

Interview Log

Interviewee:

Mildred Kemp

Tape #: OH #21

Interviewer(s):

R. J. Holt
Peter Gedeon
Sandra Buchman

Number of Tapes: 1

Date: 04/06/81.

Location: Wades Point

Topics: Thomas Kemp's house
Claiborne ferry
The movie "The First Kiss"
Personal desk in Museum lighthouse
Boarding house

Quality of tape is very poor. Not able to discern between each interviewer.

BEGIN INTERVIEW:

(Unintelligible background conversation).

Mildred Kemp: (Unintelligible)...and this child I knew when he was born (laughter). My mother used to chaperone you (laughter). I remember we used to have a good time in those days. We told the story about mom and dad chaperoning someone to school and there was (unintelligible) had to carry her home on her shoulders (laughter) and when (unintelligible) got famous, she was very good (laughter). Well, what can I tell you fellas?

Interviewer: Mildred, I would like to know a little bit about the Kemp family, especially around the War of 1812 or before the War of 1812.

MK: Thomas Kemp bought this in the year of 1813, but the war wasn't really over. And the reason is he built this home was the original home was owned by Bozman and Wade, Wade was the first owner and that's when.....

Interviewer: General Wade?

MK: No, that was General Hugh Auld, apparently he was a colonel and he was the one that was buried here. And, his great granddaughter (unintelligible) was buried in (unintelligible) something about it, so she wanted his remains moved to Arlington and so she had that done, but he was supposed to be buried in Talbot, but we couldn't find anything, Wade (unintelligible) went to Arlington. That's all we could find...a tombstone, (unintelligible). He was the undertaker and he goes into Washington (unintelligible) to see if he could find the bones or something, but the only thing was a strata of earth that looked like chocolate (phonetic) and he thought maybe that was his remains. But that's all he found. But he didn't have this very long, but he owned that famous colored man named Douglass.

Interviewer: Douglass.

MK: Frederick Douglass. Well, he escaped from ...you know where the Johnson's used to live,...well he escaped up that creek, I think it was Rose (phonetic) creek and then he went into Broad Creek.

Interviewer: You mean the one off Rolles Lane? (Unintelligible)

MK: Edna, no, what was his first name?

Interviewer: Who?

MK: Johnson, Ben Johnson.

Interviewer: The Kemp family, when did they come here, in 1813? Were they here before?

MK: He was born down in Baltimore, Thomas that was. There's a family tree out there if you would like to look at it.

Interviewer: I saw it when I came in here, but I didn't get a good look at it.

MK: And then he learned his trade in St. Michaels. I think he was a (unintelligible) then. (unintelligible) Dawson. Ever hear of them? And I think he was the one that really trained him for his building boats.

Interviewer: Well did he have the one where Kirby (ph) used to be?

MK: That's what I'm thinking. Then he went to Baltimore and got his pilot's captain (ph) there and he got this (unintelligible) from Fell's Point and he was the one that they (unintelligible).

Interviewer: He was supposed to have had the greatest impact on Chesapeake (unintelligible).

MK: Sure.

Interviewer: Did the Kemp family come directly to this area from England or did they come through Philadelphia or Delaware?

MK: Now are you are asking (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

MK: (Laughter) I can't go back that far (laughter).

Interviewer: But he was born near here, Thomas Kemp?

MK: He was born in Boulton (phonetic) around here.

Interviewer: That's Boulton...

MK: ...not too very far, and then he didn't really get this place until he was grown and married. He married somebody from (unintelligible) and this was his roots, I would say, and then he left it to his son, John W. Kemp, and he was my husband's grandfather and then my husband's father inherited the place from John W. Kemp. Now there's a mess of five of us born and raised here (laughter).

Interviewer: Were there other Kemps that were boat builders after Thomas Kemp?

MK: I don't think so.

Interviewer: That was kind of it.

MK: I think he was the only one.

Interviewer: I have seen in the land records, I went and looked through the land records in Annapolis, and there was a case where Thomas Kemp and somebody else down here went to the Maryland State Legislature because the person that owned what's now Bentley Hay had died and owed them some money probably for building a boat and they acted as a representative to sell, I guess as an auction sale, to pay his debts. But at that time, I think he had a yard in Baltimore, for the most part, didn't he?

MK: Yes, he lived up in Baltimore, and he had a home there and that was called...there was a church, an old, old church, (unintelligible) if I think of it some more, I think I could remember it.

Interviewer: Did he own land over here also didn't he. He didn't abandon the Eastern Shore.

MK: No, he owned this next farm at one time and he also owned something down at Broad Creek Neck, down that way, near Bozman, and then he owned a farm on this side, Solitude (ph), so he owned three farms and I think there was something like 1,000 acres in total at least. And at one time, this place was solely for tobacco, nothing but tobacco,

and it had three owners before Kemp bought it; Wade, Bozman and Leeds, John Leeds, and they were the three owners.

Interviewer: Bozman, when you refer to Bozman, I think he was a minister, wasn't he?

MK: I don't know what he was. I know Leeds was a civil engineer because he had something to do with the Mason and Dixon line. But the house is exactly like it was in those days. None of (unintelligible) could keep it up and it gets worse every year (laughter).

Interviewer: This was the original house wasn't it?

MK: No, this is not the original house. The original house...we don't know what it was. It was a story and a half and they tore it down and the only thing we found in the records and his diary, said that (unintelligible) Lord Riddle's house (ph) (unintelligible) and they came up this way and landed here, and he didn't like it, so then he bought this house in 1818.

Interviewer: It was air conditioned by the river.

MK: Yes it was (laughter). We really do not know where it was.

Interviewer: How long has it as a boarding house?

MK: Well, I have been here sixty-some years and my husband, when he died 10 years ago, and he was 86, and it was started when he was two years old, so it's been a long, I would say, 80 years.

TK: And then my wife's brothers used to come here from Philadelphia (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Well now, you look (unintelligible).

TK: They were originally from Philadelphia (unintelligible) and they would come down (unintelligible).

MK: I guess that was before my days.

TK: (Unintelligible) excursion down the Bay (unintelligible).

MK: Oh yes, that seemed to be quite a thing for the Baltimore people.

MK: That's the only way you could get here. That's when we had time.

Interviewer: I guess you would come into Claiborne and take a ferry.

MK: We didn't have any ferry then. But, they came down from Baltimore to Claiborne, then you had a train that went to Ocean City through St. Michaels and it stopped at the Inn of Perry Cabin.

Interviewer: Talking about the train, there was a bad storm in 1934, a hurricane that took a lot of railroad bridges and tracks and bayside things out, do you remember anything about that? That would be late 1934.

MK: What date?

Interviewer: This is 1934.

MK: I remember that. Yes it was. I thought it was '33.

Interviewer: It may have been '33.

MK: Because we lost a lot of land.

Interviewer: I think it was '33. There was talk about a lot of water I think on Tilghman Island.

MK: I never saw the Bay as high as that because the water was all over that road. It didn't come through this way, but it came through the inlet down that way.

Interviewer: That kind of marked '33 or '34 is when they closed the railroad here, wasn't it?

MK: I don't think that had anything to do with it, no.

Interviewer: You don't think so?

MK: It seemed that finally, before the bridge was here, they had a ferry that came from Annapolis to Claiborne, and that was the thing that took the railroad away. We didn't have any freight then and we had buses that picked up the passengers.

Interviewer: So the railroad was running (unintelligible). The steamboats were in service in '34 and that's why...

MK: That was before that period.

Interviewer: '28.

MK: I think so.

TK: Because when was our freight shed destroyed? In '34, '33.

MK: Yeah.

Interviewer: I'm sorry, it was 10 years before. That's right.

MK: Now wait, when I was in Charleston (ph), I used to take the ferry over to Annapolis, (unintelligible) and I started there in '28, as soon as I graduated in '28. I was going to (unintelligible) in Washington. We all went to school in Charleston (ph).

Interviewer: That's right, then your first job was on Tilghman Island.

Interviewer: I think it was a school mistress (unintelligible).

Interviewer: How long did you stay?

MK: Just one year. In those days, I didn't drink, I didn't smoke, I had the worst reputation (unintelligible) (laughter). But now things have changed. Now I was only at Tilghman (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Now, what was the name of the old schooners other than the *Claiborne*?

MK: The *Texas*

Interviewer: And wasn't there an *Atlantic* (ph).

MK: No, that came after because the *Atlantic* was a ferry and that was the *Texas* (ph) (unintelligible) ferry. The first boats didn't take anything but passengers. They didn't take cargo (ph), but there were three boats then.

Interviewer: The Harrington was the first one to take passengers and cars.

MK: That's right.

Interviewer: The *Cambridge* used to run.

MK: The *Cambridge* was running the Choptank. There were three boats; a freight boat and two passenger boats.

Interviewer: Wasn't the *Texas* running?

MK: No the *Texas* was (unintelligible) and that was Heddy Green's (ph) yacht and the first one started from Uncle Wrightson (ph). He was the one that got that (unintelligible) and that ran from Claiborne over to Annapolis and back, two trips a day which wasn't very long you see as he would be using it because it came down from Baltimore every day.

Interviewer: Do you remember when that freight shed we saw out there, that we have at the museum now...do you remember any stories about what might have happened or were there any specific stories about maybe the people that worked there when the train shed was there? (Unintelligible) down to Claiborne ferry.

MK: Now let me see. I know there was a Captain Smith, my husband's niece (unintelligible) and Patty, I guess could tell you more about this than I can because when I first came around here and seeing the *Texas* river boat and the (unintelligible)...and that was about 70 something years ago. Mr. Richards took care of the trains and he lived in

Claiborne. That would be Dorothy Richards's (ph). No, she was Arthur Hamen's (ph) (unintelligible). He had a daughter (unintelligible). I think she lived in Bozman (ph).

Interviewer: Were you from this part of this country or did you come from Baltimore?

MK: Like the umbrella (ph) I was raised in Baltimore, born in Baltimore and lived everywhere? Now I went to North Carolina and came here from North Carolina. My father was born in St. Michaels, so my family on my mother's side is from there.

Interviewer: What was your maiden name?

MK: Tunis, Mildred Tunis, and Tunis Mills is named after my (unintelligible) and when we came back here, my father had retired and he bought "Rolles Range" and lived there until I was married.

Interviewer: Great community (unintelligible).

MK: Well you know I used to know everybody in St. Michaels, but not any more. I'm like an old man that was in church and the minister said, "Now I guess there's nobody in this congregation that has any enemies." And this fella stands up and he says, "You have no enemies?" and he said "no." And he said, "Will you please stand up and tell the congregation why you don't have any enemies?" He said, "Because all the politicians (ph) are dead." (Laughter). So when I go to St. Michaels, I don't know anybody (laughter). Mills (ph) is about the only one and isn't she the most remarkable person? She is 90 years old.

"Interviewer: I remember when she was 90. (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Where you born?

TK: I was born outside of Philadelphia (unintelligible).

Interviewer: And how long did you say you've been living here?

TK: We've been here 15 years.

Interviewer: That long Tom?

TK: Well, we bought the house in 1965 in Bozman on Quaker Neck (ph) (unintelligible).

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

TK: (Unintelligible) south.

Interviewer: (Unintelligible).

TK: I commuted.

Interviewer: Now whose place did you buy?

TK: Well I bought it from Lawrence (unintelligible) who had had it for a long time. There's quite a history of the house. It was a typical farmhouse, an old house. But, supposedly, none of the Bozman's lived there. (Unintelligible dialogue regarding a graveyard.)

Interviewer: That may be what happened to yours?

MK: The graveyards that are down there, are still going good (unintelligible)

TK: But my wife's family (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Well, I often wondered and that's one of the things I asked, why did you come to this part of the country? With your sister here I can understand.

TK: Well that was one of the reasons. I was responsible for my sister coming here. I had settled down here and came to St. Michaels in 1938 when the seafood industry was flourishing, and you could smell St. Michaels (unintelligible) you could get back fin crabs for 35 cents a pound. (Unintelligible).

MK: That's the reason we had crab feasts when we were growing up. (Background conversation). No, we ate crabs, but you went to the crab house and bought it. Nobody wants to work at picking crabs. (Unintelligible, background conversation).

Interviewer: I don't like to pick crabs.

MK: Well, I picked one bushel (unintelligible). It was irritating and I bought all those crabs. So finally I called "Chubby (ph) up and said "Chubby, you gotta come to my rescue". (unintelligible) I said, "You come and pick some crabs" and she came and within about 15 minutes she had them all picked (laughter). But they are good. I don't know of anything that's any better than crabs, especially the lump ones (ph).

TK: (Unintelligible). I had five kids who were growing up here and they all loved to crab (unintelligible).

MK: Well, that's one thing the children who come here in the summertime, they like to crab and all of them work all the time and then they get all these crabs and then they all call me Aunt Mil and "Aunt Mil, can you cook some crabs?" I said, "No, I'll tell you how to do it" but then he comes in and says "(unintelligible) and how long you cook it," so I might as well do it myself. So Jane (ph) was here (unintelligible). I said, "Janey, you gotta take my place for two or three times anyway and she did. Janey (ph) is my oldest daughter and her husband is a (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Does she live in (unintelligible).

MK: No, she lives in (unintelligible). And David (ph), that's my grandson, he's just back from England and Switzerland and Scotland (unintelligible) and he didn't like England. He didn't like the food (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Well, I can understand that (laughter).

MK: He thought that Scotland was just (unintelligible). Now is there anything else you'd like to know?

Interviewer: Yep. In St. Michaels, because it was near the packing houses, there was a spot where a bunch of canoes and boats were would pull up when they were no longer useful, and they just let them die there...are there any places like that around Claiborne?

MK: I don't think so. Because (unintelligible) brother-in-law was the one, he came here and moved here from North Carolina and he moved back to the Eastern Shore from there and he found this place.

Interviewer: Who was that, Roy (ph)?

MK: No, Bill, and he found this canoe nearly in back of the Marsh (ph) house and he pulled it out and had it hauled (unintelligible) and they called it the *Mary Ryan* (ph).

Interviewer: So that's the *Mary Ryan* (ph) came from.

MK: And then he got more interested than anybody else (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Did you know Landon (ph) Company?

MK: Landons (ph)? Yeah, I knew some of the Landons. (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Where was their shipyard?

MK: (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: This Landon Yard though was down where the City Dock is now. Isn't it over where the Landon House would be on Water Street, where they have a restaurant there now called the Piradent (ph). There was a yard there at one time as I recall.

MK: If it was there, (unintelligible) but I guess it was down by Water Street, (unintelligible).

TK: (Unintelligible) because it was all swampy about where the (unintelligible).

MK: Now Long Cove (ph) has always been there, not where it is now, but, I mean, that's where my father was born (unintelligible). Now who owned that (unintelligible)? The Crone's (ph), now they bought Rolles Range and then Mr. Leonard bought it from the Crone's and then I think the Caulk's (ph) lived there. I think the Caulk twins' mother and father were living there (unintelligible). I'm sure they lived there at one time.

Interviewer: Before it was condemned.

MK: Oh yeah. But they lived there when I first came out here. (Unintelligible.)

Interviewer: You had Perry Cabin before the Foggs (ph) bought it.

MK: I remember Foggs (ph) had it, but you see, Foggs bought it from Glasscox (ph) and then Glasscox bought it bought from the Dawsons and the Dawsons were related to Sam Hamilton.

Interviewer: The boarding house was run there for a time.

MK: Well I don't know...

Interviewer: This must have been when the Glasscox had it.

MK: That's right Libby Glasscox wasn't there, but she took a few guests and I don't think she owned it. I thought she rented it. You see, Edwin bought it in the thirties.

UNINTELLIGIBLE DIALOGUE TILL END OF SIDE 1.

Side 2

(Starts in middle of tape, missing dialogue)

MK: reported a sailboat that had a young couple on it, and fortunately, they got into this cove up here and I saw that they were in trouble, so I called the Coast Guard and then I think somebody from Claiborne did the same thing and they were taken off and then they came here and the next day as soon as the boat (unintelligible) and several times that boats are caught out there. It's a very peculiar water, because it's so calm and that's when the wind hits it.

Interviewer: And the other thing that is tied into that, the pleasure boat business obviously is booming quite a bit around here. In the summertime you go out here and all you see is white all up and down here.

MK: That's right.

Interviewer: How far back does that go? Does that go clear back to the thirties, or is that just something that's happened since the sixties.

MK: Well I can remember when it happened, but it wasn't happening right around here. It was further down the Bay and that was in the Chesapeake Bay, this is the Eastern Bay here. And then there was a boat during the war, a very big steamer, that was in an awful snowstorm and he got the lights, the Claiborne (ph) lights and the Bloody Point Light mixed up and he came here and got aground and that was, I guess, took them at least all week to get that boat off.

Interviewer: Do you remember what its name was?

MK: (Unintelligible), but it was a foreign boat.

Interviewer: It turned into Eastern Bay instead of going up?

MK: Instead of going up to the Chesapeake.

Interviewer: That's interesting. And the other thing was about the...

MK: Then there was a large boat that was anchored out here when they made that *First Kiss*.

Interviewer: That was something I was going to ask you about (laughter).

MK: Well Sandy can tell you about that. Don't you know remember when we had that...

Interviewer: That was the year I graduated, in '28.

MK: Yeah. She can tell you more about that.

Interviewer: Okay.

MK: That was Fay Wray and ...

Interviewers: And Gary Cooper and Leslie (unintelligible)

MK: And somebody Chandler, somebody Chandler (unintelligible). There were four men ... (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Did they stay in St. Michaels?

MK: They stayed in houses in Pasadena (ph) and the house is torn down where (unintelligible) is now. They added a false room on it. And the front and the back was all open because that purged in the movie. The back was just a shell and the (unintelligible) piece of wood stuck (unintelligible) and then when they had the awful storm, they were all supposed to be on this boat, but they had water pouring down

Interviewer: Did it come to St. Michaels (unintelligible)?

MK: You mean a (unintelligible) theater.

Interviewer: No, no. (Unintelligible).

MK: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: It was a big deal I'm sure.

MK: It was a big deal.

Interviewer: That's when Mr. Ed had the movie houses.

MK: No, I think that somebody else had...

Interviewer: I think farmer (ph) had it.

MK: Mr. Crosby (ph) owned it and Ada's (ph) husband. (Unintelligible). What was Ada's last name?

Interviewer: Adkins (ph) I think.

MK: I can think of her as Ada Spencer. But I can't think of her married name. (Unintelligible).

MK: Somebody told me they had pulled all the floors up, there weren't any floors in the house and I know they did have beautiful floors.

Interviewer: When Dr. Wilson lived there the floors were still beautiful.

MK: (Unintelligible) and they were wide floors like these.

Interviewer: Where did Dr. Denton live? He lived down here someplace didn't he?

MK: Yes, he lived ...

Interviewer: He lived in Wittman didn't he?

MK: No, uh, huh. He lived on the road where the Johnson's lived. And then that house burned down (unintelligible).

TK: But I think the dog is what we have. We have a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, (unintelligible) also part (unintelligible)

MK: That was in front of Josette's (ph) father's store there in St. Michaels on Main Street. The father had a drug store (unintelligible) and his name was Craig (ph).

Interviewer: Is Craig still living?

TK: They said the dog came down (unintelligible) and came down here (unintelligible). The dog was on the property (unintelligible) and they acquired it when they bought the property here and then moved in.

MK: And they got the dog

TK: (Unintelligible). Just wondering who owned the house before this.

MK: (Unintelligible). But now there is a Dr. (unintelligible) who lives at the corner of St. Michaels in that red brick house and Dr. Joseph, Dr. Joe, and his son was Joseph.

Interviewer: But he originally settled down here. Where he had his summer house.

MK: I know the name, but I don't know where he lived.

Interviewer: How many doctors lived there? Two or three?.

MK: Well, at one time they had Joe Seth (ph), Lou Seth, Dr. Hoak (ph) and I think Dr, Glasscox (ph).

Interviewer: I don't know if he practiced here or not.

MK: Yeah, he did. He was around here when I came here...and Dr. Wilson.

TK: In those days, a doctor used to visit the patients.

MK: Yeah, well (unintelligible) will do it now if you ask him.

TK: Blaine (ph) is a nice guy.

MK: He called me up about two weeks ago at 7:30 on a Sunday morning (laughter). I said, "What in the name of (unintelligible). He said, "Well, Barbara (ph) said that you wanted to see me." I said, "I didn't want to see you, Janey (ph) was the one." And he said, "Well where's Jane now." I said, "She's in bed. Where do you think she is." And he said, "Well, what's wrong with you?" I said, "Nothing" (laughter). And he said, "I should have called you last night, but I didn't get in until 11 o'clock." I said, "Well, that isn't anything, I don't go to bed until 2 or 3 sometimes." And he said, "I should have known." I said, "Well don't you ever do that again." (Laughter).

TK: We don't mind you calling at night, but don't call me at 7:30 in the morning.

MK: (Unintelligible) and I kid him all the time. One time I went in there and he took my blood pressure and he said, "there's nothing wrong with you." I said, "Well listen, I'm gonna pay you some money, you gotta find that something is wrong with me (laughter). And I said, "Well, you could look down my throat and you could look in my ears and you could take my temperature, you could listen to my heart." I said, "I want something for that money." (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: Did you know his brother Pincky (ph)?

MK: Very well.

TK: Pincky (ph) I knew in Cuba. He was in the (unintelligible). I was a good friend of the family.

MK: He had a pretty wife. Yes I knew them all. They all came here when we were real young. His father was a bishop and they used to say that he wanted to come here as a doctor. When he was in college and the war went on and after that he had to serve (unintelligible) and then when he came back to Washington, he went into cancer research and he called me up one day, and he said, "Mil, I'm thinking about coming over to St. Michaels." And I said, "Well that's fine." (Unintelligible). So I said, "Well, the only doctor in town is Dr. (unintelligible) and he said, "Yes, but I wrote to him and he didn't act like he wanted another doctor and the school was waiting for money and he only had a couple more years I think. And I said, "Well, come on over and I'll introduce you to some of the doctors" (unintelligible) and so he came over and he started out

(unintelligible) and I introduced him to the druggist. I introduced him to Dr. (unintelligible) and they all thought it was a good thing. Then the funny thing about it, I was in the office of the county doctor...what was his name?

Interviewer: The doctor that just retired.

MK: Well anyway...

Interviewer: Milty (ph).

MK: And who should be in his office, but (unintelligible) and he came out and (unintelligible) was standing with me and I said, "(unintelligible) I want to introduce you to a good friend of mine who's thinking about coming to St. Michaels as a doctor (laughter). And he said, "Yes, I have an 11:30." (Unintelligible). Then I left and I bought him a map of all the (unintelligible). And I said, "You gotta have a house and you gotta have an office." And I said, "The only office I think you could possibly have would be where Norman Marshall (ph) had all of his (unintelligible). It used to be Dr. Lyons. So I went to see Norman and he said, "Oh that's (unintelligible) house, Dawson's house. Well move him there. He said, (unintelligible). I said, "Well now listen, you know that we need another doctor around here." And he said, "Yes, I sure do." So he said, "All right, I'll (unintelligible)"

(Dialogue unintelligible.)

Interviewer: Do you have any records of (unintelligible) or correspondence.

MK: Yes, and the Museum has it. And (unintelligible) is supposed to bring them back. I go a letter from the Museum this past week and they said they had some of our records up there and they had this, I don't know what you call it, where they had the old houses and they had a picture on it and it's something like a museum and then they sent it all to Baltimore. So, I'm just getting them back, but Polly Shanahan (ph) is the one that got them from me and she was supposed to return them but I understand she'd been in the hospital, so I haven't seen Polly (ph).

Interviewer: They have a (unintelligible) museum up there which is the Maritime section with a new curator up there (unintelligible).

MK: They have some boat records and they have a diary of Thomas Kemp.

Interviewer: We'd love to see those.

MK: All right, well sometime when they come back to me, I will be glad to let Fanny (ph) know or do you know Otis.

Interviewer: Otis is a good friend of mine.

MK: Well, he's here every day. He hunts here. (Unintelligible). Then he's trying to catch a raccoon (unintelligible). And caught one this morning. He's caught four here.

Interviewer: He's an awfully nice person.

MK: He's a marvelous person. I'm telling you, I don't what I'd do without him because he brings my mail, he brings my paper to me and he brought me a rabbit (ph). The ugliest thing I ever did see. I boiled it, I stewed it, I fried it and I (laughter) (unintelligible). I threw it away.

Interviewer: Give it to the cat (laughter).

MK: I don't have cats now and when Earl (ph) was here, we used to have I think 20 in the barn, but they never came up here. And he had one black cat that sat and had his

mouth open and Earl would squirt milk right in his mouth (laughter). It was the funniest thing.

Unintelligible dialogue)

Interviewer: We've been refinishing the desk which you gave us that we have in our lighthouse.

MK: Oh, how about that.

Interviewer: It's coming along quite nicely. It's going to be a very beautiful piece when we get done with it. We had all of the old finish taken off of it and got one of our volunteers working on it and he has done a beautiful job on it. Inside, it's got written two or three places R. A. Bateman and I looked back in an 1860 or so map that I've got of Talbot County, it has a Bateman (unintelligible).

MK: Well, it came from Pennsylvania.

Interviewer: Oh it did? That's interesting. Because it says *R. A. Bateman, Easton*.

MK: Well that's Easton, Pennsylvania.

Interviewer: Easton, Pennsylvania. I thought so, but....

MK: That's where it came from and it was given to me by a Mr. Wyeth, Lou, who bought a home down here, and his wife died, and he went back to Easton, Pennsylvania, and he gave me that desk.

Interviewer: It says 1878 or '76. You'll have to come down and see it. We're putting on a new leather top on it ...(unintelligible).

MK: Is it in the museum?.

Interviewer: It's not up right now, it's going to be in the lighthouse.

MK: Where is going to be, in the lighthouse?

Interviewer: It was in the lighthouse before.

MK: It wasn't when Dina (ph) had it. I gave it to Dina (ph)...

Interviewer: It has been in the lighthouse, (unintelligible)..

MK: I don't care where it is, as long as it's doing some good.

Interviewer: It's doing a lot of good (unintelligible).

Interviewer: We're getting ready to leave you that whole exhibit there. It's going to be one of the major things that we're fixing up and it really does look good. It really does. It's coming along quite well.

MK: What kind of wood is it?

Interviewer: It's walnut.

MK: Walnut?

Interviewer: Yes. After we got some of that old finish off of it, it looks very nice.

MK: (Unintelligible Mr. (unintelligible)?

Interviewer: No, Max Holmfeld (ph). He's the one that just fixed up the bell ringer, the original bell ringer.

MK: Oh, oh.

Interviewer: He's very talented.

MK: Is he from St. Michael.

Interviewer: No, he's retired here from...I think he spent most of his time out near Chicago or somewhere in the Midwest.

MK: What's his name?

Interviewer(s): Max Holmfeld (ph). He's an engineer. A relatively newcomer here.

Interviewer: He's a clock man. He's got a little clock shop set up at his house. He has also repaired our lighthouse clock for us, so that it runs now. It didn't used to. He's quite a clock repairman, too.

MK: Well that clock ticks along and ticks along and I don't think I had it repaired. One time I had to have (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Max would be the one. He is in the St. Michaels phone book. Where does he live? I'm not exactly sure.

MK: Does this fella have a shop in his home?

Interviewer: Yes he does. He's quite good.

Interviewer: He does it as a hobby. He's a retired engineer.

Interviewer: He belongs to a watch club (unintelligible).

Interviewer: As a matter of fact, he just asked me to take a picture for him. He's got an escapement out of a watch 1720, 1740? Somewhere in there. But he wants a picture of it before he sends it back because he wants to be able to show it to people because it's a very interesting clock or watch I guess. I think it's a watch I believe he said.

MK: Believe it or not, somebody from Winston-Salem came up here and took a picture of that clock last year.

Interviewer: It's a beautiful clock.

TK: It's our friend Jane.

MK: Jane something. (Unintelligible).

Interviewer: I think that's just about all I wanted to ask you except for maybe you said this has been a boarding house since about 1900.

MK: I would say about 80 years.

Interviewer: What has been the best years of it all? Has it been more recent or was it in the twenties and thirties as far as a lot of people and good people.

MK: I would say in the twenties.

Interviewer: In the twenties? You think Ocean City took, or at least a modern highway system, took that away.

MK: Well, I think that the main thing was that they can get here from Baltimore and Washington easier than they can go to all the way down to Ocean City and we were kind of a homey place.

Interviewer: It started out that way when Ms. Katy's friends started coming for the summer.

MK: That's right. And they would come for two weeks and spend the summer and then the (unintelligible) said, "If I were you, I would charge them and they wouldn't be coming so much (laughter). And she did. And that's how it started. But there were a lot of them around here. There was Maple Hall and then Mrs. Nora Voss (ph) and Ms. Imogene Carr (ph) and then Mrs. Edwards, Sara Edwards (ph) and I just don't know how many and this is the only one left and I wouldn't do it either, but I happen to have some money to keep this place up. It costs a lot of money to keep it all up.

Interviewer: Do you have people here all the time or just during the season.

MK: No, no. I'm by myself.

Interviewer: Visitors though.

MK: I have plenty of visitors.

Interviewer: Do they come all year round, or just during the summer.

MK: They just come whenever they feel like it.

Interviewer: Whenever they feel like it? (Laughter).

MK: Do you know that this is the first weekend I will have since I closed in September that I haven't had somebody here.

Interviewer: How many people can you handle in your place?

MK: Well, I don't have as many as I could—I could have 80, but 50 to 55 is the last (unintelligible). You wonder where I put 'em, but you see, this part I closed off. I have a big dining room that's closed all the time and three doors and then I have the cottage and...

Interviewer: Still use the crow's nest?

MK: Yes, and so that's how the (unintelligible). And Grace, she had to fix the cottage.

Interviewer: You get a lot of repeat business, people like you.

MK: That's the only thing I have. I don't advertise. I don't advertise one bit and I don't want to because if you advertise, and blacks came up, you'd have to take 'em and I would just say this is a private inn and I will only take guests that are recommended by some of my other guests. I guess you think I'm (unintelligible), but it's the best way to keep (unintelligible).

Interviewer: It must be awfully hard to (unintelligible).

MK: I don't have any trouble with anything but my dining room (unintelligible) they are the worst I think I have had.

END OF SIDE 2