, you know, but she could take blood pressures, you know, temperatures, and she could check I.V., the bag hanging up, you know. So then she was on, and there were two stethoscopes there and they both had the red tubing, but one tubing was longer than the other. So I just reached up and got one, you know. I want that one. I said a stethoscope is a stethoscope. But I want that one. I said well here, take it. I don't want it now. And I told her I don't give a -- and they used to do little digs like that, you know. And I said -- one night, I said now I'm going to tell you all. I can be as nice as anybody, I can be as mean as anybody. I said so if you ring my bell wrong, you will find out. From then on, I didn't have no problem. I didn't have any problem. Because I think they're trying to try you, maybe you're going to leave. Some people did leave, you know, some that the corporation sent there, they left. But I could stand the pressure as long as I knew I was doing my work like it's supposed to be done, I didn't pay any attention, you know. So it went on, and we finally got into a nice relationship. Yeah, when they see I wasn't budging, you know.

(Laughter)

K.F.: Well what was this area like when all the factories were working and it was really a seafood factory kind of area?

B. N.: Well they had busses, you know, bus to pick you up to take you to work.

K. F.: Was it a school bus or --

B.N.: Yeah, like they have old school bus, you know, they would have take you to work. And a lot of people would use their own cars, you know, to go to work. Now we work Claiborne down there now, he just had -- it was summertime. And

he had a truck with the railings on it, you know. So we riding in the back like standing up like cattle. But it's just to Claiborne, you know, that's as far as we had to go. And it was all blacks that worked there in the crab house there, and in the winter, all blacks that shucked oysters, and they -- people had their own cars, you know. And it wasn't no problem, it was nice working conditions there. And there they used to stop you at 12 so you could eat and go back at 12:30 or 1 or something like that, you know. But it was nice working there. I did a lot of things, boarding house and everything else, you know. In the summertime, work at the boarding house.

K.F.: What was it like for you to be able to make your own money when you were that young and working here?

B. N.: My mother got my money 'til I got married.

K. F.: Oh, really?

B.N.: Oh, yes.

K. F.: Okay.

B. N.: Oh, yes.

K. F.: I thought you said you got to buy your school clothes.

B.N.: I mean but my mother, what we did went on her number, you see.

K. F.: Okay.

B. N.: And she bought. And she'll tell you that if you don't like what I buy you, you know, then when you get -- when you get your own money, then you can buy what you want. But until then, you have to wear what I buy you. Yeah. No, I was right 21 really before I got my own money, you know. Now my sisters, two sisters coming up after me, they got their money because they had their own number to put their score on, you know, at the work place, and give my mother whatever they want to give her. But I couldn't do that.

K. F.: Why was that?

B. N.: I don't know why they do that. You know, they always do that. They do that to the younger children, and when the grands come up, they do them the same way, you know. But that's what happened. At least I didn't want for anything. I was never hungry or cold or barefooted or nothing like that, you know.

(END SIDE A.)

(BEGIN SIDE B.)

B.N.: We used to call it a peanut gallery.

K.F.: Oh, why?

B.N.: Because we had to go upstairs, and the whites sit downstairs. So there was a fellow that came here with his sister and he could really, he could pass. And he used to go in the white barber shop and get his hair cut, go sit down there in the movie. And when he come out, he would be telling us and cracking up about it.

(Laughter)

B.N.: Yes, sir. He laughed. And it did me good too. I couldn't pass, but he could.

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K.F.: Well what was -- I've been asking people what it was like to go to work and work with white people, and then once you left the crab house, everything was segregated?

B.N.: You know, because that's the way you were brought up. When you were born, and coming on up. Then you begin to realize, you know. Then you knew that this was the way that life was at that time. So you just went along with the program, you know. Yes. So they didn't bother me and I didn't bother them.

K.F.: Right.

B.N.: But at the boarding house one time, it was Cocky's Boarding House. You ever hear of that one?

K.F.: No.

B.N.: Down in Claiborne. And I was working there one Sunday they called -- one summer. And they used to -- I had what they call general utility girl.

Whoever was off, you filled that spot. So her iron went on the blink, the lady's iron did, and the girl that does the laundry to iron those pretty little doilies for the table and stuff like that, she was off that day, so that was my job that day. And the iron, something happened, it didn't work. And then she pulled out the flat iron, the ones you used to put on the stove to heat.

K.F.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

B.N.: I said I'm not doing it. Well your mother did. I said well this is a new day, and I'm not doing it. So I had a gas iron, you know. So I carried that down there to use, you know. I wasn't putting no flat iron. No, Huh-uh (negative). And I told her this is a new day. Didn't do those things any more, you know. They had electric irons. And then she wanted a flat iron, no. That was a no-no.

K.F.: Well what about what did the crab house sound like when you were in it?

B.N.: What did it sound like?

K.F.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

B.N.: Oh, some days, some people be singing, you know. And somebody's mouth always flying, you know, talking about something. Sometimes they don't even know what they're talking about really. But talking about the newspapers, you know, what we heard on television or the radio and things like that, you know, things like that. And then people that's sick, you know, they used to tell us you know such and such a person's sick or they in the hospital and they die, and I thought those things were nice to know, you know, because round here we knew everybody, you know.

K.F.: Right.

B.N.: So I like to know so that I can send a card or visit or something, you know. But now sometimes they don't want you to know what's wrong with 'em. And I can ask if a person is sick in the hospital. And if they don't say what it is, I don't ask 'cause I figure they don't want you to know, so I'll leave well enough alone. You don't get into people's personal business, you know, like that. But it's nice to know and to -- because I know I want somebody to come see me if I'm sick, you know, or get a card or something. At least you know they're thinking about you. Might not be all that good sometimes, but anyway, they're thinking anyway.

K.F.: They're thinking.

(Laughter)

B.N.: It's nothing like a good laugh, you know.

K.F.: This is true. Is there any singing still down in the crab house over at Sperry's, or people just don't do that anymore?

B. N.: Do what?

K.F.: Sing. Sing hymns still?

B.N.: Oh, one time we had a radio in there, you know. And we had some of those like non-believers. We used to play the radio on a spiritual station, you know. And a lot of us enjoy that. But then some of those on the other side of the wall, they wasn't for that. If it had been some jump stuff, you know --

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: They would -- and they complained so that he's not bringing the radios in there, you know. And because that really helps you through the day. And some people do a little singing by their self, you know, a little bit quiet like.

K.F.: Right.

(OFF RECORD - TELEPHONE)

K.F.: Well what are some of the hymns that you remember people singing?

B.N.: I was trying to think of Grace's piece, she sing every day I believe I hear her down there singing every day. Well we'd sing, you know, like spirituals, you know, church numbers. Sing -- I like His Grace and Mercy. That is really beautiful, you know.

K. F.: How does that one go?

B.N.: And Grace, I know Grace -- huh?

K. F.: How does that one go?

B.N.: I can't sing it.

(Laughter)

B.N.: No. I could talk it to you, but I couldn't sing.

K.F.: Okay. That's fine.

B. N.: Yeah, it goes *His grace and mercy has brought me through. I'm living this moment because of you. I want to thank you and praise you too. His grace and mercy has brought me through.* And I think that's a beautiful one. And they sing Blessed Assurance down there, you know. And Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross. And all kinds of, you know, spirituals and things like that, whatever. Sometimes people, you hear 'em humming even, you know what I mean. But they used to sing years ago in like the group would sing, you know. Somebody would start something and then others would join in. But they don't do that no more. Just a few, you know. You may hear somebody humming or something like that, but they don't do it like they used to 'cause they used to really --

K.F.: Why do you think they stopped?

B.N.: Well see in those times, a lot of people, they were Christian people, you know, and they went to church and they sang these hymns and things, you know. And 'cause some of 'em it means a lot to a lot of people, you know, where it wouldn't affect you maybe, but it's something within. And this is what it is because those people know that to get to heaven, you got to prepare yourself.

And I tell 'em, I say it's no use you going around here not speaking to people, I said, because you're not going to go to heaven. I say God says how can you say you love me whom you have not seen but hate your brother, you know, who you do see?

And you are a liar, and the truth is not in you. And He's not going to accept you in the kingdom not speaking to people. You got to treat people right. Even if a person doesn't speak to you, they're angry at you, you could say to them good morning, you know, and just go on. Well you have done your duty, you know. But you can not do that. And then some people, I think that they want to think people's talking about 'em all the time and that's bad, that's bad, you know. And if somebody say something, I know they're talking about me. If they don't call your name, don't say nothing. You know. Don't say anything because it's only going to start trouble. You know, let them say -- this a free country. So you say what you want to say and just don't say anything they don't call your name. Even if they call my name sometime I won't say anything either 'cause some people looking for trouble, you know, yeah, they want to argue. I don't like that. No.

K. F.: Well you were going to tell me one of the songs that a friend of yours, Grace, sings.

B. N.: Oh, Grace. Blessed Assurance.

K.F.: Blessed Assurance.

B.N.: Blessed Assurance. Yeah, she loves that. And sometimes I'll be humming back there, you know, and she's on the table as you come into the door over and I'm up on the third table back this way.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: And some would, you know, sing along with her, you know. But a lot of 'em, they don't even go to church. And I think it's sad, you know. And I keep telling too, I say you all working, I say the bible says you should give one-tenth of your earnings to him.

K.F.: Right.

B.N.: And he will give it back to you tenfold. They don't want to give it. I said that's why you always got to go to the doctor, pay the doctor and all that kind of buy all this high-priced medicine 'cause you're not doing what he said to do. If you do it, you won't have all that trouble. And it is true because I am a living witness to that. I remember one time I had surgery here, and they used to come around to your house on Sunday morning to collect, you know, for the church.

K. F.: Oh, okay.

B.N.: They used to come around to collect. And that Sunday morning they came, I had 50 cents to my name. And I gave that 50 cents. And when church was out, people came and they gave me money. I said, you know, if you stretch out on faith, you know, if you believe, as you believe, so shall you receive. I didn't know where I was going to get the next penny from. But I just had that faith, you know, that it was going to come from somewhere. And that's what I did, gave my last 50 cents. And I don't know how much money I didn't get that

day. Of course, in them days, wasn't a whole lot of money anyway, you know, but it didn't cost you as much to buy food as it does now.

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: We did just as well when we was making a little bit of money. And the food was cheap as we -- we're getting a good salary, and we got to pay a whole lot for the food, and rent, it out of sight, you know. So I don't know what the lesser of the two evils.

(Laughter)

B. N.: To have a whole lot of money, you know, they buy stuff, but you don't have nothing left.

K.F.: What are some of your favorite memories of working in the crab house?

B.N.: Oh, Lord. I just used to like to be down there and be around people that you knew, and then the older people be telling their experiences, you know, of life. And then everybody was just nice to you. And I just love the day when it used to be a bakery down there in Claiborne. I don't know if you ever hear of Egelseder. He's a doctor, and one is a lawyer. Those are the grandsons. But their grandfather used to have a bakery down Claiborne. And one time -- see Bergman was the first bakery down there. And Egelseder. And they would come around about lunch time, you know, with the hot buns and all the cookies and all that good stuff, you know. And we wasn't too far from the store, and we already had been to the store and got our cheese and stuff, whatever we wanted, you know, to have with the hot buns when he came.

And that was a good treat, you know, when they came, mother give you money to buy a piece of gingerbread or something like that. Now that was a nice time. And was just people were so congenial, you know. So we just all got along fine. 'Cause in those times, you -- if you didn't have somebody to crack claws for you, you had to pick your own crab and crack your own claw. But most the parents had children, you know, and bring the children. They would crack the claws, and the parents would pick the crab. And when the crabs come in and they steam them, they were nice and hot, we used to take our salt, pepper and vinegar, you know, and either pick crab, pick a crab or crack a claw and dip it in that vinegar and pepper and salt, you know, and oh, it would be so good.

K.F.: Now I've heard a lot of people in this area tell me about putting vinegar on crabs.

B.N.: Oh, it's good to dip it, you know. You season it up a little bit 'cause some people use the crab spice, you know, what they have, or either Old Bay and put that in the vinegar, and then dip it in there. Oh, yeah, it's some good.

K. F.: Now what kind of vinegar is it, just regular --

B.N.: I like to use the apple cider.

K. F.: Apple cider.

B.N.: Apple cider vinegar, yes.

K.F.: Okay. Now have you ever heard of something called Bob Crabs?

B. N.: All I figure was they take the legs, not all the leg off, you know, just up to the first joint, all those legs, you know. And sometimes they would take 'em and fry 'em.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: But I take, like the little crabs now that come in the crab, sometime I would take and make a batter and dip 'em and deep fry 'em. And that is really good.

K.F.: Oh. In their shell and everything?

B.N.: Yeah. You trim it off, clean it up, you know, and of course this time of the year you got to wash it on count of the -- maybe it's some dirt in there somewhere. And you just wash it, and you make your batter, and dip the crabs in it, and I got a little Fry Daddy, you know, and drop 'em down in there, hot fat, and they are really good. Very good. Then they make what they call stewed crabs.

K. F.: Okay.

B.N.: They take and fry some bacon or something like that. Or you could just, you don't eat pork, you know, you could take the oil and get the oil, put it in a pot, and then you put your crabs, first you should take the oil first, put it in the pan, let it get good and hot. And then you put your flour to make a gravy. In the mean time, you got your pot, and I put some like chicken bouillon cubes in there with the water and cut up onions in there, and then you put your crabs in there. Then you put the brown gravy in there and let it cook. And that seasoning will come out the crab, you know, and that is really good. And they call it stewed crabs.

K. F.: Oh. Stewed crabs.

B.N.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). And I like crab soup, I like that too. I see people picking crabs, you know, they'll throw a piece of it in, I don't. I want it -- I like it like sauteed, you know, you saute an onion in some butter and put some crab meat in there, you know, salt and pepper, stir it up good and get nice and hot, and the onion tender. I like to eat it like that or either crab cakes or crab imperial. Something like that. But just to sit and eat it like that -- when I was a kid now, like I said, when the crabs come in and they were hot, I like to dip it in the vinegar and salt and pepper like that. I could eat it like that. But I love the claws, you know, crab claws.

K.F.: Are they the best part that you think?

B.N.: I, to me, it's the most tastiest to me, you know. Yeah.

K. F.: That's what my husband says too.

(Laughter)

B. N.: But that's good to mix with the crab meat, you know, to make crab cakes too, claw meat. Yeah.

K. F.: Okay. Well is there anything else that people should know about crab picking, or this community here? It was really mostly seafood workers in the area.

B. N.: Yeah, mostly seafood work. That's why we don't have nobody around here because the younger ones, they, you know, went away to college and they cannot get a job really around here, you know. Because even like the ones

teaching school, most of ones are away somewhere, you know, teaching. Or either sometime they have to get, bring people in. They send out like, I call 'em a scout, you know, go around to different colleges, you know, and so they could find teachers to come to Easton, you know, because you just could not get certain jobs, you know. Because they're not available around here. You got to go across the water, you know, across Bay Bridge or somewhere, or way up Delaware and all that, you know. That's kind of hard, you know. I got my niece-in-law, she goes all the way Johns Hopkins. She works Johns Hopkins Hospital. And then she took a course, something with -- once a week over here in Easton. And she lived in Easton. But now she lives right here in McDaniel, you know, up Mack's Lane, the next lane up that way.

K. F.: Oh. And she drives all the way to Johns Hopkins?

B.N.: All the way to Johns Hopkins. Uh-huh (Affirmative). Yes.

K.F.: That's a long drive.

B.N.: Yes. She got a good job there. Like I said, computer, stuff like that, you know, they got to go away to get it, you know. Yes.

K.F.: Well are there any other crab pickers that we should talk to in the area?

B. N.: I don't know. My friend over there, she's -- she knows about what I know, you know. I don't know if there's anything else different that she could tell you, you know. You know, that cement is not good for you to work, you know, with your feet on the floor, cement floor.

K. F.: Right.

B.N.: A lot of people wind up with arthritis and everything else. But I put my feet on a box.

K. F.: Oh, okay.

B.N.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). They got those plastic crates like, you know. And sometime I turn it upside down and put my feet in it. But then the crates, you know, got those little squares in it, air could still come up in it, so I turn it upside down and put my feet on it. And I wear what they call the mud packs, you know, the shoe that's waterproof and got the lambskin like inside to keep my feet warm.

K.F.: Oh, well let me ask you, what are some of the health problems associated with picking crabs? I mean you're a nurse. You must be able to recognize them pretty quickly.

B.N.: Well see there are those who are allergic to crab, they can't even touch 'em. You know, 'cause I got my -- I got grandchildren like that. And one day he was -- I had him, he was down here from New York with me for a week or two, and he went up there with me one morning to crack claws. And the juice flew up, and he started swelling up.

K. F.: Oh, gosh.

B.N.: I said get out of here, get out of here. 'Cause I had a niece lived right in St. Michaels, you know, he knew where she was. And I said you go there. Can't even touch it, you know. And I got a granddaughter. She ate some, her tongue turned black, you know. Had to rush her to the hospital.

K.F.: Really?

B.N.: Yes. Allergic to crabs.

K.F.: What about people's hands? If you've been picking for years and years, does anything happen to your hands?

B. N.: You know some people when they're working in the crabs, they get those crabs and they have what they call the sponges on the back. That's those eggs.

K.F.: Yeah, the female crabs.

B.N.: Yeah, the female. They have those eggs, and when you steam 'em, you know, it like swells up, you know. People have -- fingers have broke out, you know, like in between the fingers from that.

K.F.: From the eggs.

B. N.: Yeah, from the eggs. I don't know what it is 'cause I know some -- one of the girls, she wears one glove, you know, she's right handed so she wears it 'cause she does the trimming with the right hand, and she wears a glove on that hand. Well it's a matter of just keeping your hands clean, you know. Wash your hands with soap and water. And they have the solution. One girl she can't dip in it 'cause it breaks her hands out.

K.F.: Oh, right. It's too strong.

B. N.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). So she just have to wash 'em and rinse 'em, you know, her hands. Well she cracks claws. But she can't -- she was in the hospital, and she has something like emphysema, you know. They send her home with a little portable oxygen. Yeah. So she said she wouldn't be back until the weather gets warm. I don't know then if she'll be able to stay, you know. Picking 'em off one by one.

K. F.: Well how does a crab picker retire, if there is such a thing?

B.N.: Well you're not going to get any pension. That's it, you're not going to get any pension.

(Laughter)

B.N.: Or you're not going to get anything, you know, from that, you know. You just get like when they take you out, whatever the government says to take out, you know. Like everybody's salary when you're working. Social security, and federal tax, and state tax, and Medicare and anybody else's tax that they can take, they do that too. So, you know, then you file your income tax, you know, at the end of the year, whenever you get it. But some people, they will not work enough for them to take out enough for them to get back anything. Now I think that's terrible. I don't think you want anything, you know. I really don't. Because you're not making nothing, you know what I mean? You're not making anything, as far as I'm concerned. I would rather be independent, you know, than to have to count your pennies. I can't spend this because I only make so much and so much. You just can't, you can't -- I don't know what purpose they have in life. I really don't. Just annoy somebody else, I guess.

(Laughter)

B. N.: I guess that's what they do. I don't know.

K.F.: All right. Well I can't think of anything else to ask you right now, Ms. Nelson, but I might. Actually, I probably will as soon as I get back to my office.

B. N.: All right, all right.

K.F.: You know how that works.

B. N.: Yeah.

K. F.: So I might call you and see.

B.N.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

K.F.: And what we've been doing is I will make a copy of the tape and send it to you, and give it to your grandchildren or whatever. And when we go to start working on the exhibit, we're going to try to include people's stories in these. So I might be coming back to show you some of the stuff that we're doing, and see if it is right.

B. N.: All right.

KF.: You know, the museum is very interested in making sure that we talk to as many crab pickers that are still around that used to work at Harrison and Jarbo, and Colburn and Jewit, 'cause they were on the grounds of the museum.

B.N.: Right, right. Yeah. Uh-huh (Affirmative).

K.F.: So we're trying to talk to anybody who used to work there. So if you think of anybody, just let me know.

B. N.: Okay. 'Cause a lot of 'em has died out, you know.

K.F.: I know, that's what they're afraid of. There may not be too many people left to talk to.

B. N.: That's true, yes.

K. F.: All right. And I need your mailing address.

B.N.: Okay. Wait a minute. Take a stamp.

K.F.: Oh, good. I think I've got some of these too. They're real pretty.

B. N.: They are pretty.

K. F.: There you go.

B.N.: All right.

(END OF INTERVIEW.)