

Interview Log

Interviewee:	Rodney "Kinky" Dize	Tape #: (n/a)
Interviewer:	Virginia Jenkins	# of Tapes: 1
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Comments: Unidentified female listed as "MRS." Unidentified male listed as "SPEAKER." Phonetic Spellings: Roland Parks, Doherty, Wheatlock.
Mrs. Frances Dize

BEGIN SIDE A

R.B.D.: Well there was Norfolk, Weems -- you name it, daddy can take you there. Daddy didn't have much education, but he was smart on the water. Well he started with his granddad, and he started with his dad -- Granddaddy West. I think he was five years old, I think. And daddy couldn't see over the wheelbox, so Granddaddy West built him a little box to stand on so he could see, see how to steer. And Daddy West learned him, and it went on down. And his daddy, my daddy, and we started, I don't know, we just -- that's just the way of life. I remember one time daddy, he was up -- I don't remember, but he was telling me about it, up there (indiscernible), and he used to sell oysters a nickel a bushel. And if he couldn't get a nickel for the oysters, you know, he'd trade off whatever mama needed, flour or sugar. So one day, let's see -- it's been a right good while. Anyway, I went down to see daddy, you know, and he asked what the market on oysters was, and I told him. I think he almost fainted 'cause he couldn't believe the price hardly, you know. He said we got the price then that you get now, we'd all be millionaires. And, of course, on a boat, you always have hang-ups, break-downs and stuff, especially on a dredge boat. Break down the engine and the yawl boat. The yawl boat is the boat that pushes the -- when I dredged, when I started dredging, we didn't have no power days. We had all sail days. In other words, when you got to the rock, you had to pull the yawl boat up. And she weighed four tons. Take four mules and a board pull her up.

But anyway, we'd get her up. But now, they dredge now with two power days, Monday and Tuesday, and I don't think they dredge rest of the week. And I don't even think they use a border boat like we used to. We used to eat breakfast on the way out, and then we had things for dinner, whatever we had for supper. And we used to make up the bread in a big pan. And then we'd have biscuits and pone bread, rye bread. We had, most times, like say we had beans.

V.J.: What kind of stove was on the --

R.B.D.: Oh, then we had a wood cook stove. (Indiscernible). But oh, she could cook. She had like four fans on her, about like that, I guess, and then an oven.

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). Like an apartment size?

R.B.D.: Yeah, maybe so. And that's all the heat we had too. We didn't have no thermostat aboard the boat. Wood stove go out, that was it until the next morning.

V.J.: Where did you keep the wood?

R.B.D.: Down the fore peak. And we used to -- used to tote the water and put the water in barrels and had two barrels. And they hold more than Niagara Falls. You throw the -- most the times like -- had artisan water at home. And fill that out and fill them up and then get the wood. I remember like in the spring of the year, I remember one time I went over the bay, I was just -- I wasn't big as a minute. But anyway, we used to get that wood and bring it over, stack it. You know, get it in the spring and have it, put it out winter, you know. And then like when we would go up the bay -- of course, later on we got like a little gas stove, they're like the kind that they use in the R. V.'s now.

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). Propane?

R.B.D.: Yeah. And then we got a little wood burner aboard dredge boats now. But back there then, see it was six head aboard the boat. Three sleep underneath the stern, one on each side of the -- one on the left-hand side, one on the right side, and one -- and whoever

slept on the locker, you know. Most of the time, the captain slept on the locker. But see as far as eating aboard the boat, we always had something to eat.

V.J.: Who was the cook on the Annie Lee?

R.B.D.: Let's see, I think Roland Parks, I believe. I don't -- I don't remember. That's been a long time ago.

V.J.: And on the Seagull?

R.B.D.: And on the Seagull, boy -- he was a Murphy boy, Little Wadey, I think that was his name. I'm not sure.

V.J.: Murphy?

R.B.D.: That's been a long time ago. I mean a long time ago.

V.J.: And on the Fannie Doherty, do you remember who cooked?

R.B.D.: Yeah. I'll think of it in a minute. I'll think of it.

V.J.: Did you ever try your hand at cooking?

R.B.D.: Can't boil water without burning it. My speed is about scrapple and egg sandwich. Other than that, don't look for no miracles. (Laughter.) When my baby was up the road, she had a stroke, and I was frying some eggs one night, and I forgot `em, and they were just as black as coal. So needless to say, I had no eggs. I had to throw them out and get some more. No. Cook? I ain't no chef.

V.J.: What did you usually have for breakfast?

R.B.D.: Probably bacon and eggs, most time bacon, eggs, and sausage, cheese, big pot of coffee, big pot of coffee held about maybe, I don't know, 20, 30 cups, I guess, but we kept it on the stove all day long. And then we eat breakfast on the way out. We get under way -- when I say we get under way, you know, we get the sails going and draw the boat down, then we go ahead and hurry up, get our breakfast in us.

V.J.: And you said you had biscuits, or --

R.B.D.: Yes. Sometimes we had biscuits. Yeah.

V.J.: Pone bread?

R.B.D.: Yeah.

V.J.: Corn bread ever?

R.B.D.: No. We call it pone bread. It's in a round pan, just same as biscuits, but it ain't biscuits, it's just one big piece of bread. And then you break it off. And then we sit our thing in the middle of the board, and everybody fend for themselves. Wasn't no pass me this or pass me that. You just reached down there and grab it. We sit on the lockers and eat, and had to hold our plate, had to hold our plate, hold our plate in our lap like this. This is how we have to eat, you know. So imagine going out if it was rough, you know, what a thrill that was. Donald Trump don't know about that one, I guarantee it. I guarantee he don't. Then sometimes, like most times we had beans. Sometimes we had peas and carrots, taters. And sometimes we have rice pudding. Which I never did like rice pudding. I hate that with a passion. And then sometimes we would have peas and potatoes and we called dough boys, little pieces of bread that you'd put in there, not bread but dough, and we put `em in there and they come out like little midget dumplings. Little tiny rascals. But they're good. Sometimes they'd get soggy. If they got soggy, I didn't eat `em. But I eat peas and potatoes. And like cheese, we always had cheese.

V.J.: What kind of cheese?

R.B.D.: It used to come in one of them round what-you-call-its. Round hoops, hups, whatever you want to call it.

V.J.: The wooden box?

R.B.D.: Yeah. And then some reason or another we didn't get it like that, we'd just try to get a, you know, great big chunks at the store. And back there then, over at home, we used to -- what we used to do, we used to get the grub bill, and we used to charge it. And then at the end of the week or whenever we shared up, then we'd go and pay the bills off

V.J.: What store did you frequent?

R.B.D.: Big store.

V.J.: On Smith?

MRS.: Would you like for me to show you a grub bill?

V.J.: I'd love to see a grub bill.

R.B.D.: 'Cause see back there and then, didn't have 30 cents between here and Richmond. I mean a dollar was the Empire State Building, you know. And I think when I first started dredging, I think we got -- it was either \$1.75 a bushel or 2.25 a bushel, I forgot which. I don't remember. And the money I got, I didn't -- I mean when I was aboard the boat with daddy, he'd give me so much at the end of the week, which was you couldn't go on one of them excursions, you couldn't go to Hawaii, I guarantee you that. But see back there in them days, well we never went nowhere. You know, we just worked. And sometimes like when we would go up the bay, we'd harbor up there in Annapolis, which was very seldom. Most times, we'd anchor off Magothy. And sometimes then we could go to the movies, you know. And you talk about big times. Great day in the morning. I was just like a little boy in a candy store, I guess. But each morning in the boat, we always, always had something to eat. You'd get hungry now. You dredged all day long. Weren't no nine to five, hitting the time clock here and the time clock there, 15 minute break here, and a 15 -- no. You got out there, you worked 'til you got back in. And --

V.J.: Did you put cheese in your coffee?

R.B.D.: Oh, yeah. Absolutely. Yes indeedy. Ain't no good put that cheese in that coffee, with that milk, get that biscuit, put that cheese in coffee, cheese on that biscuit. Ain't no good. I bet them city slickers ain't never heard of that before. I doubt it. They might have, but see back there in them days, times were hard, but I believe families were closer than they are today. Of course, when we're home, I remember the first radio we got from Sears -- she was that long, she was 10 miles long, and that battery weighed 4 tons. It was one of them -- it was one of them batteries, and it had a little doo-dad thing that you plug into the top from the radio to the battery.

And I remember we used to listen to Amos and Andy, and Lone Ranger, and The Shadow, and Behind the Green Door, I don't know, a whole bunch -- Green Hornet, a whole bunch. But you talk about big time, now that was big time, radio. And then, of course, they had soap operas, Stella Daly, Just Plain Bill. Of course, I don't think they got the hang of some of the soap operas then as they got now. The ones now, they're always dressed up, they never work, and the house is always clean. Ain't never got nothing to do. That's the kind of J-O-B I want to have, when you ain't got nothing to do. And we never had no records or anything like that. I think the first one got t.v. at home was Edward Wheatlock, and his boy Jay. When he first, when he first got that t.v., it was one of them round screens. I can see that, I see that rascal now. And you talk about a houseful. That bird had a houseful. I mean that was just the same as I guess going to the

moon now. And the only thing I can say about that is it was a hard way of life, but it was a good way. Like I say, families were close. Aboard a dredge boat, now if you think we had a lot of room down in that cabin now, let me tell you. When you get five, six head, we used to have six head, then five head, then four head. But most time, we had five head. Now you get five head down in that little cabin now, you talk about a state room. Elbow to elbow. You didn't have 30 inches to move, you know. And mind you now, you kept your oilskins, and your boots, the clothes that you wore, the wash basin, everything was kept down in the cabin. Now you can imagine how much room we had in that little rascal by the time you get five, six head down the cabin. And you're jammed in there like sardines.

V.J.: You said you had coffee all day.

R.B.D.: Oh, yeah.

V.J.: Anything else to drink on the boat?

R.B.D.: I only remember coffee. Maybe later on they had -- Gatorade, something like that. But no, we only had coffee. That was the only way to have it, right out of the pot. Weren't no good -- have that first thing in the morning.

V.J.: Was it weak?

R.B.D.: See that back there now. The mugs that we had -- here's one of `em.

V.J.: Tin.

R.B.D.: That's what we had.

MRS.: We dug that up out of our yard in Smith Island. It's probably greasy from being up there by the stove.

V.J.: And, of course, coffee, you know. I don't remember nobody aboard the boat who didn't drink it. It'd warm you up for one thing. You know, I've seen it so cold, I've seen it so cold on the dredge boat -- you might not believe this now. I've seen the dredge come up with the bag -- the dredge bag straight off, frozen. I mean, look now, that's cold as a igloo with the roof off. I mean that's cold. And sleet, oh Lord have mercy. Ice on deck. And then on the sail you had to if it was blowing too hard, you had to take a reef in the sail, call `em reef points. And your hand, your fingers, Lord have mercy. Feel like they're going to drop right off, I mean right off to nubs. And then it would freeze up and then you'd have to put a reef. And it'd die on you, you'd have to take a reef out. Oh, Lord have mercy. And sometimes -- oh, yeah. Sometimes you'd do this all day long. And this is in between -- well, of course, we had the winders to wind the dredges in. But you still had to dump `em. You know, dump the dredge -- the oyster, do this. And when we went down the cabin eat dinner, now if you think we stayed down there one of them hour breaks. We got down there, we shoveled it in us and back up on the deck working. I mean

V.J.: Did you all stop work together, go down and eat together?

R.B.D.: Yeah. Most times, we did.

V.J.: Did anyone ask a blessing?

R.B.D.: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. We said blessing every meal.

V.J.: Who usually asked a blessing?

R.B.D.: Most time, the Captain did it. Most -- 99 percent of the time, the Captain. You always say the blessing. In the morning, always had a prayer, and then say your blessing.

V.J.: Do you remember what the blessing was, if it was one that was used a lot or --

R.B.D.: Yeah.

V.J.: -- or were they extemporaneous?

R.B.D.: Dear Lord, thank you for this day, thank you for your many blessings that you've shown upon us this morning which we are to begin. We ask you to bless this food and bless all who are in need. I think that -- that was about the -- of it. And like we would leave home and go up the bay, we'd sit up there all week. Now look, if you think we're in the Holiday Inn. Most the time, I slept on the stern. Most time, underneath the stern it's always wet, it's always damp, it's always cold, and anything else you want to throw in there. And like if you get up first, I mean if you had to get up during the night or whatever, take a leak or what have you, you had a problem. `Cause whoever was in front of you or alongside -- they didn't want to move. And the reason they didn't want to move, he got nice and warm, and didn't want to get out of them blankets. And a lot of times, you never could dry them -- then we had feather beds. You could never get `em dry. Used to put `em out on deck and let `em dry, or try to let `em dry, sun out. But hey, that was a waste of time.

V.J.: Did you provide your own, or did the Captain provide them?

R.B.D.: No, we had our own.

V.J.: You brought them with you?

R.B.D.: Uh-huh (Affirmative). And see the boat took out a third. It was a third for the boat. You had your grub, and then you had your expenses for the yawl boat. Then sometimes, sometimes you'd get lucky and catch two or three, sometimes would be -- you'd lay there all day. I remember one time we were dredging over the Hollow, that's over on the western shore there below Solomon's. And raise up -- was foggy first, then it breezed up a gale, then it started sleeting, then it started snowing, and then, this was in March just before we quit dredging. And then, you know March. I don't know, it done three or four different things in less than two hours' time. I was on my boat the other week, I was down here at Greg Point. And one of these squalls come up. I mean that was a dandy, let me tell you. We had the wind to the southern, we had the wind southwest, we had the wind to the eastern, it come around norwestern, come back around to the western. And oh, it was raining so hard I couldn't see the bow of my boat. And I was down the cabin. And couldn't see the bow of my boat. I was up against the bank. And the tide, and the tide was falling. I couldn't get out, I couldn't do nothing because I just couldn't see. And oh, that was the same day that boy hit that water spout up the sound there. And so you get caught. See the thing of it is my daddy always told me, he said -- he always told me never be afraid of the water, but respect it, you know.

But sometimes, sometimes you get in these (indiscernible) and these squalls come up so quick. Like we have three or four different winds. We have one over to the southern, we have one over to the western, we have one round here to the eastern. But the one -- the western all around here are norwest. So actually we didn't know -- I didn't know which way it was going to come. And at the time when it come down I was okay because the wind was to the western. But when she hauled around norwest, it pushed me up against the bank, I was already to the bank. I don't mean peninsula bank, I mean the bank on the shore there. And what happened, I was all right -- me and Tommy Horner, he's a good old boy too. And he was in a smaller boat than what my boat is. Of course, my boat ain't all that big. She's 32 foot. But anyway, well I was in the cock, washed up on the bank. See us watermen, we depend on each other. I mean it ain't no -- ain't no gas station to

pull into when you're out there. And we help each other out, and we go -- we have to do that in order to survive, you know. And it's not like -- let me see if I can explain it, like you take your car to the garage and it's \$180, you know. If we charged every time we helped each other out, we don't do that.

Anyway, that same day I was in that (indiscernible), Trace and Edward Crockett, they come and pull me off. Went and got a hold of my bow, went and got a hold of my stern. And when they pulled me off, they had to get it that way, and when they pulled me off, my wash boards went all the way down in the water. In other words, the outside was showing, you know. But I got sidetracked now. But we do, we have to depend on each other. If we don't, well we get in a -- I mean the thing of it is like when these squalls come up on you like that so quick, you want to be, you want to be in land, you want to get to the shore or you want to get to the harbor. But sometimes, hey, you can't do that. So you just get your ducks in a row and you start all over again.

V.J.: You mentioned that you didn't like rice pudding.

R.B.D.: Oh, my Lord.

V.J.: Were there other desserts or sweets that --

R.B.D.: We used to have a porridge -- mama used to have rice. And sometimes she had raisins and put that raisins in that rice. And that gag a maggot. I mean to tell you. And so then aboard a dredge boat we had rice pudding, we had some kind of pudding, most time it was rice.

V.J.: Cracker pudding, ever have cracker pudding?

R.B.D.: Sometimes we had cracker pudding, yes. Cracker pudding was all right. And then sometimes we had bread pudding. But oh that rice pudding -- didn't want to eat that. I mean I could see them raisins in there now. Oh, Lord have mercy. No.

V.J.: Anybody ever bake a pie?

R.B.D.: I don't -- they might have, but I don't believe I ever had any. It was mostly bread pudding, rice pudding, cracker pudding. Pie, I don't --

V.J.: What about fruit? Did you ever have fruit on the boat?

R.B.D.: Yeah, we had nanners and apples, pears. Had a lot of apples.

V.J.: Fresh? Fresh apples?

R.B.D.: What do you mean fresh, get `em off the tree? No. No. Of course, the only kind of fruit I like is nanners and pineapples. I don't like apples or pears, I ain't much on them.

V.J.: Were they canned fruit?

R.B.D.: No.

V.J.: Dried?

R.B.D.: Oh, one time yeah, we had apples -- what was that, apples -- it was apples in a pan -- I can't think of that. It weren't pudding. Baked apples. I don't know. I don't know what you want to call `em, but they weren't too bad. Of course, like I say, I never -- now cheese, I eat a lot of cheese. I would eat cheese three times a day instead of eating that rice pudding. I'd rather have a block of that cheese. And back there in them days, that cheese that we had, it had that -- weren't cotton, anyway, you had to peel it off.

V.J.: Cheesecloth.

R.B.D.: Cheesecloth. That's the name of it. That's it. Then that weren't no good.

That's just as sharp as a razor. Put that in your coffee. Oh, God. I can see that now.

And that coffee be hot as a Sparrow's Point bird. Cheesecloth. That's it. Thank you, Baby. This is the dredge boat, my daddy's dredge boat right here. Annie Lee. I'm trying to think who that is.

MRS.: It's Diane's mother.

R.B.D.: Is that who that is?

MRS.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

R.B.D.: Oh, we're tied up Annapolis.

V.J.: When were these taken?

MRS.: That was one of those races.

R.B.D.: Oh, yeah. That's something else. That was back in the 70's, wasn't it, Baby?

MRS.: That was longer ago than that. That was more like 60's.

R.B.D.: No, it wasn't. No.

MRS.: Oh, it was. `72.

R.B.D.: She knows better than -- dredge boat.

MRS.: You said we're going to the races, and I thought he meant --

R.B.D.: And I was with my uncle on the Marylander.

MRS.: I thought he meant the horse races.

R.B.D.: My baby thought it was a horse race. And I said no, dredge boat.

MRS.: Okay.

R.B.D.: And I told her, I said take the bus up there to Easton, and Danny come pick, that's my cousin, Danny, pick her up, take her over there. I think he come down there and brung you.

MRS.: After that, I spent two weeks on the freighter. That was really -- I wondered how --

R.B.D.: Have you ever, have you ever been on the -- you know, one of these city slickers dying to get down here, but have you ever been on the what you call it on the bay when it's (indiscernible), have to run catch your breath, and the moon is shining on the water, and you can see mile after mile after mile. If that ain't pretty. That's pretty. Well with all the aggravation and all the hang-ups, it ain't nothing like being on that water.

MRS.: A half gallon of whiskey cost a dollar and a half or \$3 a gallon. Charged a quarter for the freight.

R.B.D.: Is that down in the --

MRS.: (Indiscernible).

V.J.: Do people carry whiskey on the boat?

R.B.D.: Yeah, Granddaddy West did.

MRS.: Whiskey? Yeah. He sold it to the crew.

R.B.D.: He sold it to the crew. I don't know how much he charged. Half a gallon, dollar something.

MRS.: We have some --

R.B.D.: This is here in Annapolis. That's my daddy's dredge boat the Annie Lee. I don't know where she's at now. I think she --

MRS.: Had some contracts that they signed, and some were hired on for \$10 a month, and some for 15 a month. And by the time the end of the month came, they maybe earned a dollar or \$2 because the cigarettes come out, the oilskins came out, the boots came out, the whiskey came out.

R.B.D.: Baby, in one of them -- what was it, beef steak was what?

MRS.: Forty-eight pounds of bacon was \$6.96.

R.B.D.: This was 19 --

MRS.: 1902.

R.B.D.: 1902. You've got 40 -- about 40 pounds?

MRS.: And three pounds of oats is 30 cents.

R.B.D.: A barrel of flour was \$4.50 for a whole barrel. Great day in the morning.

MRS.: And four soup plates, 30 cents. Four pounds of sugar, 22 cents.

R.B.D.: A.B. Bradshaw, he had the store over -- have the heebie-jeebies. And then he also --

MRS.: That's the ones had the funeral home.

R.B.D.: -- has the funeral parlor, yeah.

MRS.: Two pounds of rice, 16 cents. Three pounds of raisins, 30 cents.

R.B.D.: I imagine we -- I don't know, I imagine we got the oldest probably -- I don't know if I'm right or not, but we probably got the oldest record of anybody. This all come out of Granddaddy West's trunk, didn't it?

MRS.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

R.B.D.: That's in the living room there.

MRS.: See these holes in the middle?

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

MRS.: That's how they kept the record from season to season. They had a sharp stick about this long, and they tied a rope, piece of rope, small piece of rope, twine, right?

R.B.D.: Yeah, twine.

MRS.: Onto that and stuck it through the middle of all the receipts for that season, and then got another stick and tied to the other end and then put them in the trunk, that's his granddaddy's trunk, and these were in there. I have more in the closet about Smith Island than there is anyplace else in the whole wide world. Have 17 of these.

R.B.D.: See back there in them days too, like whatever it might be, didn't never pay for nothing 'til you got back home 'cause they didn't have no money, and everybody trusted everybody. Today, nobody don't trust nobody. You have to have a lawyer for your lawyer. But living aboard a dredge boat down that small -- you know, they talk about people living in small rooms, you know, small places. Ain't -- hey, they ain't never lived in a small place 'til they get aboard a dredge boat down in that cabin.

V.J.: Where were the provisions stored?

R.B.D.: Underneath the bunk, down the fore peak, underneath the stern, anywhere we could put 'em. Like taters, taters and stuff like that, most time we put it down in the fore peak. But most of the stuff that -- a cook, as a rule, he slept on the left-hand side right by the stove. He would always get up first and start the wood -- and all. Course now they got big time, they got coil burners aboard the boat now. They dredge two days a week out of a whole week. Used to dredge six days. Weren't no coming in dinner time either, 12, 1:00. Now dredge the two push days, Mondays and Tuesdays, they might go out Wednesday, if it's a breeze, and they might not. One time I was up Tilghman, and I forgot who I was dredging with, but anyway. I was trying -- then we only had the one (indiscernible).

But imagine now, this is Tilghmans. Come down and drive all the way down and try to get the boat over home. And the boat left at 12:30. Now look, if you miss that rascal,

that was all she wrote. It weren't nobody coming back no four or 5:00 that evening to pick you up. You were stuck. One time I was coming down -- forget who I was coming down with. But anyway, I got a ticket there in West -- he was a state trooper. And he was saying he missed the boat. But we never did get home that night. I think Johnny Parks was over here or we called and would come and get us, see if he'd come and get us. He got home, I don't know, 8, 9:00 that night. This was on a Saturday. We left Sunday at 2:00 to go back up the road, to go dredging Monday morning. Imagine now we get up there on Sunday evening. Now Tilghmans now, if you think that's Las Vegas -- great day in the morning. What you call it store there, and he had a pool table, but he closed at 6:00. So that meant rest of the time on the boat. And you get ready for dredging Monday morning.

MRS.: Bink, in your daddy's tape, doesn't he describe who slept where?

R.B.D.: Most the time, daddy slept on the locker.

MRS.: Yeah, but didn't your daddy tell on this tape --

R.B.D.: Cook slept on the left-hand side by the stove. Whoever -- man, he slept most time under the stern.

MRS.: But remember when I -- would you be willing to copy a tape and give to her?

R.B.D.: Yes.

V.J.: Oh, that would be wonderful. Thank you.

MRS.: It describes the different kinds of sails and --

V.J.: I'd like to have that very much.

R.B.D.: My baby's --

MRS.: Do you happen to have an extra tape with you?

R.B.D.: She interviewed, my baby interviewed daddy a long time ago. She's got daddy, she interviewed daddy, mama --

MRS.: Bradshaw.

R.B.D.: Bradshaw over at home. Of course, all the old-timers are gone. The graveyard's almost all the way out to the -- now.

MRS.: (Inaudible).

V.J.: Did you eat salt fish on the boat?

R.B.D.: Fish?

V.J.: Salt fish?

R.B.D.: Yeah, whenever we had it. Yeah, whenever we had it. Sometimes we had pork chops and fried hamburgers. But that was once every -- get lucky then. We did have pork chops, pork chops and eggs. But beans and peas and taters probably, we had -- beans one day, little beans the next. Sometimes we had black-eyed peas, but very seldom 'cause nobody didn't like `em. Very few of us like `em. I didn't like `em then. I can eat `em now with an onion cut up in `em. But have you ever had -- dredge boat on a cook stove, as soon as the cook was finished with breakfast, he had his beans on. First of all, he soaked the beans the night before. Then after -- the next morning when he was all done **with breakfast, he put them pot of beans on and cooked `em all day. And we usually eat** dinner about, I don't know, sometimes 11, 12:00. You talk about good. Lord have mercy.

V.J.: Put a piece of meat in it?

R.B.D.: Fat back or piece of ham.

V.J.: Molasses?

R.B.D.: Yeah. We always had molasses. Molasses and cheese. That was, I guess, our dessert. Mine anyway. Talking about that molasses and cheese, we eat a lot of cheese aboard a boat. I think our cheese bill was more than what the groceries are. `Cause everybody liked cheese. It was quick, and quick to fill you up too. Sometimes we'd get them, I can see `em now, them big crackers, Nabisco. They were Uneeda, Uneeda crackers. Suckers be that big. Get that sharp cheese, put that on it. Of course, now you can't -- that cheese used to get, you can't get that now. That's like that (indiscernible), we used to have that aboard the boat. Now they don't make (indiscernible) because they say -- what do they say, ain't good for you? No, not good for you.

MRS.: Say it's not sanitized.

R.B.D.: Chance of getting poisoned. Well, okay. I got news for you. If that were the case, we'd have been poisoned a long time ago. Now if you think we had a Westinghouse or a Maytag aboard the boat, Jiminey Crockett.

MRS.: When you dredged, you used to take the same cup, and it wouldn't get washed from the time you left 'til the time you come home.

R.B.D.: Yeah. In deed. Rinse it off. Finish your cup of coffee, rinse it overboard and ready for the next one. But see, what we need is another scientist. That -- all these scientists now or whatever you want to call `em, they say eggs ain't good for you. Now all the sudden, best thing in the world for you.

V.J.: Where did you carry the eggs? How did you carry the eggs on the boat?

R.B.D.: How did we carry `em?

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

R.B.D.: I don't --

MRS.: Where did you store it?

R.B.D.: Huh?

MRS.: Where did you put it?

R.B.D.: Oh, where did we put `em? Oh, behind the cook stove or then we had like a little cupboard, not as big as -- maybe that tall, put eggs in that.

MRS.: The yardstick --

R.B.D.: No --

MRS.: Two feet?

R.B.D.: Half the boat.

V.J.: Did you put them in something special so they wouldn't break?

R.B.D.: Never give that much thought. They're always there every morning. That's all I know.

V.J.: Not your responsibility.

R.B.D.: Yeah. He probably, yeah, he probably did -- he probably did have something.

MRS.: Put `em in a crate?

R.B.D.: We had scrambled eggs -- first it was fried eggs. And you fried eggs right in the grease with the bacon and all. They were good. Oh, yeah, and see another thing too --

(END SIDE A)

(BEGIN SIDE B)

R.B.D.: We had no --

MRS.: Bushel of turnips, 40 cents.

R.B.D.: Did you hear what I said about eating all that stuff, was greasy and all?

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

R.B.D.: Then all these scientists say it ain't no good for you and then you go on these Jenny Craig diets, and then you all get sick. So you know what the moral of that story is? Leave all them what-you-call it foods alone and eat everything that's fried in grease. Best thing for you. Them diets, hey --

V.J.: Did you ever eat chicken on the boat?

R.B.D.: Yeah, yeah. Sometimes we had stewed pork, dumplings and turnips and gravy. That was big time. We didn't get that every day. Chicken, yeah. We had it some. Not that much. We did have roast beef Roast beef and turnips and gravy, dumplings. That weren't very often either. Lot of times, in Annapolis or somewhere like that, we'd go to the restaurant and eat which was a whole lot better than down that little cabin -- I guarantee.

SPEAKER: What did you eat, about one big meal once a week?

R.B.D.: Yeah. No, we had -- we ate breakfast, and we ate dinner, and we ate supper.

SPEAKER: But I mean as far as, as far as your beef or chicken, pork.

R.B.D.: Probably be supper time.

V.J.: Or Sunday?

R.B.D.: Yeah, on Sunday.

V.J.: Did your family have a garden on Smith Island?

R.B.D.: Oh, yeah. At the homeplace, yeah.

V.J.: Did you carry things from the garden on the boat?

R.B.D.: Yeah. We had -- we had string beans, corn, `maters, turnips. And we had a pear tree, we had a apple tree, we had a grape -- grapes. Nothing like grapes either.

(Indiscernible). Grapes, we had a cherry tree. And Mama and Nana, I could see them now down on that big cooker, they put the jars in there and put up pears and beets, string beans. We probably did corn, but I don't remember. Hey, you know, on wash day we didn't have no running water. And we had to take the water from the well to fill up them number three tubs. That was more than Niagara Falls. Mama would have three tubs: number ones, number twos and number three. Time you get it there, you have about that much in the bucket. So you know how many trips you made. And the young ones talk about working today. They're always tired. Great day in the morning. They ain't nothing.

V.J.: Who does the wash on the boat?

R.B.D.: We had a wash basin. And well a spot here and a spot there. That was it. I mean no thrills for spills.

V.J.: Who was responsible for washing the dishes and the pots?

R.B.D.: Cook. Oh, them pots. They take up more room than a Sherman Tank. See that (indiscernible) that they had aboard the boat, after cooking the eggs, I mean that rascal was bigger than the one that we got, bigger than that one. And the cook, he would do all that, and wash -- cook had a lot of work to do. Of course, he would get a break, come down to get things ready for dinner or supper, you know, and it would give him a break up on deck, you know, he didn't have to do all the other stuff that we done. Of course, that was enough he done just by cooking. I mean that was a chore and a half And well see if he had to cook and do all the other stuff, he wouldn't have time to feed us. We need somebody aboard there to feed us.

V.J.: Did he get paid extra?

R.B.D.: No. No. We all got the same, a third. Share up at the end of the week.

MRS.: You say a third. A third was divided amongst all of you.

R.B.D.: All of us. (Indiscernible).

SPEAKER: Third for the boat, third for the Captain, third for the crew.

MRS.: I haven't found any eggs in here yet.

V.J.: Did a member of the crew bring canned vegetables and fait from home?

R.B.D.: Sometimes they would bring like some pears that were put up, or -- yeah, once in awhile. Oh, we had a fig tree too. Mama put figs, Mama and Nana put figs up. You talk about good. You ever had figs?

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

R.B.D.: I don't mean Nabisco in the store, I mean figs off a fig tree. Good. Are you kidding? And oh we had the real butter because then it weren't none of them Blue Bonnet or whatever. You talk about good. I can see that now. Sometimes we'd get it in the whole block, or sometimes it was in bars, you know. Good. Oh, put that on that hot bread. Lord have mercy. You talk about good. Well you might not believe this, Miss Virginia, you might not believe this. I don't care what restaurant you go to anywhere in the world, but you ain't going to find better eating than what we had aboard the boat. I mean the vegetables, what we had was -- I remember one time, where were we at, Baby? Up here to Princess Anne, weren't it when we had that chicken that time we went to that thing?

MRS.: Yeah.

R.B.D.: What a disaster, what a disaster. The string beans were just hard as --

MRS.: Historical Society dinner.

R.B.D.: Didn't have no grease or bacon. Oh, are you kidding? And they call themselves cooks? Great day in the morning. They brought one little piece of bird and put it on the plate there and that weren't fit for a dog. Fluffy wouldn't even eat that, would you? And I think about the only thing -- I think about the only thing we got out of the whole thing was bread, rolls. And they were probably Blue Ribbon. But no, that hotel cooking -- even worse, hospitals. Don't go to hospitals and eat 'cause you won't come out.

V.J.: What was your favorite meal on the boat?

R.B.D.: Favorite meal? Liver and onions when we had it, but most time beans.

Sometimes we would have dumplings in our beans instead of bread. They weren't no good either, the big fluffy dumplings. See, you know, yeah I understand people have it hard today. Yeah, I'm not saying that they don't. But they have it hard in a different way. They come in, switch a light -- hit a switch and a light goes on. They do this and they got this and they got that. But you got to keep in mind, back then we had very little. But what we had, I remember that Aladdin lamp that we used to have. And oh, by the way on another thought too, we always went to bed early, didn't stay up late because we had to save on the coal. I don't know how much coal oil was, but anyway, we had this Aladdin lamp. And we had these -- what you call it, it weren't a wick, they call it mantle. And once in awhile one of them -- if you turn it up too high, they catch a fire -- don't catch a fire, they just disintegrate like Mission Impossible. But anyway, and then you wouldn't have nothing. Then you had them little coal oil lamps which put out about as much light as a candle. And then -- oh, we always, I can see the cook stove down there in Nana's now. You talk about a big cook stove. It had four what you call its on the top, four burners on the top, a great big oven, and you talk about warm. Oh, and upstairs was cold as a igloo. We didn't have no heat.

V.J.: Was that your grandmother's?

R.B.D.: Yes. That was the only heat that we had. We didn't have no oil, oil stoves or nothing. And then -- Granddaddy, he would always get up first and get the cook stove going. And then after he'd get up, then he'd get all us youngens up to do this or do that before we went to school. And get up and come downstairs -- got out of the feather bed, put your foot on the floor and your foot stuck to the floor, you know. And I remember I used to come downstairs and get behind there, and I'd be nice and warm, you know. Oh, and like before we went to school -- Mondays was always wash day. I don't care whether it rained, or snowed, or blowed or what. Mama always washed on Mondays. We had to tote that water. Oh, Lord have mercy.

V.J.: Where did the wood come from?

R.B.D.: We went over to the western shore and got it.

V.J.: To the western shore?

R.B.D.: Yeah. Went over there and got it and brought it over, on the dredge boat in the spring of the year after dredging was over with.

MRS.: Used to have to go out in their boats and get water over at Solomon's.

R.B.D.: Yeah. I don't remember that though. That was long before my time. My daddy, my daddy died in -- he was 87. He could -- Miss Virginia, he could take you out in the bay, down the bay, cross the bay, I don't care what bay it is, with no compass, foggy, clear, and here we got all these rigs aboard these big boats now, and they're running together. They don't know the bow from the stern. And you hit a button. That's why I don't have nothing against education, don't misunderstand me when I say this, I don't, 'cause my baby's real smart too. Really I don't have nothing against education. But see when you learned -- as what you call it used to say on that commercial, the old fashioned way, you know it. If you got all these computers.com and all this, something goes wrong, how are you going to know -- how are you going to know where you're at, or what you're doing or what? I mean it ain't no way. Because if you depend on that radar and that sonar and this and that, it ain't no way that you know.

As far as charts and maps and this and that, they didn't have none of that stuff aboard the boat. They just got aboard the boat. My daddy now, all the captains back then, they all learned because their daddies learned them, and their daddies learned them, and that's how it -- that's how we all learned. They just learned that way. And find out how deep the water was, they used a sound. They used to have a -- I don't know if you know what I'm talking about or not. But anyway, that's how -- they didn't have no depth finder to say hey, this is two feet here, 60 over here. I mean they learned different types of water where they are. But now they got all these radars and sonars and Lorans and this and that. That's like the Exxon Valdez when that run ashore up there in Alaska. That boy should've -- I don't care if he was high as a Georgia Pine, that boy should've never run ashore. He should've never run ashore with all that equipment aboard that boat. And like I say, I don't care whether he's high as a Georgia Pine, with all that equipment he had aboard that boat, that boy should've never run ashore. And why he ever run ashore, I -- to this day, you can't convince me on a stack of bibles that that -- that equipment, it might be all right when it's working, but what are you gonna do when that dot-com don't work? Then you got hang-ups.

V.J.: Can you tell me more about storing water on the boat? Where the barrels were kept and how --

R.B.D.: Oh, the water? Yeah, we had two barrels of water, one on the right side, starboard side, one on the left side, the port side, back stern.

MRS.: Inside the cabin or outside?

R.B.D.: No, outdoors on deck. Oh, that's another story. You pull them rascals out, and then -- in the wintertime, they're not on deck now, naturally. Thirty below zero, zero, it weren't that cold. But the barrels would freeze, the water would freeze. And if you have to take a hammer, get up there in the morning and whack at it, break it. We tried to have the water down in the cabin for the cook. I think them -- I think them water barrels, I think, I don't know, maybe 50, 75 gallons. I don't know. It seemed like all the water in the world. But anyway --

V.J.: How would they fasten them, tied down?

R.B.D.: We have a barrel would set in the cradle, okay, and then we'll strap it, strap the barrel to the cradle so it won't, you know, topple over.

V.J.: Did it have some kind of lid?

R.B.D.: Piece of canvas. Had a piece of canvas. The hole in the top of the barrel maybe, I don't know, maybe five inches, six inches. Just big enough to put a dipper down there, a cup, coffee cup. But we couldn't -- as far as the water barrel, it weren't no way that you'd keep it from freezing. I mean -- you know what, though, come to think of it, they must've been good water barrels 'cause I don't ever remember one busting. I don't ever remember one busting. Thank the Lord it didn't. But I mean I don't even know what they were made out of But I know this, they held a lot of water.

V.J.: Whose job was it to fill the barrels?

R.B.D.: Mostly the crew, mostly the crew took care of it. I mean and then later on when we got the artesian water there, got a hose and just run the hose. Boy that was big time. Just run that hose in it. So you still had to have the barrel of water, that didn't change none. I mean we still had to have that.

V.J.: How long did the two barrels last you? How often did you have to fill it up?

R.B.D.: Well we'd come home on Saturdays, we'd fill it up on Saturdays, you know. Then like if we were in the harbor, up Solomon's or something like that and we needed it, we'd go ahead and -- course, up there they had hoses we could stick in there, except when we anchored off, and anchoring off ain't much. Course then, on the other hand, you were so tired, you didn't want to do nothing else. And you talk about sleep now. You didn't have to take no Sominex. I guaranty, you were ready to kill one.

V.J.: Did you ever pay cards on the boat?

R.B.D.: No. No. We're not -- no. When I dredged with my daddy, when I dredged Tilghman's with William Murphy, we played poker. But not aboard my daddy's boat. Course, see the crew up there, the Captain always stayed home. He was right there in the harbor right there in Tilghman's. And we're the ones had to stay aboard the boat, you know. But, no, my daddy, he wouldn't allow us play poker aboard.

(Brief off-the-record telephone conversation.)

R.B.D.: See anything thing too, up in Tilghman's, like I say, ain't, you know, New York or Atlantic City, we had -- I say we had to, we done stuff like that, played poker. Course, most times we were to go to Fairbanks and play pool, he had a pool table. That helped a lot, you know, instead of spending the whole time aboard the boat. Seemed like no matter

how big the boat is, she always started to draw up, get smaller, and smaller, and smaller. First thing you know, you think you're in a skiff But, you know, we enjoyed ourselves as well as hard work. I mean it weren't all bad times. We had a good time. I mean, I think the fellowship aboard the boat, I think that's something that's missing now. I don't think, I don't think it's like it was then.

V.J.: Was it different when you were sailing with family members than when you were sailing for somebody else?

R.B.D.: No. See they were no easier on me than it was anybody else. I mean -- well, in other words, of course, we know just about everybody up Tilghman's, you know, I mean from going up there in the harbor and up there. And then after I quit dredging, I went, I went shad tonging, then I went hydraulic tonging.

Vi.: When did you quit dredging?

R.B.D.: Seventy -- no, I think '76, I believe.

V.J.: And why was that?

R.B.D.: Everybody were getting their boats in -- like tonging in their boats instead of dredging. Then most of the captains, they sign the guy to sail their boats, some went to Deal's Island, some went up to Tilghman's. And dredge boats just disappeared. Like I say, everybody wanted, got their own boats in, done it that way. That tonging is a whole lot easier than dredging or shad tonging. Shad tonging ain't no easy job now. You know what I'm talking about when I say shad tonging?

V.J.: The fish, the shad.

R.B.D.: No, they got stakes on 'em with teeth down the bottom. Okay. Got 12, 16, 32, 26, 50, you know, different lengths for the depth of the water that you're in. And I shad tong up my boat there to Tilghman's. And I was a green-horn at it. I mean, of course that was the year was plenty of oysters up here, you know. But that was hard work. I mean to tell you, arms felt like they were gonna drop off

V.J.: Who made the tongs?

R.B.D.: Different ones. Different -- we have a blacksmith here made 'em, and I think we had in Bozman up there, I think he made some too. And that blacksmith here -- oh, then we had, oh yeah. That time, over home, during the dredging days, we had two blacksmiths. We had Alec Evans and Ed Venable.

V.J.: I'm sorry, what was the second one?

R.B.D.: Ed Venable. And Ed Venable, I mean he was good. Of course, Alec, he was good too.

V.J.: Alec, the last name?

R.B.D.: Evans. He got drowned. I think he got drowned. I don't remember. It's been a long time ago. But they made the dredges and made the chain bags. Of course, my daddy, he always netted the cotton, they used cotton then, cotton bag. After he made the chain bag, you have a chain bag with loops. And then you have a cotton bag tie onto the chain bag, you know. And they were good -- I remember my daddy say many times that they were good, good blacksmiths. Of course -

V.J.: Where were they located?

R.B.D.: Okay. One was down in the field. And then one was at Captain Roy Wheatlock. Course his building ain't there now. That's there by Wheatlock's Landing. That's where they made 'em at. Now that weren't yesterday now. I guarantee, Miss Virginia, that weren't yesterday. That was -- well it's a long time ago. Matter of fact, I don't know

where the time's gone. First thing you know, I didn't think I was ever gonna get 20, and now 20's gone. But it was a good life. It was close quarters down in the cabin.

Sometimes we'd get on each other's nerves. I'm sure we did. Now can you imagine this, five or six heads down that cabin. Can you imagine five or six women down that cabin? What a time that would've been.

MRS.: Oh, listen to that.

R.B.D.: Can you imagine that?

MRS.: (Inaudible.) I went through every bill in here. I didn't find one egg.

V.J.: Where did the eggs come from?

MRS.: You might've had eggs when you worked on a dredge boat, but I wonder if your grandfather --

R.B.D.: We had chickens.

MRS.: On the boat?

R.B.D.: No. Not on the boat.

MRS.: But you came home every weekend.

R.B.D.: Oh, yeah.

MRS.: Granddaddy West didn't come home until Christmas.

R.B.D.: That's what I'm saying, Granddaddy West, they had chickens.

MRS.: On the boat?

R.B.D.: No, not on the boat. In the yard.

MRS.: But how did they have --

R.B.D.: I imagine they got their eggs anywhere they could get `em, I guess.

MRS.: But there's no eggs on any of these bills.

R.B.D.: Maybe they changed off, traded off for something else.

MRS.: There's oatmeal, molasses and biscuits and stuff like that, but no eggs.

R.B.D.: Maybe Granddaddy West didn't eat eggs.

V.J.: Or maybe they got them someplace else.

MRS.: Maybe they paid cash for them. But the way he kept every receipt, I'm sure that he kept receipts for eggs. `Cause he didn't let anything go by.

R.B.D.: What was that cost \$10? I bet he fainted when he seen that bill.

MRS.: I don't know. Five gallons of oil, 40 cents; 50 gallons of gasoline, 10 cents, \$10, 20 cents a gallon.

R.B.D.: What year was that?

MRS.: 1916.

R.B.D.: Twenty cents, that was a whole boatload.

MRS.: Twenty cents a gallon.

R.B.D.: That was a whole bank, 20 cents.

MRS.: But what did they use gasoline on on the --

R.B.D.: Probably the winder.

MRS.: How did they use gasoline? Hydraulic?

R.B.D.: No. In order to get the winder started had to use -- gas engine like in the car.

MRS.: Oh.

R.B.D.: Now the tank -- no, I think they had a five-gallon can. Just pour it in there and let it draw out of the --

MRS.: I'm sorry I brought it up then.

V.J.: That's okay. That's fine.

R.B.D.: Yeah, that's how they did it.

MRS.: He must've bought eggs --

R.B.D.: He probably got eggs when he was on the western shore, or traded eggs --

MRS.: Or traded eggs for something.

R.B.D.: Yeah.

MRS.: Could be.

R.B.D.: Can you imagine a bushel of oysters, a nickel a bushel?

V.J.: Did you ever eat oysters on the boat?

R.B.D.: Oh, absolutely.

MRS.: Watermen don't have crabs very much.

V.J.: How did they fix the oysters?

R.B.D.: Fried `em, oyster pie.

MRS.: I've never had oyster pie yet. Been married almost 30 years and still haven't had oyster pie.

V.J.: What goes in an oyster pie?

R.B.D.: Now you talk about good. Lord have mercy. Put it in a pan, then you put dough in the bottom of it, then put the oysters and -- I don't know how, I don't know how he fixed it. I remember that, put the dough in the bottom of the pan, put the oysters in, and then make a layer to go over top of it, put it in the oven and cook it. Them little tiny rascals, you talk about good, Lord have mercy they were good. And fried oysters, we had them a lot. I say a lot --

MRS.: You mean at home, or out on the boat?

R.B.D.: On the boat. But see, that type, that type of cooking aboard the boat, you can't compare that to, in my opinion, you can't compare that to any restaurant. I don't care which one.

V.J.: Who is the best cook that you knew?

R.B.D.: Best cook, I guess Roland Parks, I would say Roland Parks. He was -- Tangier, he was from Tangier. See a lot of the crews that they had, a lot of `em had -- a lot of `em was from Tangier. Of course, there was a lot from over our, from home too. Usually at that, usually the end of one dredging season, usually they would come back, you know, when dredging season started again. Usually they went aboard the same boat all the time.

MRS.: You can look at them.

R.B.D.: Yeah, go ahead, you can look at them.

MRS.: Whenever you want to, you can look at them. You can come back and go through -- I'm still looking for eggs. I haven't found any eggs yet.

R.B.D.: I don't know. I imagine Granddaddy West took eggs from the chicken yard, usually if he can --

MRS.: For three months, two months, three months?

R.B.D.: If he could get any. If he could get anymore, he got some more. I guess. See Granddaddy West on the Blaine, he used to, if he couldn't do no crabbing or oystering, he used to freight, like lumber or whatever, you know, whatever he'd get -- do to try to make two or \$3, I guess. And I imagine a dollar back there and then, I imagine just like getting, pulling teeth from a chicken. Weren't too many of `em around. But well --

MRS.: Did yeast come in bottles?

V.J.: Yes.

R.B.D.: What used to come in bottles?

V.J.: Yeast.

R.B.D.: Yeah. There's one of them bottles up there, there's one of them bottles I caught from crabbing. I'll be right back.

(Off the record briefly.)

MRS.: -- if we would loan St. Michaels a couple of these.

R.B.D.: Run that by me again, Baby.

MRS.: If we would loan St. Michaels Museum a couple of these.

R.B.D.: Yeah.

V.J.: That would be wonderful.

R.B.D.: As long as it's there an nowhere else.

V.J.: Great. That's great.

R.B.D.: Nobody else get it.

V.J.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

R.B.D.: That be all right.

MRS.: See eventually, these would go in our museum over there. We don't have storage, storage space. There's so many of `em, can't possibly use all of `em.

V.J.: Would you take candy, or cookies or sweets on the boat?

R.B.D.: Yeah. When you paid your grub bill, you'd get a bag of candy.

V.J.: Yeah.

MRS.: I notice on these --

R.B.D.: Usually that was gone like butter before the sun.

MRS.: I noticed on these that every once in awhile, there'd be a bottle of soda.

R.B.D.: Yeah.

MRS.: Just one bottle, 5 cents. Who got that?

V.J.: Baking soda?

MRS.: No, soda. A bottle.

R.B.D.: Bottle of pop, I imagine.

MRS.: Bottle of pop. One of `em was a Pepsi. That was 1917.

R.B.D.: I imagine Granddaddy West got that.

MRS.: Yeah. Two brews, 50 cents, I can't believe that.

R.B.D.: What you want to do, take a couple of these?

V.J.: No, I don't want to take them now, but I will let the people at the museum know that you've got them. And when we come to the point --

R.B.D.: You mean the museum up the road?

V.J.: Right. The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

MRS.: Like I told her, they mentioned these --

R.B.D.: That's the one up --

V.J.: In St. Michaels.

R.B.D.: St. Michaels. See I was gonna ask you something -- oh, yeah. So what you do, you come out and --

(Off the record briefly.)

MRS.: -- aboard one of the skipjacks.

V.J.: Thank you.

R.B.D.: My baby, she's got more stuff than you could shake a stick at. But you know what, that's -- see I ain't too much on museums, I used not to be until my baby got into it.

And 'til I got to see, I ain't much on foreigners to start with, but some of `em all right. But anyway, I thought it be a waste of time. Who's going to come 100 miles to see how we live. I mean, but now I see, and they are coming 100 miles. I mean it's -- oh, yeah, talking about the dredge boat cabin, it's nothing else in the world like it. I mean they talk about the plantation in the old days, the slaves on the plantations and all. They still had more room than a barrel of monkeys compared to what we had on a dredge boat. And people ain't never seen this, they'd never believe it. You can swear on a stack of bibles, and you would never believe it. But you get `em rigged up and show `em that, yeah, this is the way it is. And then, believe me, you're gonna have a whole bunch of people down there, I ain't kidding. `Cause first of all, like I said, they ain't gonna believe it to start with. And when people don't believe something, they got to see it.

V.J.: We're also hoping that maybe we'll have somebody cooking on the weekends so people could come smell the smells and maybe have a taste.

R.B.D.: Yeah.

MRS.: That would be nice.

R.B.D.: Yeah, cook the way -- yeah. Not get some chef out of a hotel. That would ruin the whole ball of yarn.

V.J.: Make some bean soup and some bread.

MRS.: Lots of beans, lots of beans.

R.B.D.: How did you find out about coming down here? Did you see it on t.v. or something?

V.J.: I met Mrs. Dize on the boat to Smith last week.

R.B.D.: Oh.

MRS.: Remember I told you. She went out there to talk to your Uncle Dan.

R.B.D.: Yeah. I thought you said she called or something.

V.J.: I talked to Russell Dize.

R.B.D.: That's my cousin.

V.J.: Your cousin. Tilghman. And he told me to talk to his father, your uncle. So I'm being passed around the family here.

MRS.: Does he still have the Martha Lewis?

V.J.: He's got Catherine.

R.B.D.: Got the Catherine now.

MRS.: Where's the Martha Lewis?

R.B.D.: Martha Lewis, I believe Murphy's got her.

MRS.: Is that the one that I went on the race?

R.B.D.: Yeah, Martha Lewis.

MRS.: Okay. Went on that boat 6:30 in the morning in pantyhose. Never been on a big boat like that in my entire life. And I didn't know it didn't have a bathroom. Thirty-two people on there. And every one of us had brought food. All this food, and all of this to drink.

R.B.D.: Had some good eating.

MRS.: And I couldn't eat a bite, `cause I knew if I did, I'd have to go to the bathroom. And one or two women were brave enough to get down in the hole and use the bucket. Not me. I didn't know how I was gonna get down there.

R.B.D.: That's another story.

MRS.: I put my pantyhose on in the dark about three or 4:00 in the morning --

R.B.D.: And we won the race too.

MRS.: And one leg was on backwards.

(Laughter.)

MRS.: No way -- if I'd have been smart enough, I'd run my finger through it and take the leg off

R.B.D.: That was a good day that day, wasn't it, Baby?

MRS.: Yeah. It was a lot of fun, a lot of fun. But I was very uncomfortable.

(Laughter.)

R.B.D.: I was aboard a freight boat, my uncle Dan's freight boat, Marylander. There's a place over the Western Shore called Bundy's. And ain't nothing there, there's a store over there, forgot where it's at. But anyway, you go over there, you tie up, you load with grain, like soybeans one time, corn or whatever, and we usually land there like on a Sunday evening. Now I don't know whether you ever been to Bundy's, Virginia, or not, but let me tell you, you ain't missing nothing. Guarantee it. You can hear them old houndogs up in them woods barking. Ain't no lights. We never had no t.v. aboard either. I mean we could, but Uncle Dan was too cheap, he never would buy one. That's the truth. So I said if I'm going to be aboard this boat, I'm going to have a t.v. He said why? We don't need one. I said well -- so we got -- bought one, I went and got one. And that was a little bit of -- now we weren't home, we weren't home overnight now. One time we were leaving, I think Norfolk, and we're coming up the bay going to Baltimore. And we hit a bad storm that night. And I mean blow, it blowed a south gale. And I think we went in Reedville, got in at Smiths Point. Blowing. You couldn't hold a hair over a keyhole. And when we loaded, oh, yeah, when we loaded, we loaded right down to the gills. I mean -- oh, yeah, and yeah, I forgot to tell you this --

MRS.: -- down there, there's a caption of a picture, now where's my picture.

R.B.D.: What was it, Baby?

MRS.: It says we thank thee oh, Lord, for thy bounty, recites Captain Cliff Webster, left, in the Maggie Lee's crew as they bow their heads in grace.

R.B.D.: Cap. Cliff, yeah.

MRS.: To satisfy appetites shown by -- air and hard work, the cook feeds a lunch of bean soup, fried chicken, French fried potatoes and baked biscuits fresh from the oven. Sometimes he serves oysters. Now where is the picture that goes with it?

R.B.D.: I don't know, baby.

MRS.: Somebody has --

R.B.D.: Cap. Cliff Webster, I know him. He's a Tilghman's Islander. Of course, he's gone too. Now he was a captain too. That bird knew where he was at.

MRS.: I've looked through every book in there.

R.B.D.: I bet you go through a lot of them.

V.J.: I do, a lot of tapes.

R.B.D.: They ought to give you a discount. I bet Wal-mart's glad to see you come.

(Laughter.)

V.J.: Thank you very much. This has been helpful.

MRS.: You want to ride back down?

V.J.: Yes, I will.

R.B.D.: I don't know if I was any help to you or not.

V.J.: Absolutely. Very much so.

R.B.D.: But I never did like oystering. I didn't like dredging, I didn't like tonging, I didn't like shad tonging. I didn't like oystering. Now crabbing, I loved crabbing. I liked to crab.

V.J.: You're still crabbing, right?

R.B.D.: Yup. Oh, yeah. Miss Virginia, do you come down here very often, or just once in a blue moon?

V.J.: Once in a blue moon. Actually, we sailed into Crisfield, my husband and I, for the first time this year.

R.B.D.: Oh, that's right. You told me you had a sailboat.

V.J.: And so now I've been to Crisfield three times this summer, and I've never been here before.

R.B.D.: Where'd you come, in the marina?

(END OF INTERVIEW.)