

Interview Log

Interviewee: Roy Woodall **Tape #:** MAAF/KF/MD/FT6.15.219

Interviewer: Kelly Feltault **# of Tapes:** 1

Date: 6/15/98 **# of Sides:** 2

Location: Cecil County MD; near Ches

Topic: carving, painting, sense of place

Corresponding Photography Log #: MAAF/KF/MD/PS6.15.216-220

Comments: File name: Mdft219.doc. See Fieldnotes: FN06.15.98. *Italics* indicate emphasis; [brackets indicate additional information not on the tape or asides by fieldworker]; "quotations indicate direct transcription."

Mrs. Jayne Foard recommended Roy Woodall. I am not sure he fits conservative definitions of "traditional" or "authentic" but he has a great ability to express sense of place through narrative, and has had a variety of traditional occupations. Roy and his wife run a gift shop on route 213. The interview was conducted in Roy's workshop above the gift shop. Listeners should note that I was extremely tired on this day from previous days of fieldwork, please see fieldnotes for full description.

BEGIN SIDE A

[horrible buzz from machine]

BIO: born in DE; grew up in N. Chesapeake city; went to U.DE, took some evening and weekend classes; liked it but didn't like being inside; was doing drafting; went into working at service station: "liked being outdoors, having freedom, driving cars and challenges"; then worked in marina; worked on water repairing boats; worked at new car dealership; learned about business; learned a lot about people from older guy there; purchased old gas station that he had worked at; ran business for 20 years; burned out then; hazards; retired from that;

Carving since a teen; was only a hobby; then started doing it more after retired; daughter taking an art class and he went with her to class; started painting then; 1983; selling them; then got into framing; then moved into gift and art shop/frame shop.

[buzz is still there]

wood working that he's done; carving all sorts of animals and utilitarian objects; gun racks; hunting; not as much as when younger; prefers fishing; fishes both Bays; DE Bay better for edible fish; does everything himself: filet, cook, catch;

how canal really connects the DE river and the Chesapeake bay; things you catch at the head of the Bay; catfish, perch, never was fantastic fishing up this way; spring and fall is rockfish season; zillions in 50s and 60s;

guy who owned gas station-Walter Titter-first was also a commercial waterman and duck hunter; father was one too; plentiful rockfish; these guys filling up the boats; 5 cents a lb; when got that cheap Mr. Titter got out of the business; gas station had little fish market in the spring; Mr. Titter sold his fish;

law is that you can't catch them at all; moratorium; reasons for decline; other pressures on rockfish; all the effort may not have really brought them back; conditions of the bay getting better; grasses back etc; illegally catching them here; name in the paper as an outlaw

[any stories here? Local heroes? Contemporary outlaws; only in upper bay? What are the diff. Senses of place between regions of the Bay, Peninsula and between ocean and Bay?]

have to use blood worms to catch them; should set limits on how many you can catch;

CARVING: always liked to make things; had own shop behind his house; collecting junk and lots of tools; did little projects; working on car or house; intrigues him to be able to make some thing; "if the wheel falls off the lawnmower, the first thing people go do is get a new lawnmower. Well, what I do is try to fix things" fixes anything; collected so much that he knew he had all parts in shop and would hunt or scavenge for them;

[aesthetic of recycling]

big project he did was old house they now live and work in; story of how he got it and fixed it up; descriptions of house; old shop they had in Chesapeake City; wife's shop; kid's grown and wanted a project;

descriptions of construction of house; how solid it was; talked wife into it; bought it; fixing it for A/C;

[pause as he goes to turn it on and get me a drink]

more on fixing the house and building the apartment on the back;

people he knew that carved and influenced him; early carving tools; cutting self,

TEACHING: now teaching for arts council; stories of that; first time he taught; different levels of students; how it makes him feel to teach; watercolors;

Composing own pictures; techniques he uses; likes really good paper; 300 weight paper; rag only;

Sense of place: he and wife talk about leaving area now; children are gone; living other areas; don't encourage kids to move back here; thinking of moving to FL; wife ready to move;

How MD disappoints him: taxes, regulations; more populated; go to DE and don't need a fishing license; stories about regulations, not just on the water but on building;

Changes: last 5 years and next 5 years will be the greatest changes; population explosion; once across DE line it is unbelievably crowded and developing; coming to Cecil county; already bad in upper county;

Horse trads: new to county; only here 30 years;

END SIDE A

BEGIN SIDE B

More on horses in the area; Duponts and E.P. Taylor; buying land and politics involved;

Dupont's interest in Chesapeake City; rebuilding it and contrast of what it was when he was young to what it is now; 50% in Chesapeake City are now new people; story of 2 old ladies on Bank St. almost losing their homes, taxes in C.C. and problems these ladies had; how he saved the ladies' home; town of C. C. did nothing to help the ladies; tried to force ladies out of house; turning water off; displacement of other people in C.C.; tax credit to those who bought old houses and restored them;

[there are a lot of cultural politics involved here; see FN05.20.98; lots of issues of class and race]

board walk they want to build around the waterfront; bad idea; why; no parking; Mrs. Foard in charge of getting board walk in; public boat ramp there, not many public boat ramps in the county-all private for large sailboats etc; problems with the site; crowded;

gambling in local clubs: VFW, elks etc, slot machines; 50% of profit had to go to charity; revitalized community sites like ballfields, etc;

crabbing as tradition in area; he has commercial license;

leads: Sonny Pyle (dead); Lawse Hesse (dead) but daughter "Puddin" is carrying on family tradition of working the water, one of the last water people in the county

to Puddin's: go S [from his place] through Cecilton; come to Sassafras, don't cross river;
just before bridge make a right; go in a ways; look to right and see Hesse Seafood; meet
real characters there; girl never been married, hardest looking person he's ever seen;

catfish; mostly but do crabbing;

commercial fishing industry almost gone in the county

other fellow at Vista marina; runs marina; Bryce Moore, real character; bad alcoholic,
shouldn't really see him;

Timmy Nordoff: catfisherman working out of Bryce's Marina; from Rock Hall but works
up here;

Catfishing; live boxes out in water; pick ups once a week;

Jimmy would be good to talk with, another catfisherman; lives on Spearshill Rd north of
C.C.;

END TAPE