

Jean Bullis: Informal interview Mar. 8 on phone. Formal on Mar. 14: 1:30-2 general time.

NOTES:

Capt. Frank Cockey used to make balsam wood geese and she painted them. Once she copied his pattern and made a mobile out of it. He knew her as Jeanie Pierson (spelling) her first husband passed on and now she's remarried a Bullis.

So, she moved to the eastern shore and lived next door to Capt. Frank (sic). She painted in the late 70's early 80's. Frank and his wife Miriam were dear friends of hers.

After Miriam passed on Jeanie took care of Frank and looked after him. When he was younger he'd had a set of teeth made but they hurt him so he didn't wear them. He ate only soft foods. She learned to make tapioca pudding for him. Never made it before but made it for him.

She owns one duck, not a mallard (most of them were?) that Capt. Frank had carved and her daughter talked him out of it. She painted it for her daughter- on the bottom it says Frank Cockey. She painted it in 1981.

Frank and his wife were very special to her.

His daughter still lives in their house, but she has been ill and doesn't have a good memory. Needs her memory jogged to recognize Jeanie.

His grandson, wife and boys live next door as well.

03-14-02 Interview Jeanne Pearson Bullis, husband of 3 years (both spouses deceased) Bill Bullis present at interview. He actually spent the interview untangling or trying to untangle the mobile. Eventually they gave up and decided to redo it with fishing wire. He also brought the duck over during the interview and showed her the dates so she'd say them on tape.

FN

Arrived at 1:45, worried they were late, I was meeting with Otto and MM until they came and assured them that was fine.

She showed me several ducks. 1 she found on the creek, and after Capt. Frank assured her it wasn't anyones and they asked around she took it home and painted it. It is plastic with something weighting it down. She uses it to sit outside because she doesn't want her wood one in the weather but wants one to decorate outside.

Also there are photos of her with the decoy Frank Cockey gave her, signed by her and him on the bottom. That is her special decoy. Finally shots of the mobile made of geese.

After the interview, Jean repeated the tapioca story, when he was young he had uppers and lowers made but he never could get them to fit right so he gummed his food. He was skin and bones, very small man. She learned to make tapioca pudding for him. Didn't know how, she'd made chocolate for the kids, but not tapioca. She bought a box and figured it out. Not that it was hard. And every week or so she'd take him over a big bowl of it.

We talked about geese, four mallards flying in while they ate at Crab Claw, cut the threads off the mobile to get the shots of geese. She learned to pick crabs from local people. Showed them the crab book.