

Interview Log

Interviewee: Howard Pete Richardson

Tape #:

Interviewer: Shelly Drummond

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Location: House of Jeff and Tracey Richardson

Topic: Bozman, environmental change, storms, tonging, crabbing - trotlining, hunting, decoy carving, Dunn's cove, Hurricane Hazel, waterspout, Claiborne packing house, timbering, saw mills, vacation houses, prices of seafood, shipping -- rail and truck, working log canoes, ice storm of '78, roothead decoys - crooked tree limb decoys, farming/crabbing, mechanized corn pickers, shoreline, Otis Bridges, Haddaway, Miles Hancock, Madison Mitchell.

Comments:

BEGIN SIDE A

S.D.: This is Shelly Drummond from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Today is the 14th of May 2003. Would you please introduce yourself, tell me your name and where you're from?

P.R.: My full name, Howard Franklin Richardson. I was **born and raised** in Bozeman, lived here all my life except three years, and I went to Baltimore during World War II and worked in Bethlehem Shipyard.

S.D.: What did your **parents** do when you were growing up?

P.R.: Well my father worked on the water most of the time, and dad, of course it wasn't jobs around like there is today, but any kind of work like care taking or working on a farm or anything, kind of work that come along, anything to make a dollar.

S.D.: What did he **fish for** on the water?

P.R.: Oysters. He did mostly oysters. Some crab, but he didn't set no fish, commercially for fish. He would set nets and catch fish for his own use, but not to sell. Mostly his work on the water was tonging oysters.

S.D.: Where did he set nets? Was there a fishing shore around here?

P.R.: You could go out anywhere then. They had what they call stake nets, **gill nets**, and they were only about -- well most of them was only about half long, from here to the road out there. After they'd get home from work, they'd go out nighttime, put two stakes down, tie the net to this one, and stretch it out and tie it to that one, and then the fish would swim into it, that's the way they'd catch them.

S.D.: Did they -- what part of the creek did they do that in?

P.R.: Right in close to the shore most of the time, in shallow water.

S.D.: In front of -- was it usually the same spot that everybody would do it in or just right in front of their homes?

P.R.: No. You could go anywhere then, and where you -- in towards Broad Creek over here and Harris Creek over on this side, and they'd go first one way and then the other, but they could go -- it wasn't no law against it then. You could go anywhere you wanted to.

S.D.: When do you think it changed?

P.R.: When it changed? I don't know. I'd be afraid to say.

S.D.: Tell me about the house that you grew up in.

P.R.: The **house I grew up in** was between here and the Bozman Post Office. Let's see. I'll tell you where. Do you know where the preacher lives out the road here a little ways?

S.D.: No, but --

P.R.: Well it's right, between here, about halfway between here and Bozman store, about a couple hundred yards from where we are now. And it was just like most all the old frame house, like all the old houses were them days, small and heated with wood and coal and done the cooking with wood, no other heat.

S.D.: Do you know how they built it?

P.R.: Well, generally speaking, about the same as they do now. The material was different. They don't have the aluminum siding and the brick and cinderblock, all that stuff, it was all wood.

S.D.: Where did the wood come from?

P.R.: Saw mills all around the county then. They'd haul logs out of the woods to the sawmill and he'd saw whatever kind of lumber they wanted, and they'd bring it back and build a house.

S.D.: What do you remember most about **Bozman** at that time?

P.R.: About what?

S.D.: About Bozman.

P.R.: Bozman?

S.D.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

P.R.: Oh, I remember, I could tell you a lot about Bozman. Take a big book to write that.

S.D.: You told me about the **first car**.

P.R.: Yeah. Well I can remember when there was only four cars in this whole Bozman area, down, all the way down including Quaker Neck Road and Cooper's Point Road and just the whole Bozman area, only four people had cars. And they were -- the old man that had the post office out here, pretty close to where the post office is now, he had a Buick and a couple farmers had cars. I think they were all Chevrolets then, all three of them. That's the first cars I remember around here. Then not long after that, people kept, different people kept getting a car, but it wasn't very many in the whole neighborhood.

S.D.: What did people **do for a living** then?

P.R.: Most in this, you mean in this area, Bozman area? Most of it, this was all farmland. All the houses you see in their travels around here then was all farmland. Wasn't no houses. From this road right here where we are now clear down to the end of what we call Cooper's Point Road this is, there was only eight houses from here clear to the end of Cooper's Point Road, it was all farmland. Now it's about 150 or more now.

S.D.: I'll tell you what, I'm going to pause for a moment, but if you would, please, tell me your name and where you're from and what you do.

P.R.: Well I don't do anything.

S.D.: You carve?

P.R.: No more. Once in a while, I'll carve a small duck or a little swan, but I don't -- I got arthritis so bad in my hand, I do about an hour and I have to quit.

S.D.: This is Shelly Drummond from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and I'm talking with Mr. Richardson, and it is May 15th, 16th, 2003.

P.R.: I didn't hear you.

S.D.: It's May 16th, 2003. We've been talking a little bit about **Hurricane Hazel** and its effects.

P.R.: Yeah.

S.D.: What do you think were some of the worst things that happened as a result of Hurricane Hazel?

P.R.: Well, I guess main thing is it sank so many boats around the shores, the watermen, for a couple days just stayed around the shore all the time taking care of their boats, and a lot of them would break loose and blow away, drift away, and some of them sank. It just damaged the shoreline all around the marshes and grasses and everything completely.

S.D.: What was it that, I think we were talking about **trapping**.

P.R.: Oh, we were talking about the muskrats, and we haven't had any, I don't know about other areas, but we haven't had any muskrats around this area since that because it washed the marshes all out, and that's where muskrats lived, underground in the marshes. And after the storm tore the marshes all up, the muskrats, there just wasn't anymore. What didn't drowned out, I guess they left and went somewhere else. I don't know.

S.D.: How about the **storm of '33**?

P.R.: Of '33. I remember that, but I don't know which one it was. We've had so many of them in my time, I forget the names of them.

S.D.: You told me a little bit, which do you think was the most damaging storm that we ever had?

P.R.: Well I think the **ice storm**. No doubt around this area where I live, in the Bozman area, the ice storm because it damaged the shorelines, and the inland and the trees and the woods, it just destroyed just about everything. Some people had to rebuild, put new roof on their houses, and electric line, telephone lines are down. We had people right down this area, down this Cooper Point Road on this road where I live where we are right now, we had people that couldn't even get out the lane to get nowhere for two or three, three or four days. Had people come in and cut the trees up and get them out of the lane before they could even get out.

S.D.: Were people **oystering** at that time?

P.R.: Well, yeah, it was oyster season, but it wasn't -- the oyster was bad then like it is, well not bad as it is now, but most of the oysters were dead then, and it wasn't, oyster business wasn't good at all. And a lot of the watermen got these things that they chop up the tree limbs with. I don't know what they call them, mulchers I guess, whatever it is, and worked for different people cleaning the lanes out, and cutting their trees down instead of working on the water. They could make more money doing that than they could working on the water.

S.D.: Tell me about your early days oystering.

P.R.: Well I started oystering, my first two days, first two years I got out of school, I was 15 years old, we only had eight grades in the school out here where I went, eight grades and two rooms, two teachers, out here when I went to school. And it was no school buses, no transportation. When you went eight grades through school, most of the people, kids down in this area was done going to school because wasn't no way to get to high school. So when I was 15 years old, I was done going to school, and I went to work on a farm first for \$15 a month. And then after two years, I went to work on the water with my father, and we sold oysters at that time for round about 35, from 35 to 50 cents a bushel.

S.D.: How did you get the oysters?

P.R.: Hand tonging, and we -- he tonged in Miles River most of the time, and we kept our boat down Claiborne, down on Tilghman's Creek. You know where that is down Claiborne? We'd get up in the morning from Bozman here and walk six miles to Claiborne, go out and work all day until the sun went down, come in, sell our oysters and walk back home every day.

S.D.: Where did you sell your oysters?

P.R.: It was an oyster shucking house right down on Tilghman Creek where we landed our boat, and we sold oysters right there to him. His name was Alex Haddaway, we **sold oysters** to him.

S.D.: Do you remember your first day? Was it hard?

P.R.: Oh, yeah. They were all hard. That's why it was hard work. But that's what most people did around the country, around this part of the country then, work on the water and work on farms. Wasn't no way to get nowhere, no transportation but walking. Couldn't go places and get jobs like they do now.

S.D.: Who made the **tongs**?

P.R.: Huh?

S.D.: Who made the tongs? Blacksmith or did you buy them?

P.R.: The blacksmith would make the heads, we call them, the part that catches the oysters. And then the shafts, the long -- excuse me, the long part, there was, most people bought them from a man in Oxford used to make the shafts we called them, different lengths from -- and we'd buy the shafts from him. But my father was a blacksmith and he made his own tong, own heads and stuff.

S.D.: Did he also **make equipment** for the dredge boats, the skipjacks?

P.R.: No. He didn't do that. He just worked for another blacksmith. Most of them days, of course, everything was horse and buggy then and everybody knew -- had a horse or two, and they'd make the horseshoes that they, you know, the only things they put on their feet. And he'd make them and make the tong heads and that sort of thing.

S.D.: How about crabbing? When did you **start crabbing**?

P.R.: Well after I -- a boat we had that we tonged in was small, and we lost a lot of time from work in the Miles River on account of windy days. Another man around here had a big boat built and he wanted my father to work with him, and he went and worked with him so he wouldn't lose so much time. And I come home with a small boat and worked down here in Broad Creek crabbing and tonging by myself after about two years of tonging with my father. Then I worked alone on the water crabbing and tonging.

S.D.: Were you near other watermen when you were working?

P.R.: Oh, yes. There was other watermen all around out there, anywhere you could find room to lay your crab line out.

S.D.: How did you navigate?

P.R.: We had a small engine in our little boat, it was just a small engine, it was slow going, but we'd get where we had to go after a while, and when I first started for a little while tonging with my father, we had sails, it was a **canoe** we worked in, and we had sails on it. Not long after I started with him, he got an engine, gasoline engine.

S.D.: It seems to me it would be hard to keep a log canoe stable while you were working. How was that?

P.R.: To keep it what?

S.D.: Stable. They --

P.R.: Oh, it was. That's what I say, it was small, and when the water got real rough, we had to come ashore. We couldn't work.

S.D.: How about sailing? Do you remember any particular thoughts about having to sail back and forth instead of using a motor?

P.R.: No, after we once got the motor, we didn't use the sails anymore at all then after we got the motor in.

S.D.: Did you race?

P.R.: Huh?

S.D.: Did you ever race in the logs canoes?

P.R.: No. Huh-uh (negative). No. No, we -- there was no, well a bunch of us local people used to get together once in a while on the weekends and just **race** each other, but there wasn't no racing like there is today like they do nowadays, have the big regattas and stuff. There wasn't none of that them days.

S.D.: Was it just the men that would get together and race sometimes?

P.R.: Yeah, just race each other, yeah.

S.D.: What would start that?

P.R.: What's --

S.D.: Was it something you just did every weekend, or did somebody challenge someone?

P.R.: Well didn't do it every weekend. Just maybe three or four times a summer they would do it. A bunch of them would get together and have a race either down here, right down the road

here in Broad Creek or over on the other side in Harris's Creek. Just for a good time, get together and have a good time, that's all it was for. Wasn't no trophies or anything like that.

S.D.: Tell me a little bit about the **season**. I know that you were talking about oystering in the winter and farming in the summer.

P.R.: Uh-huh (Affirmative), yeah.

S.D.: When did you change and start -- or when did more people start crabbing in the summer?

P.R.: Well the oyster season was from September the 1st, back them days, not that way anymore, but it started September the 1st, and it went till April the 15th. That's the limit, time you could tong oysters. And then after April the 15th as soon as the crabs got moving around, we'd start crabbing and crab until oyster season started again, crab all summer. We'd crab all the summer months and tonged all the winter months.

S.D.: About what time, what time, like what year did people start crabbing more than farming? What made people go to crabbing instead of farming?

P.R.: Well they crabbed even before the boats had motors in the boats to crab with. I can remember when a few people would crab, and they'd run their line out with a sailboat, whichever way the wind was blowing, that's the way they'd run their line with a sailboat. And then after they got their line out, they'd take their sail in and set up on the bow of the boat and pull down the line with their hand, pull the whole length of their line with their hands and every bait that had a crab on it, they'd dip it, had a little short handle bow net, they'd dip it with one hand. That's the way they first started crabbing.

S.D.: Was this on log canoes?

P.R.: Yeah, Uh-huh (Affirmative). Even before the log canoe that I could remember, now I had two uncles that did that, and they just had a little flat bottom what we call rowboats, they were about 14 foot long, and they would use that. But, of course, they wouldn't -- that business wasn't like it is today. There wasn't many people that did it because they couldn't make no money at it because there wasn't much market. And after they got so they could ship their crabs into the cities and stuff, the market got better and more people got into it.

S.D.: We talked a little bit about **shipping** by truck. Did they ever ship by rail?

P.R.: Yeah. When I first started crabbing, we shipped by rail, but we didn't -- that's the reason the market wasn't good and the prices were bad because so many -- it took them so long to get to the city to the market, so many of the crabs would be dead by the time they got there by rail. And then I don't know just what year it was, but a man by the name of Mr. Norman Marshall in St. Michaels, he started a trucking business from the Eastern Shore to the cities, and we could get our crabs to market in just a few hours after he started that, and we ship them by him. And then the prices start, you get better, and the demand got better. From then on, it just prices got going

up and up till they're just unreasonable now what you could get for a bushel, what people will pay for a bushel of crabs. I remember when, let's see, I don't remember what year it was, but we hadn't been crabbing. We used to crab in barrels when we first started, then put them in baskets and sell them to picking houses by the pound, and everything went to the picking houses because it wasn't no way but rail to ship them. But -- and when we first started putting them in baskets, I think was \$2 and a half for a bushel we would get. And after they got it up to \$5 a basket for crabs, we thought we were all going to get rich. That was unbelievable, get \$5 for a bushel of crabs. And now they're 75 and \$100 a bushel.

S.D.: How about the packing houses? Did you ever **sell crabs** to the packing houses?

P.R.: Yeah, that's where we had sell all of them before we had got to shipping them. I mean the packing houses, put them in -- a barrel would hold about three, almost three bushel, about 125 or 30 pounds. And we'd get oh maybe 4, 5 cents a pound for them.

S.D.: When did they start using the **crab pickers** pretty big and shipping the cans of the picked meat?

P.R.: I didn't get that.

S.D.: Tell me a little bit about the packing house on Claiborne, in Claiborne where you used to sell.

P.R.: He only shucked oysters, went down there. He didn't pick crabs, they just shucked oysters in the wintertime. I don't know what he did in the summertime, summer months, but --

S.D.: Who did you sell the crabs to then?

P.R.: This man I was talking about a while ago, he had built this boat that my father went to work with, he also, in the summertime, he was a crabber and he would come around to each one of us of the boats crabbing out there and pick up our crabs in this big boat he had and take them to Oxford to the picking houses in Oxford, and that's where we sold most of our crab at that time. And some people sent them to Tilghman Island, but most of them at that time sent their crabs to Oxford.

S.D.: Was the boat that he used a buy boat like for oysters, or was it a different kind of boat?

P.R.: No, it was just an ordinary work boat but it was -- I think, I'm not sure, but I think it was 38-foot long, and that was considered a big boat them days. But just an ordinary working boat, open boat that we called it.

S.D.: Were you ever out in the water during a **storm**?

P.R.: Yeah, many times. I was talking about that not long ago. One time, I told them I crabbed out in the Choptank River a good bit, and it gets pretty rough out there at times. And I was going

down my line, and I seen this cloud coming up the river or water spout, it was a water spout, and it was coming right toward me, and I had to get my line off a roller and leave my line out there and run in under Long Point Island and run ashore to get out of the way of it. And it just did miss me. That was a bad thing. But it didn't hit me. I got away from it. I've had a lot of right close calls. Anybody that works on the water has problems once in a while. Windstorm. When you're out there, got 4 or 500 feet of crab line out and storm comes up, you can't get it up real quick. You either have to leave it or take what comes.

S.D.: How can you -- what are some of the ways that you can tell when a storm is coming? Obviously the wind, but --

P.R.: Just by seeing the clouds, being out there every day and seeing the way the clouds look and how fast they're moving. You can pretty well tell whether they're going to be bad or not.

S.D.: How about getting down to somewhere like Choptank River? It's pretty far away. How long does that take?

P.R.: From up here where we tie our boats up down here at P.T. Hambleton, now where the people tie up down there now, from the small engine we had then, it would take me about an hour to get out to my crabbing spot where I worked at most of the time. And now, the boats they got now with these big diesel motors in them, they can go out there in 20 minutes.

S.D.: Well how would you know where you were? I mean how would you **navigate**, with maps?

P.R.: No. Just, I guess, I don't know quite how to put it, but you just knew your spot. We'd take marks by land, by trees in the woods or something like that, and you can go by the same marks all the time. You can get pretty close where you wanted to go every day. It's just something that was in the way of your work. You knew where you were going. The fog was most of the time them days, but we didn't have -- many people didn't have a compass to go by, and if it got real thick fog and you lost your way or didn't think you was going in the right direction, you'd just stop and drop your anchor till the fog lifted up.

S.D.: Tell me about, we talked a little bit about the lumbering and the changes in **Bozman**. Tell me about some of those **changes**, from the farmland and the woods.

P.R.: Well just about all of Bozman, except right out here in the village where the post office and most of the houses are now, all this land all down through here, Cooper's Point Road and what we call Quaker Neck Road down that way, that was all farmland. It wasn't houses all around the shores then like it is now. That was all farmland. It wasn't, very few houses down around the waterfront. There'd be a farmhouse maybe about, down Quaker Neck Road down there, may be five or six farmhouses down there and that's all the buildings it was down there because it was all farm. And same way down Cooper's Point Road and all these woods back of our house here, all that wood back a mile and a half down toward Neavitt, that was all farmland. Now it's every bit wood, woodland.

S.D.: When did somebody come in and cut the wood, the first cutting?

P.R.: I don't know, don't remember what years it was, but the people, about several different companies, lumber companies come in and set up. If a farmer wanted to sell part of his timber off, they'd come in and set up a sawmill right in the woods and cut whatever the farmer would sell to him. And then when they'd get rid of that, they'd move on, go somewhere else and buy more timber. And that's when the woodland started to grow up. After they cut it off, they couldn't till it or anything and they just let it grow up in trees again. And the people, when people started to move in here, it was a few people moving in, building around the shore before World War II, but after World War II, it got to be, property got so high around these waterfronts, the farmers kept selling a lot now and then, selling a property off and going out of business because they could get so much money for the land.

S.D.: What other changes happened after World War II?

P.R.: Well it didn't all happen right away. It kept changing and different things. People, strangers would keep moving in and building up big houses and live there a year or two and they'd sell to somebody else. It just kept slowly building up until around the shore now, there's no farmland at all left down here now anymore. Farmers gone completely out of business down in this area, no farmers.

S.D.: Let's talk a little bit about oystering. Not oystering, carving. I read something.

P.R.: **Carving?**

S.D.: Carving, yes. You used to -- what kind of decoys did you carve?

P.R.: Well when I first started making decoys, the golden eye or whiffer most people called them, the golden eye and the canvasbacks were the two main ducks that we hunted. Of course, there was other ducks, but they were more plentiful than any other kind. And that's mainly the kind of decoys we made because most everybody then that hunted just had a few decoys, but make their own to hunt with because they wasn't in demand like they are today. When I first started hunting, I was 15 years old. I wasn't allowed to have a gun till I was 15. My parents wouldn't allow me to have a gun till then. And I had a single barrel 12 gauge gun, she'd only shoot one time, and I had maybe 15 or 20 decoys that I made myself, and I'd go around the shore somewhere and set them out. And if a duck come in, if you didn't get him the first shot, you didn't get him because you couldn't reload in time to get another shot at him. You only got one chance at him. She'd only shoot one time. And that's the way I first started carving, by making my own hunting decoys.

S.D.: Where did you get the **wood** to make the decoys?

P.R.: Anywhere I could find a good chunk of good to make with, big enough to make with. Of course, everybody burned wood them days to heat the house and do the cooking with, and my

father always had a pile of wood in the yard, every family did. And anytime I could find a good piece of wood in his woodpile, I'd make a decoy out of it, and that's the way I first started.

S.D.: Where did he get his wood to --

P.R.: He would cut wood. The windy days, I started to tell you that a while ago, windy days when, in our little boat when it was too rough to work on the water, we would go in the woods and cut wood for the farmers. They always had people cut the wood one year and leave it lay all summer, season out good and use it next year. And that's what we did. Instead of my father taking pay for doing that kind of work, he would take wood. He did what they call cutting cord wood on shares. He would -- if a farmer wanted say nine cord of wood cut, he would cut -- he would cut nine cord of wood and my father would get three cord of it for his work instead of taking cash money, and that's the way he always had plenty of wood on his wood pile by doing it that way.

S.D.: How about the **roothead**s? Tell us a little bit what a roothead is.

P.R.: About a what?

S.D.: A roothead decoy.

P.R.: Oh, that's what we made the heads out of most of the time. We would go in the woods and find a crooked tree limb and shape it up a little bit or a crooked tree root with a little curl in it. Didn't make no difference what shape it was, just so it was something looked like a head sitting up on the decoy, and that's what we made the heads out of, used for heads. My grandson got one of my old tree root heads here now, but I think he's got it up in his cabinets upstairs locked up. I don't know how to get to it. But that's the way most everybody did it that way, stated making them that way. Then later on, we got making them a little, they wasn't very good looking ducks, but they worked for a decoy.

S.D.: What -- where did people go to get the roothead, to get the roots to make the roothead?

P.R.: Oh, the farmers would let you go in the woods, and you'd get a -- cut a crooked limb off a tree, if you could find one. They didn't object to you doing it, and we'd go in the woods and climb trees and cut a crooked limb off.

S.D.: How about -- you said that you knew the Ward Brothers a little bit.

P.R.: Yeah.

S.D.: Would you like to share a story about them?

P.R.: Yeah. Yeah, I used to go down there after I -- after I got to making a little more decoys, I used to go down there once in a while, set there, watch them make them, talk to them. I got to know them pretty well. But they, I guess they were among the first ones that really got to making

them to sell that I know of, Ward Brothers and Miles Hancock down Chinquateague. It was a few old carvers around that --

S.D.: Who are other **carvers of the area** that you remember?

P.R.: In this area?

S.D.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

P.R.: It wasn't but very few of them. Only know of -- you mean to sell for market?

S.D.: Or just that made good ones.

P.R.: Oh, most all anybody that hunted made their own decoys. But Nelson Ball and I hunted together a good bit, and he made, he made them. It was hard to tell his from mine. We both made them the same way because we hunted together and knew what, how each other made them. Otis Bridges, Charlie McQuay, there was a bunch of them around, the hunters, that made their own decoys.

S.D.: Tell me a little bit about your work as a **hunting guide**.

(END SIDE A.)

(BEGIN SIDE B.)

P.R.: I was trying to think last night. I was thinking about that, when I started taking parties. I hunted, my brother-in-law owned a farm down below Sherwood, about a mile after you get through Sherwood going to Tilghman Island. It was on what they call Dunn's Cove, and it was a real good duck and goose hunting place. Well the goose hunting came later on, and he let me have a blind down there just for my own hunting, I didn't take parties at first, but after I came back from the shipyard, or after World War II, he sold the farm, and the people that bought it still let me hunt there, and then that's when I started taking parties. They were business people, and I would take parties that they would send down to me, and I got into it pretty regular then. Most, I didn't hunt every day because I let the field stay idle for the geese to feed in without being shot at one or two days a week.

S.D.: Did you make your own blind?

P.R.: Yeah. I had, I had seven **blinds** on that farm. I didn't hunt them all at one time. I'd hunt, maybe hunt two in one area today and maybe tomorrow go somewhere else, not shoot the same blind all the time.

S.D.: How did you make them?

P.R.: I'd get -- just stick, drive the poles down in the marsh and frame it up and get bushes from around the shore, merkle (phonetic) bushes we call them or cedar bushes, anything to cover it up

a little bit that we could hide in, get behind, keep the ducks from seeing us. And then later on, it got -- the party business got so big, in a few years we tried to make it more comfortable for them and build better blinds and build big boxes with benches in them for them to sit on and all that. Hunting, that party business was a pretty big scene around here one time.

S.D.: Where did **people stay** when they first came?

P.R.: Well most of my parties, there was an old house on the farm that, after my brother-in-law sold it, the people that bought it didn't live down here, they lived in the city on the Western Shore, and they let the parties stay right in the old farmhouse if they were going to stay, shoot more than one day. It made I pretty handy for that.

S.D.: Did they just camp out, bring sleeping bags?

P.R.: No, they sleep right in the house. And the ones that didn't have a place like that, they would stay in Easton in the hotel or rooming house, wherever they could find, wherever. After it got pretty big business, the Guide would find them a place to stay, and they'd know where they were going to stay before they come down here. But at first, at first started, they'd just go over in Easton or St. Michaels and find a place wherever they could to stay

S.D.: Where did they eat?

P.R.: My people eat, they eat right in the -- done their own cooking, what little bit of cooking they did, and they'd go in St. Michaels to the restaurant or something like that and get sandwiches and stuff. But most of my people, I would say, would eat in St. Michaels to the restaurant.

S.D.: And who picked their ducks and geese?

P.R.: What people didn't take them home with them, there was people around, that got to be a pretty big business too, picking wild waterfowl, picking the geese and duck. There was, I don't know, three or four different places in St. Michaels where you could take them to have them picked, and that's what we would do, take them to them, have them pick. By the time they got home with them, they'd be all ready to cook.

S.D.: Do you have any good stories about a particularly **good hunt**?

P.R.: Yeah, I've had a lot of them, a lot of good hunts. Just thinking about -- I guess really, the best hunt that I can remember, had a lot of good ones, every day wasn't a good one, but down there where I hunted, most all of it was good hunting. But I had, one day in particular, I remember one time it was the last day of the season, and I had a party down there, we were shooting canvasbacks, and back them days we had loads of canvasbacks around here. And that place where I hunted down there, Dunn's Cove, that was called Canvasback Harbor. And I had this party this day, and the ducks started coming just as fast as they could load their gun and shoot, they were coming to them. And they had as many as they knew what they were going to do with, could handle, or use or give to their friends. And they quit about 8:30, 9:00 in the

morning, they had all they wanted. And the ducks were still coming when we walked out of the blind. But we've had, I've had so many good days down there, it's hard to pick out, single out one time.

S.D.: When did geese start, geese hunting, **goose hunting** become popular?

P.R.: We didn't have, for a right good while after I started hunting, we'd hardly ever see a goose around here. If we'd see a bunch flying over, migrate real high going on down south farther, we'd talk about that. People go out the store talk about I seen a bunch of wild geese today. That was something unusual. But about, I guess in the early 30's, late 20's or maybe in the early 30's, around the depression time when the corn pickers, farmers started getting corn pickers to pick their corn, and they left so much of it in the field, that's when the geese started coming around around here. I'd say in the early 30's. I'm not sure about that. And then from then on, they kept increasing until that one time we had so many geese around here, there were -- people were complaining about them destroying stuff and get in their lawn, eat their lawns up. Now again they won't allow you to hunt them again now.

S.D.: What do you remember the most about hunting, or taking out hunting parties?

P.R.: I don't know of any one particular -- I remember the **most fearful time** I had with a hunting party, the creeks and rivers were all froze up down there where I hunted. And right, there was two branches, two coves, and both of them was froze up, but right down in the -- cove where I had my blind, when my blind, it was open water, and I had a party down there one time, and the wind kept breezing up and breezing up, and that ice started moving out of them creeks and drifting down on me, started dragging my decoys away. And I went out there in my boat with, about 14 foot boat I had where I used -- in shallow water to put my decoys out to get my decoys up, and one of my party members wanted to go with me, help me get them up. And that ice caught us and was taking us right out the river, and we couldn't get away from it. It was just moving right -- the whole field of ice was taking us right out in the river. And if we hadn't stopped where we did, hit the shore where we did, we would've gone right out in the bay, in the Chesapeake Bay with that field of ice. But we managed to get away from it in time that we -- that was, that would've been bad. We would just, it would've sunk our boat, I'm sure, but we got away from it, and I guess that was one of the most fearful times I had.

S.D.: It seems like it would be cold out here.

P.R.: Oh, it was cold. Yeah, it was cold. But we -- that was our way of making a living, and we got used to it. We knew we had to do it, so we just, and we worked the coldest part of the day, go out early in the morning before sunrise, we'd have our decoys out and hunt -- if a party wanted to stay that long, we'd hunt till sundown, that's when we'd have to stop shooting is sundown.

S.D.: Did you use anything other than decoys to **encourage the birds** to come?

P.R.: Yeah. Later on in years when we first started we didn't, but later on in the year, we had the duck calls, the little thing you whistle on. You've seen them, I guess, the whistle you blow that sounds a good bit like a duck or a goose call. Then come the record player similar to this that had a little battery run thing that would get a recording of a goose in the field, and then play it on that record. But they killed so many with them, that they outlawed them, only a few years the law allowed them to use them. But they still use the goose call, thing they blow.

S.D.: Were the people that you went out with **safe**, the parties?

P.R.: Were they what?

S.D.: Were the hunters, the party hunters, were they safe to go out with?

P.R.: Yeah, most of them. Once in a while, you get a bad one, but I had, I always had more than I could handle down there, more than I wanted to take. And if I had, if I had a bad one come in that didn't go by my hunting, my safety rules, I didn't let him come back anymore. I remember one time I was hunting down there, and had the three people in the blind, and I was out in front of the blind putting the decoys out. Wasn't real good light, and I had poster up in my blind about safety rules, and one of them was to not load your gun until shooting hours. So I was out in the boat in front of the blind putting my decoys out, and these people were in the blind and I heard this gun click. I started to say who's that loading that gun. All I got out -- I said who's that, and bang, the gun went off, and shot, stuck three or four shot in the side of my boat with me out there putting my decoys out. And I turned around and what few decoys I had put out, I turned around and took them up and went ashore. I said who was that loaded that gun? And this man said well, it was me. Started out, said I'm sorry, I was putting shells in my gun and said it just went off. And I said well that's it for today. I said you people don't hunt today. That's it. We're going back up the house. And I wouldn't even let them stay down there that day and hunt. I come that close to getting shot. If it had been a little bit higher, I would've got shot. And if they didn't go by my hunting rules, they didn't come back anymore.

S.D.: How about, tell me about getting **cypress wood** for the decoy. Cypress wood. You had a story about getting cypress.

P.R.: Oh, yeah. We -- Otis Bridges I mentioned a while ago, and another guy, myself, three of us, we were looking around trying to find some good wood. Some wood that wasn't so heavy. Most of the wood that we made our decoys out of at first was heavy, and we wanted lighter stuff. And somebody told us about what they called a cypress cedar up close to Sharptown, right along the Maryland, Delaware line, and we went up there looking for it, and we found this stuff in a swamp, it was swamp wood. The farmers up there called it cypress cedar. So we had went up to the people that owned the land and asked them if they would be interested in selling some of them trees, and told them what we wanted to do with it, and they had been -- I believe they said they moved down there from Philadelphia and how they hadn't been living there very long, and they told us if there was anything down there that we could use and could get, we were welcome to it. It was in the swamp, and they didn't have no use for it. And we told them what we wanted it for, and they said well, if you can get it out, go ahead and get what you want. So we went

down there with our hip boots on, and we had to saw it up in lengths just big enough to make a decoy and tote it out. That's the only way you could get it out of these swamps. Cut a lot of it, well we had all we could get in a pick-up. And when we got it all loaded, we went by and showed the people what we had and offered to pay them for it, and they wouldn't take a cent. They said no. It's no good to us. Said if you want anymore, come back and get all you want. And that was good, light decoy wood, what they call a cypress cedar. But it was so hard to get out of them swamps, people didn't fool with it.

S.D.: What would you want people to know about carving in this area? What do you think is **important** to know about **decoys and carving**?

P.R.: Well, in my opinion, the most important thing is to enjoy doing it, want to do it. It's a boring job if you don't, if you don't like to do it. That would be, I think, the most important thing to start with is -- and then have patience. You can't just hurry through something. You've got to take your time and have patience to do it. Lots of times when I was into it after I come home from World War II and got selling a few and they kept building and building till I had so many orders I'd have to stop taking orders. And lots of times, I'd be in bed at night, and the urge would hit me to paint, and I'd get up, right up and paint an hour or two right when I felt like I wanted to do it, and that's the way, I think that's the way it goes.

S.D.: When did you start ending up **selling the decoys**? How did that go? From using the decoys to hunt to selling?

P.R.: How did I sell them?

S.D.: When did you first start selling? What do you think started that?

P.R.: Well I think what started with me, when I first started making them, I'd just make them, make a pair of Canvasback Ducks or a pair of little silhouette, the little small sized ones too, and I'd make them for a friend, give a pair to somebody, and people got to seeing them, and they'd come on want me to make them a pair, and make them a pair, and then I got -- when I first started selling them, I was -- the little ones, they were about eight inches long, when I first started selling them, I'd sell them for \$5 for a pair. And when I quit, when I quit making them, I was getting \$150 for them. So it just, you know, it's something that just keeps building up and building up. Like if you see, you walk in the store and see something you like, then you buy it, and your friend sees it and they like it, they're going to go back and they're going to want one too. So that's the way they -- that's the way the carving is.

S.D.: Did the people that were first buying them, were they using them to hunt with or decorative?

P.R.: No, just decorative, just something to keep sitting around. People --

S.D.: Did you ever sell many of the rotheads?

P.R.: Yeah. I sold, all the ones I had, my hunting decoys, goose decoys, after I got shooting geese around here, I used to put the roothead and crooked tree limb heads on them for hunting purposes. But after I got into a hunting business, might say for a living, I sold all my roothead decoys and bought lighter stuff because they were so heavy and harder to handle. People, the first people that I remember that used to come around in this neighborhood and look for the hunters and want to buy their old decoys was a man from Pittsburgh. He used to come down here every summer and go around to the hunters, and buy up whatever decoys you would sell them, and he would take them back and sell, resell them. And finally, it got so the collectors, there got to be so many collectors, my land, there's always somebody looking for them now.

S.D.: How do you think -- how did your **painting** change over the years? The painting of the birds.

P.R.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

S.D.: How did that change over the years?

P.R.: Well I don't think it changed much with me. After, of course, the more you get into it, you get different ideas and try to make them look a little better. But like I was hunting all the time and I knew all the different types of ducks, and I knew just about what colors I had to have from each one of them, and I'd mix my own paint and my own colors.

S.D.: What do you think brings a duck into a decoy?

P.R.: By brings him --

S.D.: What do you think **makes a decoy attractive** to a live duck?

P.R.: That's just nature, I guess, wildfowl nature. They see, if they're flying around, they see flock of ducks sitting on the water, and -- it's their species, they're going to go to it and join up with them, go right with them. And you put a bunch of decoys out around the shore, and if a real duck flies by, it's just nature that he's going to come by and give him a look.

S.D.: Do the birds see the colors, you think, or the shape?

P.R.: I don't think so. Some people paint them all up real fancy and try to make them look like a live duck, which makes it look good to the party people that you have, but I think it's just the shape and the looks of them. If there's something that's sitting there on the water that looks like a duck, when a real duck flies by, he's going to come in and give it a look. It's just nature.

S.D.: How did people know to **find you as a hunting guide**?

P.R.: Well my people, like I said a while ago, my people is the people that bought the farm from my brother-in-law, they were business people, and they would send people. Of course, it's been hunting guides and hunting party people further down in the Carolinas even before my day.

They would send the people that wanted to hunt, they would tell them about me taking them in. They would send them down, call me up and tell them they had three people that want to come down next week or tomorrow or whenever, and they want to go hunting and I'd take them, that's the way I did it. And then later on, people got, like everything else, you get so big that people got to advertise their business in the paper, hunting guides for certain places, and it just got to be a pretty big business.

S.D.: What do you think has been the biggest change that **tourism** has brought, all tourism has brought to the area, St. Michaels, Bozman?

P.R.: Sorry.

S.D.: What are some of the changes that tourism has brought into the area, like St. Michaels and Bozman? The tourists or the new people.

P.R.: Some of the changes?

S.D.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

P.R.: I guess the change in transportation, more transportation and more entertainment places to go, and the whole general thing has changed. Like I was saying a while ago, when I was 15 years old, and like I was telling you, I believe, yesterday that I remember there was only 4 cars in this area, and there wasn't no place to go. And after you got a few more cars around, maybe we would get to go from here to St. Michaels on a Saturday night every once in a while. We'd call it a night out on the town. And Mr. Will Harrison, he had an ice cream store right there where the Acme store is now. And right next to that was a silent movie. And we'd go in town and go to the -- you could go in this ice cream store, he made it right there in the store, and you could sit down to a table, get all the ice cream you could eat for a quarter, 25 cents. And after you got, had your ice cream, you could go next door to a silent movie. And a ticket for that was 20 cents. And when that was over, about 9:30 at night when the movies were over, there was just nothing else to do, and our big night on the town was over. We'd had our ice cream and been to the movies, and that was a big night them days. And then it kept increasing, the movies got better, and there got to be more business places, and pool rooms and, you know, just kept gradually building up and up till it got like it is today.

S.D.: Let's take a break real quick.

(Off record.)

S.D.: Okay. It's the 16th, and this is the second disk with Mr. Richardson. Tell me about, we talked a little bit about the racing. How about some of the festivals or community get-togethers. Were there **community get-togethers** in Bozman at that time?

P.R.: Oh, yes. Uh-huh (Affirmative). Every now and then the people of a community would have a get together or have an oyster supper or a benefit for the church and that kind of stuff. They had community fairs, and we'd get together.

S.D.: What did people do then?

P.R.: What?

S.D.: What kinds of activities did people do?

P.R.: Well there wasn't much to do. People them days, the people now, people right in our neighborhood, maybe a family next door would come visit my family on Sunday and have dinner and set in the house or out in the lawn and just talk about different things. And maybe the next weekend, our family would go to another neighbor and visit. People visited each other, and everybody knew everybody else. And that's just about all it was to do because like I said a while ago, there was no transportation. They couldn't go anywhere, and there wasn't nothing to do but just sit and talk and enjoy yourself.

S.D.: So were there days, was there like a homecoming, or were there 4th of July parties?

P.R.: Oh, yeah. They'd have the 4th of July parties and the Thanksgiving, celebrate Thanksgiving Day and that kind of stuff. I don't remember back then. Later on in life, I remember having the homecoming, but back then, I don't think -- I don't remember them having homecoming. But yeah, they used to get together and celebrate 4th of July, and have Easter hunts on Easter Sunday and that sort of thing.

S.D.: Tell me about an **Easter Hunt** on Easter Sunday. Was that a community or just people did it individually?

P.R.: That was a community. The schoolhouse where I went to school out here, they had a big lot, a big school yard where the kids were out lunch time and playing and all, and the community would get together and go out on that school lawn and have their Easter hunt and have a big day. They'd call it a big day. People wouldn't think it was a big day now, but they did then.

S.D.: What did they hunt?

P.R.: They'd hide eggs for the kids to hunt like they do now.

S.D.: Did -- what about like Bay Appreciation Days? Did you ever go to hat?

P.R.: No.

S.D.: Were you ever a member of the **Watermen's Association**?

P.R.: Oh, yeah. I was a member of the Watermen's Association for a right good while. For a while, the community, waterfront community like Bozman, and Neavitt and St. Michaels, each little town would have their Watermen's Association. You belong to, have a membership. You belong to it, and they hold the meetings, talk about what they could do to make the business better and all that. That didn't work out too good because no watermen seem to ever agree with one another for some reason, and that didn't work out too good for very long, but for a while, they had that, the Watermen's Association. I think they still have it some places, but they don't down here.

S.D.: How about, anything with the Marine Police? Do you have any stories of anybody getting chased by the **Marine Police**, oystering illegally or anything you knew about?

P.R.: Oh, yes. They -- I guess really the Marine Police, when I first started around, had more problem with the dredgers than they did the hand tongers. They used to have to chase them, go out in the Choptank River and chase them down, do it at night, getting oysters where they wasn't supposed to be getting them from, and they go out at nighttime and do it. The Marine Police had a right smart problem with that for a while. And I know a few occasions where they would shoot at a boat if they tried to run from them, and they would shoot at them and make them stop. There were a few cases like that. I heard one man, I had one man tell me one time, I used to play baseball a lot down there in my young days, and he told me he was doing that one night, and the police got to chasing him, and they shot at him and they broke the wheel that he was steering his boat with, they shot it and knocked it right out of his hand and broke it, knocked it right out of his hand and come close to hitting him. But said he didn't stop, he kept going, and they didn't catch him. And that's, I guess that's happened a few times, but I think that was more with the big dredge boats, the skipjacks and like that. They did it all by sail, and they didn't have power to run the boats, you had --

S.D.: How about the **women and children**? What kinds of things did women and children do back then that's different than the way they do things now?

P.R.: I guess, I guess I'd have to say they didn't do anything. Wasn't nothing to do. Nothing to go to, nowhere to go and no way to get there.

S.D.: Well what about work, like the kinds of work they did?

P.R.: Most of the women stayed home, did home work and raised the family, and the men did the work. Some few women, my mother and I know several people back them days, there was two or three big boarding houses, what they call boarding houses down here. People would come down here from the city by train, spend a week to these boarding houses on their vacation. And there was one, two -- there was three such places right here in this neighborhood. And the people, like my mother and several other women would do their laundry for them. And that kind of work, whenever there was anything like that to do, that's about all there was to do. And some of the women would even go out and work on a farm, do farm work. I don't know many of them, but I did know a few of them that did that.

S.D.: The **boarding houses**, what were people doing when they were staying at the boarding houses?

P.R.: Well it was just a vacation like you would go to Ocean City now on vacation. They would come down to these boarding houses for a day or two or maybe a week on their vacation. And they fished, and crabbed, and just enjoy their self in the country, something city people didn't get to do much back in them days.

S.D.: Did they hire local people to take them fishing and crabbing?

P.R.: Yeah, a few, there was a few of them would do that, but most of them just, the boarding houses, places would have small boats that they would -- that they could use, that their people could use and they go out on their own out in the river and fool around.

S.D.: What were the names of the boarding houses, do you remember?

P.R.: There was one right down below Bozman here a little bit. I guess one of the biggest ones around here what they call Breezy Point. They could handle right good bunch of people. And there was another one further on down the road between that and Neavitt. It was, let's see, what were the names? Edmonds. Edmonds Boarding House. And there was a small one right down the end Cooper's Point Road here, lady by the name of Bryan. It was just a small place. She'd take maybe a dozen people, but not like these other two. And then down Claiborne, place they call Cocky's down on -- right next to the oyster house that I was telling you about where we sold our oysters. That was a right big place. They had a lot of people there. And they were scattered all around Talbot County, wherever there was a suitable place for it on the waterfront.

S.D.: About when did that -- what year was that or what decade?

P.R.: That was in the, I guess early 20's and on. A little bit on from then on. Kept dying out just before World War II. And finally, it just wasn't any more left. They all went out of business because people got going other places, bigger places like Ocean City, and a couple places in Delaware. I can't think of the names of them right now, but go in in different places. Transportation got better, and got -- go to South Carolina and Florida, which back them days we didn't do.

S.D.: Were they just open in the summertime, or did some of the hunters stay --

P.R.: No, just summertime. No, they were closed up in the wintertime.

S.D.: What would you like for your great-grandkids, great-great-grandkids to know about **growing up in Bozman** and all your years of experience? What are some of the things that are most important for you?

P.R.: I showed you that book the other day you were down here that I had wrote down that stuff. That's what I wrote that book for, for my great-grandchildren to read, to show them the

difference in the way of life in the country back when I was their age, and what it is today, what it is now. I think that's, that's the reason -- whenever I would think of something, a great change was made from then till now, I'd write it down in that book, and that's what I want -- I've never give it to them yet, that's what I want them to read.

S.D.: What are some of the changes, tell me -- describe some of the **changes on the shoreline**.

P.R.: On the shoreline?

S.D.: Yeah, and the marinas.

P.R.: Well there are several. The first, the way it's developed, built up, so many houses on the shoreline now, and no more natural shoreline. I mean somebody comes in and buys a piece of land and builds a house on it, the next thing they do is stone it all up around the shore to cover up the marshes, and that's just taking away from the wildlife. That's what -- that's the biggest change, I think, overall in my day in my opinion is the development of the land. And, of course, transportation. That -- people nowadays, if there's no work around this neighborhood, business gets bad or nothing -- no work to do, can't find a job, they got cars and they go to the city or go somewhere, go get a job if they really want to work, but them days, they couldn't because there's just no way to get there.

S.D.: What kind of changes --

(END TAPE 1)

(BEGIN TAPE 2)

S.D.: What kind of **changes in community**, changes in the way people treat each other?

P.R.: The way they treat each other?

S.D.: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

P.R.: I can't really see too much difference in that, in a small neighborhood like this, in our neighborhood. I guess in the cities it's different with people, so many strange people moving in, but still in a small neighborhood like this, even the way it's developed, pretty much everybody knows, saying is everybody knows everybody else.

S.D.: How about changes in the **use of the bay** itself?

P.R.: In what?

S.D.: In the use of the bay, the water and the creeks. The difference between like occupational fishing and oystering.

P.R.: Well it's got, the changes made in the equipment the watermen use nowadays. When I was growing up, all we had to catch oysters with, like I was telling you, was the hand tongs we called them. And now, they've got so many different ways. They've got the dredges and the patent tongs, the divers and all this. It's just so much difference. And that, that takes more of the oysters and stuff out of the water, the spawning oysters, and the spawning crabs, there's not as much of that left from one year to the next as it used to be 'cause they've got more ways of catching them and they catch more of them. It's, it's just nature's way of changing things, I guess. That's the way it has to be.

S.D.: What do you think has affected the wildlife the most?

P.R.: **Over-hunted.** That's the best way I can put it. When the parties come on and they got to be so many of them, when the geese started working and feeding in the fields around here in the farms and stuff, they just got to shooting them so much, there was somebody shooting at them every day, and they just, they were just over-hunted.

S.D.: You talked a little bit about the **grasses**.

P.R.: Yeah. Any kind of, most any kind of business, I guess, in a sense can be overdone, and that's what the hunting party business, it just overloaded the wildlife.

S.D.: How about changes in the grasses and the plants?

P.R.: Well there are so many things. So many more businesses on the waterfronts, chemical plants and more stuff going in the water, and the farmers got spraying their crops, which they had

to do to keep the bugs. Got so many, so many bugs, it would eat their crops, either have to spray them or lose their crops, all that stuff. I remember one time down there where I hunted down on Done's Cover, the farmer had planted a field in soybean, and some kind of a bug had got into him, and overnight almost, had almost eaten that crop up, and he got an airplane come in there and spray it. And at that time, the grasses, it was plenty of grasses around the shore in the creeks, the head of all them creeks, and then on that line where that field was, there was always a lot of grasses. And when that plane come in and sprayed that crop that night, that day, there come a heavy thunderstorm that night and lots of rain. And that stuff washed off that field – in two days' time, every bit of that grass in that creek was gone, it had killed every bit of it. And that's the way it kept going and going, first one thing then the other to do the damage, and that's why it's like it is today. It's got out of hand. Can't control it. They can't go to a place like Sparrow's Point, they can't stop Sparrow's Point from running there, overflow in that bay. They're going to do it one way or another, only just to mention that as an example, and there's hundreds and hundreds of places just like it that's doing the same thing. That's what's brought all this about, about the crabs dying, the fish, oysters dying, and they can't control it. They say they can, but they can't.

S.D.: What do you think is going to happen to the **crabs and the oysters in the future**?

P.R.: My opinion, it's going to be just like it is now, it's going to be an off and on thing. There will be a few, and then there won't be any, they'll all die off, and then there'll be a few. But I don't believe it'll be like, ever be like it was when I was a youngster, plenty of grasses and plenty of oysters. Of course, we had heard them days too that the oysters would die. I've heard people say that beneath this last – these oysters all started dying, say that never happened before, but I've seen it happen a couple times in my lifetime that they would all die off and not, just about all of them, but they would come back because there was plenty of grasses around the shore to catch the spawn, and that's where they would start. And the crabs, never see a crab, hardly ever see a soft crab in shallow water around the shore anymore. Used to be when I was a kid, you'd go around the shore in the grass and catch all the soft crabs you wanted 'cause all that grass that come in shed in that shallow water and hide in that grass, and now there's no grass for them to come to.

S.D.: What do you think, how do you think that the **changes in the bay** are going to affect the people's lives, the watermen's lives and the communities?

P.R.: The way it looks to me, it's going to draw them to other things, make them go somewhere where they can get different work, other kinds of work, 'cause there's a lot of them done that now. There's a lot of watermen around this neighborhood that's gone to other work instead of working on the water.

S.D.: What strikes me a lot is that you've seen so many changes, like between the timber, you know, the lumbering and the changes from all the farmland being woods, and the woods being farmland and this. How do you see **what's happening now** as it fits into that cycle of all the different changes that you've seen throughout your life?

P.R.: Well it's like I was saying a while ago, there used to be saw mills all around, all strewn around different places, and there used to be a saw mill right out on the foot of this road. If a farmer wanted to build something on his farm, he'd go in his woods and cut down what trees he wanted and haul his logs to the saw mill. The saw mill would saw the lumber and he'd take it back home and build whatever it was he had to build. And nowadays, they've got to go to a lumber yard somewhere, which there's none of around here anymore, and buy their lumber, different kind of material like cinderblocks or bricks, and they didn't have any of that then. Everything was wood, made from lumber and aluminum siding for houses. And it's just such a great change.

S.D.: Do you have anything else you'd like to add? Anything we haven't talked about?

P.R.: No. I can't think of anything right offhand. I started to tell you a while ago, I don't think I told you, about how I sold crab one time, market got bad, we were crabbing in barrels before we started putting them in baskets and was selling them to the picking houses, wasn't no way to ship them, and sold them to the picking houses. And the **market** got bad, and I sold my day's catch one time for one cent a pound. A barrel of crabs weighed about 125 or 30 pounds, that means I got about \$1.25 for a whole barrel of crabs, almost three bushel. And today, the crabs are \$90 a bushel, crabbers getting as much for one crab as I got for a whole barrel that day, and that's unbelievable for something like that, I think.

S.D.: If you had it all over to do again, would you be a waterman and a hunting guide again? Did you enjoy it?

P.R.: Yeah, I enjoyed it. I loved it. I'm an outdoors person. And I think if we could get the people, if the people would still come and hunt, I would still take them because I loved it. I was an outdoor person. Days that I didn't have a party, I'd be down prowling around them shores and watching wildlife and studying the movement and how they would come and go and what kind of a day they were flying better so I'd know more about how to handle my parties, and I would just stand on that river in that cove all the time whether I had a hunting party or not, I was down there 'cause I just love the outdoors. When I went to Baltimore to work, working inside, that was the worst three years' work I ever had 'cause I didn't like it.

S.D.: Well thank you very much. We can conclude the interview.

(Off Record.)

P.R.: Is that on now?

S.D.: Yeah, you can –

P.R.: You want me to say my name?

S.D.: Yeah, and what you've done.

P.R.: My name is Howard Richardson, Howard Pete Richardson. Everybody calls me Pete. I've lived in Bozman all my life, which is 100 years, and I've always, most my work all my life has been outdoors. I've been an outdoor person and work on the water and on the farms. I guess that's it.

S.D.: Thank you, that's perfect. Okay, now I'm just going to get some quiet air real quick.

(End of Interview.)