

Interview Log

Interviewee: Ethel Hicks (E.H.) Tape #:

Interviewer: Shelly Drummond (S.D.) # of Tapes: 1
Larry McDaniels (Speaker 2)
Joanne Ransom (Speaker)
Daughter (Speaker 3)

Date: December 11, 2003 # of Sides: 2

Location: At the home of Ethel Hicks. Arrangements were made with her daughter prior to the interview.

Topic: Ethel Hicks personal life, Capt. Oscar Hicks, Capt. Clarence Hicks, Eastern Neck Island, *B.S. Ford*

Theme: African American experience in Rock Hall area

Comments: This oral history was an attempt to record Mrs. Hicks and her stories when she was feeling well and we were not really successful. Mrs. Hicks was not always clear and her memory was not entirely accurate according to her daughter. Sometimes she is joking. We ended the interview as she grew tired. Transcriber had no idea who was asking the questions, and so has marked them as "speaker". Ms. Hicks' speech patterns are difficult to discern.

Documentation:

Audio: Marantz CD burner with Shotgun mic.
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Field Notes:

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BEGIN SIDE A

E.H.: On this side the house, it was on this side the house.

SPEAKER: Oh, on this side of the house, of the bridge.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Was it up on a hill?

E.H.: It was on the other side.

SPEAKER: Was it on a hill?

E.H.: On this side.

SPEAKER: That's Todd's she's talking about.

E.H.: It was on this side.

SPEAKER: Yeah. The house was on a hill.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Okay. That's the house.

E.H.: You know, next to the house. That was on this – yeah, on this side the house.

SPEAKER: Okay, all right. Now tell me, what did your father do? Did he work on the farm?

E.H.: My father?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: He worked on the farm.

E.H.: He worked on the farm. With the farmers. He worked with the farmers, with the Wilsons.

SPEAKER: L. Wilsons, right?

E.H.: John Wilson, Todd Wilson, John Wilson and Al Wilson, all the Wilsons.

SPEAKER: What was the wife's name?

E.H.: Who? Todd's wife?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

E.H.: Mary.

SPEAKER: Mary Wilson.

E.H.: Mary Wilson. Mary Ann Wilson. And she's – and she's living –

SPEAKER: On the farm.

E.H.: She used to live on the farm. She raised, she – she moved to –

SPEAKER: And she raised Ethel too, didn't she?

E.H.: (Laughter).

SPEAKER: Is that right?

E.H.: Yes. (Laughter). Yes. And the name – I – she raised ducks, and geese, all, you know, all the farm, you know, ducks and stuff.

SPEAKER: And what did your mother do? Did she do help in the kitchen, or what did she do?

E.H.: She worked in the kitchen whenever she got a chance. But most of the time, she worked in the kitchen when she got a chance. When she got chance, she worked in the kitchen.

She helped wash dishes, and helped clean up out in the kitchen, things like – washed dishes and clean up floors and stuff.

SPEAKER: Uh-huh (affirmative). She helped clean the farm house.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: The big one.

E.H.: Yeah. The big farm.

SPEAKER: The big farm.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: And what –

E.H.: Some of them, they – you know, go out to the mailbox and bring all – bring dishes and stuff like that.

SPEAKER: And what did you do on the farm? What was – what was your – what did you do?

E.H.: I used to help with the dishes.

SPEAKER: You helped with the dishes.

E.H.: Washed dishes. Washed the kitchen. They used to – one day – kitchen floor, you know. It was –

SPEAKER: Wood?

E.H.: Brick.

SPEAKER: Brick. Okay.

E.H.: You know. Brick floor. I used to call them old time brick floor. And upstairs used to have, you know, what I called, called wooden floor.

SPEAKER: Wooden floor.

E.H.: Yeah. They use to laugh at me because I used to – brick floors. (Laughter). They laughed. I mean they wasn't real cold, but they were just – they were just cold to me.

SPEAKER: Yeah, you thought they were brick because they were cold.

E.H.: Yeah. But, you know, they weren't much colder than the rest of the floors, I didn't think.

SPEAKER: Where did you go to school?

E.H.: Where go to school? Baltimore.

SPEAKER: You went to school in Baltimore.

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: How did you do that?

E.H.: Huh?

SPEAKER: How come?

E.H.: How go to school?

SPEAKER: How come you went to school in Baltimore?

E.H.: My father.

SPEAKER: Your father went to Baltimore and took you over there to go to school.

E.H.: My father carried me – from school.

SPEAKER: But then you came back to the farm.

E.H.: Yeah, came back to Rock Hall, Chestertown.

SPEAKER: Did you go to school in Chestertown?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Went to school.

SPEAKER: You didn't go to school in Sharptown?

E.H.: Went – didn't go to Sharptown very long. I went other school, about 5 or 6 years, mostly –

SPEAKER: Well your mother was in Baltimore too, right?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Mother raised –

SPEAKER: Okay.

SPEAKER2: Did she go back and forth on the boat?

SPEAKER: Did you go back and forth on the boat, the *B.S. Ford*?

E.H.: Right.

SPEAKER: The *B.S. Ford*?

E.H.: Yeah. *B.S. Ford*. I used to catch the boat Chestertown on around.

SPEAKER: How did you get to Chestertown?

E.H.: How'd I get to Chestertown? Rock Hall, go down to – go down catch the boat, go down through Rock Hall down to the boat and get on.

SPEAKER: What did you ride in to get there?

E.H.: Right on –

SPEAKER: Horse and buggy?

E.H.: Go out to the boat. Out to the wharf.

SPEAKER: Yeah, but did you get on any horse and buggy to go there?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER: Right down East Neck Island?

E.H.: Yeah. Get on the boat, on the wharf, bridge and go on out to the boat. Remember the man?

SPEAKER: In East Neck Island or Chestertown?

E.H.: Chestertown.

SPEAKER: All right. How did you get to Chestertown?

E.H.: Rock Hall.

SPEAKER: Yeah, but how did you get there? Did you ride in the horse and buggy?

E.H.: No. Boat.

SPEAKER: Oh, you went by boat to –

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Okay. That makes sense. Up the Chester River to Chestertown and got on the boat.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Okay. I'm getting you now. Coming through down here.

E.H.: Yeah. I used to go down Rock Hall down out to the boat, out to the Wharf and get on the boat. Then on the wharf boat. It was real nice on there. We'd get on there, and it was – had time, we'd eat breakfast. It was nice on there, you know, on the wharf, on the boat. It was nice on the boat. Used to have coffee or tea or milk, whatever you wanted.

SPEAKER: I want to know what your father did. Did he always farm – was he ever a waterman?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: He was a waterman too, your father?

E.H.: Was he –

SPEAKER: He didn't do waterman?

E.H.: No, he was oysterman.

SPEAKER: He –
E.H.: Crabbed, crabbed.
SPEAKER: He oystered and crabbed?
E.H.: Crabbed, yeah.
SPEAKER: He would?
E.H.: Yeah. It was mostly – wasn't oystering that time. He was mostly crabbing.
SPEAKER: In the summer.
E.H.: In the summertime.
SPEAKER: Let me ask you this. Clarence. My buddy, Clarence, that you lost.
E.H.: Clarence.
SPEAKER: He was a waterman.
E.H.: Oh, yeah. Crab, and fish, and like.
SPEAKER: He was your first child, wasn't he?
E.H.: Yes. He used to love crabbing and fish.
SPEAKER: Did he seine haul?
E.H.: Huh?
SPEAKER: Did he do seine hauling?
E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah. He used to seine haul. He loved to fish. Used to catch nice fish, crab. Used to catch nice crabs.
SPEAKER: What did your husband do?
E.H.: Fish.
SPEAKER: He was a waterman?
E.H.: Yeah, he was a waterman.
SPEAKER: I thought he was.
E.H.: He was. Fish and crab. You know, work on the water.
SPEAKER: Yeah.
S.D.: Who used to crew on your husband's boat?
E.H.: Some of the men. I forget men's names. Used to work on the boats.
SPEAKER: Did he work on somebody else's boat, or did he have his own boat?
E.H.: He had mostly his own boat.
SPEAKER: Did he?
E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).
SPEAKER: And Clarence did too?
E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Most of the time. Then Clarence, you know –
SPEAKER: I know Clarence.
E.H.: -- would help him.
SPEAKER: He was a helper too, right?
E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). And work on the boat, clean up the boat, wax it.
S.D.: Did people from Eadesville go with him?
E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Sometimes. You know, different places. Used to go from Eadesville. Then from Rock Hall.
S.D.: How many men in Eadesville had their own boat?
E.H.: I don't know. It was – you know, it was nice.
SPEAKER: When you lived in Gray's Inn after you were married and you had your children, did they fish from there? Did you go right out Gray's Inn Creek?

E.H.: Some of them.

SPEAKER: Did they?

E.H.: Yeah. Most of them. Most of them used to go fishing. Fishing, and you know, crab like –

SPEAKER: None of them oystered?

E.H.: Hard crab.

SPEAKER: How about clamming and oystering? They never did that?

E.H.: No, they never did that. No. Used to love crab and loved fish and likes of that. They used to catch nice crab.

SPEAKER: Yeah. Ask you to tell us how many children you had.

E.H.: How many children I had?

SPEAKER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

E.H.: I had 13 head all together on my side. They were nice children.

SPEAKER: They still are nice children. Very nice children. You taught them very nice manners.

E.H.: Yeah, I always appreciated. I called them my children, but they were all nice children.

SPEAKER: Now I want you to tell them what you told me. No matter who was in the yard, you used to call them all in to eat whether they were your children or not. Don't you remember that?

E.H.: What?

SPEAKER: When your kids were out here playing, and they were all playing, you told me that when you called them in for supper, they all came, even the neighbor's kids.

E.H.: Oh, yeah. Most of them did.

SPEAKER: And I've heard stories from some of those neighbors that did it, and they said it was hard times then, but she always had enough to feed the kids that were out playing with her kids.

E.H.: Yeah, they used – you know, used to all eat together. It was nice. They all, they all enjoyed, they eat hot dogs they used to eat till they got enough to eat.

SPEAKER: She always had enough. That's what they told me.

E.H.: Yeah, they always ate – still plenty to eat. Used to have everything to eat.

SPEAKER: Well you had a garden too, right?

E.H.: Oh, yeah. We had vegetables. Just like everybody else.

SPEAKER: Yeah. And your husband was a waterman, so you had plenty of fish and crabs and stuff like that.

E.H.: Yeah. Never wanted nothing to eat. But you know, never wanted nothing to eat.

SPEAKER: No. You always did all right. Even in Depression, you still had food.

E.H.: Sure did.

SPEAKER: Most the people here had food. Even in Depression.

E.H.: Yeah. We always, always had plenty to eat. You know, always had plenty to eat. Some of them would go down ferry bridge and – ferry bridge was a nice place.

SPEAKER: Where's that?

E.H.: Was right down the road, right down from –

SPEAKER: Gray's Inn?

E.H.: Yeah. Right down

SPEAKER: Yeah, little road goes back to the water back here.

S.D.: How did they catch fish? Hook and line, or –

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: There was other ways. Did they seine haul?

E.H.: Huh?

SPEAKER: Did they go out in the bay and seine haul?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: And –

E.H.: Fish, oyster – that's about it. It was just, you know, nice – crab.

SPEAKER: Miss Ethel, did they have crab pots, or did they –

E.H.: Huh?

SPEAKER: Did they fish crab pots, or did they have a line?

E.H.: No, they had crab pots.

SPEAKER: They have crab pots.

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: That's how they caught the crabs.

E.H.: And we had – they had crab pots. Some had, you know, crab line.

SPEAKER: Eel pot?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: Eel pots?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER: Okay.

S.D.: Who made the crab pots and the eel pots?

E.H.: I don't know. Different ones. I don't know.

S.D.: Who took care of the nets?

E.H.: Huh?

S.D.: Who took care of the nets?

E.H.: Who took care of -- the crabbers.

S.D.: The nets, the nets they fished with.

E.H.: The crabbers. The oystermen, crabbers, fishermen. They tend to the nets and all.

That was their job.

SPEAKER: Did your husband ever work for **Todd Wilson**?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: Did he?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: What did he do?

E.H.: They helped get the fish.

SPEAKER: Oh, he did?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: Mr. Todd went out fishing?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: Did he?

E.H.: Fish and crabs, likes of that. Yeah.

SPEAKER: Okay.

E.H.: He used to like going crabbing and fishing.

SPEAKER2: Did your husband make his own nets?

E.H.: No. He had –

SPEAKER2: Did he know how to weave the nets?

E.H.: Had another man makes his nets and all. He used to go out, go out in the bay, set nets out in the bay.

SPEAKER2: Right.

E.H.: Was right nice sometimes. Used to catch right nice fish and crabs, and likes of that. Used to be nice. Used to catch nice fish.

SPEAKER2: Did you live in that house where **Todd Strong** lives now?

E.H.: No. No. Used to go down help him work sometimes in the kitchen like.

SPEAKER2: Did you live on the East Neck Island?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER2: No?

E.H.: No, I never worked down below the bridge. They have plenty farm. About three or four farmhouse down below the bridge.

SPEAKER: I'm confused where she –

E.H.: Down below the ferry bridge.

SPEAKER: Were you in the big old brick house, or were you in a wooden house?

E.H.: Wooden – brick house. A lot in the brick house.

SPEAKER2: Well Mr. Todd Wilson lived in the big brick house, right?

E.H.: Right. Yes.

SPEAKER: That's where she lived.

SPEAKER2: You lived in that house?

E.H.: No, I just worked there with him.

SPEAKER: Oh, you worked there.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER2: Didn't you live on the house – on the other side of the road up on the hill?

E.H.: Yeah. Back from the road.

SPEAKER2: Right.

SPEAKER: That's Todd's house.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER2: Where Todd lives. Yes.

E.H.: Did you used to know Todd?

SPEAKER2: I see Todd every once in a while. He asks about you.

E.H.: Oh, yeah?

SPEAKER2: He's at the lumber company, you know.

E.H.: Yes, he did. Todd was nice. I said Todd was nice. I didn't have no trouble out of him.

SPEAKER2: Well I see **Miss Mildred** every once in a while.

E.H.: Yes. Miss Mildred was nice too. Miss Mildred was real nice. I used to like Miss Mildred. Miss Mildred.

SPEAKER2: Were there a lot of ducks and geese around to eat in those days?

E.H.: I would say so down, you know, down to the shore. On the water and likes of that.

S.D.: Did your husband hunt?

E.H.: No. He didn't hunt. He used to go out sometime with somebody else, you know, catch some fish. He used to like to fish.

S.D.: Did you worry about him being on the water?

E.H.: Me?

S.D.: Yes.

E.H.: Did I worry about him?

S.D.: Yes, yes.

E.H.: No. He used to love to fish and crab and likes of that. It was nice out on the water.

SPEAKER: Can you stop it?

S.D.: Okay, yeah. Let's pause for a minute.

(Off record.)

SPEAKER2: -- around here?

E.H.: Yeah, it was Rock Hall.

SPEAKER2: In Rock Hall.

E.H.: Gray's Inn.

SPEAKER2: Gray's Inn.

E.H.: Yes.

SPEAKER2: Okay.

S.D.: What do you remember about your mother? Do you have any memories of your mother?

E.H.: My mother lived and born – she was raised in Baltimore. My mother. Then the other – in Baltimore.

S.D.: Do you know what year she was born in?

E.H.: No, I don't. No. I mean she was raised there. She – my mother, she was nice. She spoiled us all. (Laughter).

S.D.: In what ways?

E.H.: Huh?

S.D.: How did she spoil you?

E.H.: What you mean? Eating, you know, she'd give 'em certain things, eat and things like that. Whatever we wanted to eat or whatever, we'd tell her, and she'd try to get it for us.

S.D.: Did she have a particular recipe that was good or something –

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

S.D.: What was it?

E.H.: Fish, chicken, likes of that. Whatever we liked to eat, she tried to get it for us. Yeah, whatever we want to eat, she used to always try to get it for us so we could have it to eat. She was nice to us, nice mother. Mother and father.

S.D.: What did your husband and your son do when the bay got really cold and iced over?

E.H.: Nothing, they stayed home. Had to stay home, cold. You know, warm up some, like warm days. Had warm days, crab or something, they go out and catch a few crabs. You know, something like that, like, you know, right warm. They'd go out, go out a little while and crab, fish. They used to love to fish.

S.D.: How did they get their fish to market? How did they sell their fish?

E.H.: On the boat. Steamboat. Have boats. Father – the boats.

S.D.: Where was –
E.H.: Used to catch, used to catch nice fish. Nice fresh fish. Fish used to be so nice.
S.D.: What kind of fish was it?
E.H.: Perch and yellow – had all kind. They were nice. Nice fresh fish. All kind of stuff.
S.D.: Larry's going to interview you for a little while.
E.H.: They had a fish they used to call – used to call them Yellow Neds, Yellow Ned fish. It was nice.
SPEAKER 2: There's not many more Yellow Neds around, are there?
E.H.: No, indeed. I don't think. Not around. I don't hear 'em talk about them.
SPEAKER 2: Did your father used to haul oysters off of East Neck Island?
E.H.: For a while, he did. Yeah.
SPEAKER 2: Yeah. Where did they take them? Do you remember?
E.H.: No, I don't. I don't know where they take them – used to take them Baltimore, didn't they?
SPEAKER 2: I expect they did. I'm just wondering if they had to take them off the island up into Rock Hall, put them on the boat.
E.H.: I don't know. It might have. I know they carried them away from here.
SPEAKER 2: That's right. They wanted them in the city.
E.H.: Yeah.
SPEAKER 2: Where are your mother and father buried?
E.H.: Rock Hall. I mean, you know, back in the city like.
SPEAKER 2: Okay. Do you remember how life was for you as a child?
E.H.: No. I really –
SPEAKER 2: When you were like nine years old when you were –
E.H.: (Laughter). Not more than that, no.
SPEAKER 2: You were probably working for Mrs. Wilson, right?
E.H.: Yeah, that's right. **Nanny Wilson** and Charles, it was **Charlie Wilson**. Worked for the Wilsons. They were nice people. Wilsons was nice people. What I do know, Joanne, Joanne's mother was a –
SPEAKER: She's my baby.
E.H.: Huh?
SPEAKER: You my baby.
E.H.: Yeah (laughter). You my baby too.
S.D.: Well you and Joanne go back quite a ways, don't you?
E.H.: Yes, sir.
SPEAKER: Fifteen years.
E.H.: How many?
SPEAKER: Fifteen years I took you.
E.H.: Yes. Can even remember back to – I guess maybe you can. I guess. (Laughter). You all ever go out oystering? Did you?
SPEAKER 2: Oh, yes.
SPEAKER: He worked on a tugboat too, so he's been around.
SPEAKER 2: Worked on tugboats.
E.H.: Oh, did you?

SPEAKER 2: I did more crabbing, though, than oystering.
E.H.: Oh, crabbing.
SPEAKER 2: Yeah.
E.H.: You was a crabber.
SPEAKER 2: Yeah. The oysters, not many oysters is left any more. It's not like it was when you grew up.
E.H.: Oh, I guess not. Wonder how about, how about fish?
S.D.: I've caught fish hook and line.
E.H.: Fish – hook and line.
S.D.: Yeah. Just fishing, you know, just with a pole.
E.H.: Oh, yeah.
S.D.: Did you ever go fishing, or go oystering?
E.H.: No. I never did go oystering and fishing. No. I eat all they catch and give me (laughter), which was nice.
S.D.: How many of your sons went on the water?
E.H.: Most all of them. All, about 5, 6 of them. They used to like to go fishing, crabbing, the likes of that. They used to like to go crabbing.
S.D.: What church did you go to?
E.H.: What church? **Sharptown** place. It was called Sharptown.
SPEAKER: **Sharptown Church.**
E.H.: Sharptown. Used to go to the Gray's Inn place.
S.D.: We're looking at pictures.
SPEAKER 2: Is that a picture of you down on this side of East Neck Island?
E.H.: I guess so. I can't see anything. Got to have my eyes examined.
SPEAKER: Do you see that? I'm trying to get it so the glare's not on it. That's you, I think.
E.H.: Supposed to go to doctor's.
SPEAKER: And who's that?
E.H.: That's me, I think.
SPEAKER: No. No.
E.H.: No.
SPEAKER: You can't see. That's your dad.
E.H.: Oh, yeah. Supposed to go to doctor, I believe, Thursday.
SPEAKER: Today's Thursday.
E.H.: To the eye doctor.
SPEAKER: Next Thursday.
E.H.: Next Thursday, supposed to go to the eye doctor. My daughter-in-law supposed to take me.
SPEAKER: Nora's going to take you to the doctor?
E.H.: Yeah.
S.D.: Do your sons own their own boats?
E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yes, indeed.
S.D.: Did they ever take out charter fishing parties?

E.H.: Once in a great while. You know, sometimes on a Friday or something or the likes of that. They used to like to go – they used to like to go fishing, like fishing. They'd go crabbing, used to love to crab, go crab.

S.D.: Did they ever have any problems with any of the other watermen?

E.H.: With –

S.D.: No, with any of the other watermen, did they ever have any problems working on the water?

E.H.: No, not as I know about.

S.D.: Who made your – the sign in front of your house?

E.H.: Front of my house?

S.D.: Yeah, at the mailbox.

E.H.: Who made that? I don't know. I guess some – you know, some carpenter used to build, you know, build little places.

S.D.: Who worked on the boats?

(Interruption – phone)

S.D.: Did you ever ride a horse?

E.H.: Me? Oh, yeah. I used to be a regular horse rider. Yes, indeed. I used to love to ride horses. Used to go down steamboats and all likes of that.

S.D.: What did the steamboat look like?

E.H.: What did it look like? A regular boat, only more like, you know, steam. Go out, go way out in the bay in the water, likes of that. Steam. Used to go way out into the water, the bay. They'd go out.

SPEAKER: Did you eat on the boat?

E.H.: Oh, yeah. (Laughter). If you wanted to eat, used to have nice, clean food. Yes, indeed. You know, have just like we have. Have bread and whatever you want to eat.

S.D.: When you were riding the horse and seeing the steamboat, could you see the people on the boat?

E.H.: Sure. Just like we see you all in here. Same thing. We have tables, everything, you know. Eat, whatever you want to eat. It was nice and clean. Place just as clean as out here. Used to have nice tablecloth. You know, just same as a house. Nice and clean.

S.D.: Let me pause a minute.

SPEAKER 3: What was the name of the horse that you used to ride down to the boat?

E.H.: Sally.

SPEAKER 3: Did you have another horse also besides Sally?

E.H.: Bessy.

SPEAKER 3: Bessy?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER 3: And when the boat left from down the Bogle's Wharf, where did you say it used to go sometimes?

E.H.: All around Tolchester. All around Tolchester bridge, Rock Hall, all around Rock Hall.

SPEAKER 3: Now did you used to have to go and get the men's clothes?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). That was down Bogle's Wharf.

SPEAKER 3: And how did you used to go down to the boat to get the clothes?

E.H.: On the boat. It was my – boat.

SPEAKER 3: No, but did you used to go from the house, on your horse down to the boat to pick up the clothes?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: And then what did you do, bring them back to the house?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER 3: And then what did you do?

E.H.: Wash them. Wash them and iron them and carry them back down to Bogle's Wharf and carry them out on the boat out to a man named Charlie, Charlie Wilson.

SPEAKER 3: Now is Bogle's Wharf, last time you were down to Bogle's Wharf, does it look like it used to look years ago when you were down there?

E.H.: Oh, no. They tore all that down.

SPEAKER 3: And so what's down there now, that's all new?

E.H.: Yes. Ain't nothing down there now as I know.

SPEAKER 3: Now let me ask you this. Now what did – Dad (phonetic) always been a waterman?

E.H.: Ever since he was my father.

SPEAKER 3: No, Dad.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Not your father, Dad, your husband.

E.H.: Oh. Yeah, most the time.

SPEAKER 3: Until he was up to the line, you know, doing work up in Delaware?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: So what was he – what did Dad used to do, crab and oyster or what?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER 3: What all did he used to do?

E.H.: Oyster and fish.

SPEAKER 3: And so did he used to crab?

E.H.: Never did much crabbing. Most of it was fish and crab. He didn't much fishing, mostly was crabbing. I don't think he – he didn't do much oystering.

SPEAKER 3: So how, when he used to go out on the water to go crabbing, how did he used to get down to the wharf?

E.H.: We used to take him down in the boat.

SPEAKER 3: No, from here, how did he get down there?

E.H.: Some of the children from the house carried him on down. We'd take him on down to the boat.

SPEAKER 3: Didn't he used to – did he used to go by ride the bicycle sometimes from here to get down there to Captain Franks?

E.H.: Oh, yeah. Used to have boat, you know.

SPEAKER 3: No. From here.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: You living here in Eadesville.

E.H.: Yeah, used to carry him on down to the wharf.

SPEAKER 3: Uh-huh (affirmative). But didn't he used to go ride his bicycle?

E.H.: Once in a great while. Most times, used to go down in the boat, in the car.

SPEAKER 3: In the car.

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: The boys would take him down?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). They went down.

SPEAKER 3: Uh-huh (affirmative).

E.H.: Whenever they went, they'd ask did he want to go down, ride down with them.

SPEAKER 3: Now did he used to oyster in very cold weather, get real icy out?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER 3: No?

E.H.: Not if it got real cold.

SPEAKER 3: Now did we used to have any of the crabs or oysters during the wintertime that he would bring home after working all day?

E.H.: Used to have some oysters.

SPEAKER 3: Uh-huh (affirmative). Did we used to have crabs all the winter?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER 3: But late part of the winter?

E.H.: Yeah. Nice fried oysters, like that. Fried oysters, they used to be nice. Nice and fried. I used to fry them. Oh, they were good.

SPEAKER 3: You used to say that you used to go out in the field to work sometime, right?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: So what did you do with your children when you went out in the field? Where was Bobby and Terp (phonetic) and all? Did you used to take them out in the fields with you, or what did you used to do with them?

E.H.: Take them out to the tomato patch.

SPEAKER 3: And what did they used to lay on while you were in the field working?

E.H.: Corn – what's it called, corn flakes field – corn field.

SPEAKER 3: Did they used to have a blanket or something?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: And they would stay on the blanket while you'd be out in the field working?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). If it was warm enough. Wasn't warm enough, take them back home.

SPEAKER 3: Now what did you used to do while you were in the field?

E.H.: Nothing. Just there in the corn field, look around. Did nothing.

SPEAKER 3: You didn't do anything while you was in the field?

E.H.: Huh-uh (negative). Was nothing to do.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, was nothing for you to do.

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER 3: Now let me ask you this. When you were in the house, what did you do while you were in the house?

E.H.: Like what?

SPEAKER 3: Did you have to do any work in the house for Miss Nanny Wilson?

E.H.: No. Unless she wanted me – something to do.

SPEAKER 3: Okay. Let me ask you this. Now at dinnertime, now did you sit to the same dinner table with them, or did you have to go in the next room and be in your own little corner?

E.H.: After they got done eating, I used to set to the table.

SPEAKER 3: You would sit to the table and have dinner with them?

E.H.: Sometimes. If I want to.

SPEAKER 3: Uh-huh (affirmative). How old were you, do you remember how old were you when you came up to Eadesville?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER 3: When you and dad met?

E.H.: No, I don't remember that.

SPEAKER 3: Do you remember how you and dad met? Did they used to bring you up the road to meet him?

E.H.: I –

SPEAKER 3: You don't remember all of that?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER 3: So how did you and dad meet?

E.H.: Oh, Lord, no.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, getting personal now, I guess.

E.H.: Personal. I don't remember all that.

SPEAKER 3: Mama, do you remember how old dad was when he went blind?

E.H.: He –

SPEAKER 3: Wasn't he about 73?

E.H.: He was older than that.

SPEAKER 3: No, I think he was round about 73, 'cause I think I was living in Baltimore at the time, and I moved home from Baltimore after he went blind. Do you remember he fell off the roof – fell off the ladder. Do you remember that?

E.H.: Remember that.

SPEAKER 3: How old was dad when he died?

E.H.: Oh, I don't know.

SPEAKER 3: Wasn't he 90?

E.H.: Yeah, I think he was.

SPEAKER 3: Didn't he die in 1989, September, 1989?

E.H.: I think so.

SPEAKER 3: Now what was your mother's name?

E.H.: Mary.

SPEAKER 3: What was her last name?

E.H.: Mary Ann.

SPEAKER 3: Mary Ann who?

E.H.: Gain (phonetic).

SPEAKER 3: And what was your father's name?

E.H.: Edward.

SPEAKER 3: What was his last name?

E.H.: Rochester.

SPEAKER 3: Were you the only child?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER 3: When dad used to plant a garden, did he used to have a small garden, or was it a real large garden? Do you remember what vegetables we had in the garden?

E.H.: Had tomatoes, and corn. You know, light stuff.

SPEAKER 3: Now what did you used to do with the food when he would bring it in? Did you ever do any canning or preserving?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER 3: What did you used to can or preserve?

E.H.: Tomatoes, corn and stuff, light food. Light food.

SPEAKER 3: Like name some of the different vegetables we used to have put up.

E.H.: Like tomatoes, corn, light stuff you could eat.

SPEAKER 3: Okay. Now when he killed the pigs, what would you do with the pig meat?

E.H.: We used to take it, put it – can it.

SPEAKER 3: How did you can it?

E.H.: Put it on the stove, let it cook, let it get done like that till it got done. And then when it got done, put it on the stove, let it cook and all.

SPEAKER 3: Well what did they do with, like the ham of the pig, or the pig feet and likes of that? Did they used to take it, salt it, put it in the buildings and hang it?

E.H.: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 3: What did he used to do with it?

E.H.: Put it canning and take it up, put it in the building out in the house.

SPEAKER 3: Did you make sausage too?

E.H.: Yeah, sausage. Yeah, sausage used to be nice.

SPEAKER 3: Let me ask you this. Did you ever make lard?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER 3: How did you make the lard?

E.H.: Out of pig meat.

SPEAKER 3: But what did you put it in to make it?

E.H.: What did I put it in?

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

E.H.: Like what?

SPEAKER 3: Did you have like a lard presser or something like that?

E.H.: Yeah, lard, yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Did you have a big fire outside and render that down, that fat down?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: ‘Cause I’ve done that, killing hogs. I know that.

E.H.: Yeah. Cook the lard. That lard cooked till it got done. Cook it so much. Didn’t cook it too long, long enough for it to be nice and done.

SPEAKER 3: Well did he have men to come in and kill the pigs, and after they killed the pigs, they would hang them out?

E.H.: Oh, yeah. They have to hang them up.

SPEAKER 3: What did they used to hang them up on?

E.H.: Some kind of poles, hang them up on the poles. They got greasy.

SPEAKER 3: How many days did the pigs have to stay outside after they killed them before they could cut them up?

E.H.: Three days.

SPEAKER 3: Three days?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative) – all day, overnight, let them stay out all night long.

SPEAKER 3: Now let me ask you, did the children help to do any of the work as to cutting the pig up or cutting the fat up?

E.H.: Used to cut fat, yeah. Cut fat up, little blocks like that.

SPEAKER 3: Then what would you do with the little blocks?

E.H.: Cook it in lard.

SPEAKER 3: In the lard presser?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Now the stuff that was in the bottom of the lard presser, did you used to use that and make what you call cracklin bread?

E.H.: Yeah. Lard, used to make lard out of cracklin.

SPEAKER 3: And the cracklin, what would you do with that sometime?

E.H.: Use it for lard.

SPEAKER 3: Did you use the cracklin to make nice hot shortbread?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative). It's nice. Cracklin. Yeah, it was –

SPEAKER: Did you scrape the casings?

E.H.: Huh?

SPEAKER: Did you scrape the casings?

E.H.: Uh-huh (affirmative).

SPEAKER: I did that. That was not fun.

E.H.: Used to like to scrape the casings.

SPEAKER: I don't like to scrape casings, but I had that job. (Laughter).

E.H.: Job scraping them casings.

SPEAKER: I didn't like it. I didn't want sausage after that.

E.H.: No. (Laughter). Yeah, used to have to scrape casings. It wasn't hard, was it?

SPEAKER: No.

E.H.: It wasn't all that hard. Chitlings. Didn't bother much with chitlings, did you? Chitlings used to be good.

SPEAKER: Yeah, I remember them.

SPEAKER 3: Let me ask you this. The grape arbor, when the grapes got ripe on the grape arbor, what would we do with the grapes on the grape arbor?

E.H.: What do with the grapes?

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

E.H.: Take 'em to –

SPEAKER 3: Did we have some grape jelly?

E.H.: Yeah. We did used to make some jelly.

SPEAKER 3: Did you ever make grape wine?

E.H.: Daddy used to make some wine.

SPEAKER 3: Oh. What kind of wine did grandpap used to make?

E.H.: Grandpap –

SPEAKER 3: Did he take the dandelions and make wine?

E.H.: Yeah. Make wine out of the dandelions. Likes of that.

SPEAKER 3: Now since you have gotten older, what have you enjoyed the most doing growing old? When you were able to get up and go out?

E.H.: Quite a – I would say grapes.

SPEAKER 3: No, no, no. What did you enjoy doing the most? Did you enjoy the most going like to the senior center to be with other people your age, or the day care, what did you enjoy doing the most when you were able to get up and go out?

E.H.: Grape.

SPEAKER 3: We're not talking about grapes now. We're finished with the grapes. Did you enjoy going to the senior center?

E.H.: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I enjoyed going up to the center like that.

SPEAKER 3: Do you know who used to pick you up every day and carry you to the center?

E.H.: Huh?

SPEAKER 3: Who used to pick you up and carry you to the senior center every day? How did you go to the senior center every day? Did you go on the bus?

E.H.: I think so.

SPEAKER 3: Who was the bus driver?

E.H.: Oh, I don't know now.

SPEAKER 3: Was it Joanne?

E.H.: I don't think so. I don't know. (Laughter). I don't know.

SPEAKER 3: Joanne didn't carry you into the center, senior citizen's center?

E.H.: No.

SPEAKER 3: You done forgotten? I believe she's pulling one on you now.

SPEAKER: She's making games now.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

SPEAKER: She knows who took her.

SPEAKER 3: Let me ask you this. Now all the neighborhood children, did everybody in the –

E.H.: Come on now, getting hungry now.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, Lord. Do you enjoy eating?

E.H.: Yeah. Like to eat.

SPEAKER 3: Is that one of the most things you enjoy doing now since you've become 104 years old is eating?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Huh?

E.H.: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Now let me ask you this. When you had, when all of us was growing up as children, did all the neighborhood children come to this yard?

E.H.: No, I don't guess they did.

SPEAKER: You told me before.

SPEAKER 3: Did Miss Myrtle's children?

E.H.: No. I don't know nothing about Miss Myrtle.

SPEAKER 3: Didn't Sill (phonetic) and all them come here?

E.H.: No. Nothing about Sill.

SPEAKER 3: What about, did Money and them used to come up here? Money and Porgy and all of them? Didn't they used to be here all the time with Bobby and Billy and all of them?

E.H.: No. I don't think so.

SPEAKER 3: I think she's forgetting now.

SPEAKER 2: She's getting tired.

SPEAKER: I think she's tired.

S.D.: We can stop.

SPEAKER: Thank you.

(End of Interview.)