

Interview with Mr. Harvey McDaniel, Sr. of Severn, Maryland, 9/18/87. Present were his wife, Joe Liener and R. Dodds. Mr. McDani,el was born in Easton in 1916 and started working on farms at an early age. Mr. McDaniel worked on dredgeboats out of Tilghman and also worked on Delaware Bay dredgeboats. Boats worked on included the Willie L. Bennett and Rosie Parks.

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Dodds:

...Before we get started, Just ask a few basic questions, like when were you born, where were you born?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I was born in Easton, 1916.

Dodds:

1916?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, 1916.

Dodds:

Oh, well, you're still pretty young then (Mrs. McDaniel laughs)

Liener:

My gosh ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Seventy-one.

Dodds:

You went to school in Easton?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes, I went to school in New Chapel.

Dodds:

Where?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

New Chapel, Maryland.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

New Chapel.

Dodds:

Oh, New Chapel. I'm sorry. What, to grammar school?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Grammar, yes.

Dodds:

What happened after grammar school finished?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
I didn't go anymore.

Dodds:
Didn't go any further?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I think **his** parents let him go out and work the farm.

Dodds:
Oh, Is that right? Well a lot of people, back then, they had to work. You couldn't go any further.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya, they had quite a large family.

Dodds:
You had a large family?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya. Eighteen.

Dodds:
Eighteen? Ya, that's pretty big. So, you really started working on farms.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
When I was 8.

Dodds:
Eight? Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
I used to work for a Reed Hewen out ... [?] ... road, about three miles out of Easton. That farm was Kelly Springfield Balloon (laughs). That was out by the police station on the right-hand side before Cambridge.

Liener:
Out there on 50.

Dodds:
Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Kelly Springfield Balloon. That was some name, wasn't it?

Dodds:
How long did you work on the farm?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I worked on the farm 'till, I guess about 15 years. Went down to Whitman, worked for a fella named Jay Cober.

Liener:

Oh my gosh, he's still alive.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Stopped there once in a while just to see him.

Liener:

Saw he and his wife, they were up to church the other day.

Dodds:

Cober?

Liener:

Ya.

Dodds:

How do you spell that?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

C-O-B-E-R.

Dodds:

C-O-B-E-R?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Liener:

He has a little farm right down below Whitman, towards Sherwood.

Dodds:

Ya.

Liener:

Up on Harris Creek.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

My husband used to go work for him on the farm, and I used to go down, after my husband, and work for her.

Liener:

I'll bet you knowed all those people down there in Pot Pie.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

My husband knew them more than me, because he lived around there for many years.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
I'd work for him in the summertime, and dredge in the winter.

Liener:
Wait till I see him, I'll tell him I met up with you.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
He'll be so proud and happy....

Liener:
Ya. He don't move around as fast as he used to.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
He used to move. Jay used to get around. You know he wasn't very big.

Liener:
No he's small.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
He was this big.

Liener:
Ya, he's smaller than he is.

Dodds:
So you went there to work on the farm?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes.

Dodds:
Then how did you get involved with the water, and the dredging business?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
A lot of people I know down in Mc Daniel, like Tommy Tadwell, and Barney Adams, then I went dredging with them in the wintertime.

Dodds:
What year did you first start dredging?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No sir, I don't.

Dodds:
Even ... What time was it?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
That was pretty far back, when oysters were 35 cents a bushel.

Dodds:
How old would you have been at that time?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Must have been about 27.

Dodds:
About 27?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Something like that.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I think it was much sooner than that, because when I first met you, you was in your 20s then, and you had been dredging a good many years before I met you, the way I understood it.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Maybe it were further.

Liener:
Did you do any tonging?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No sir, just dredging.

Liener:
You were a dredge man. Oh.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Then me and Rick go to Port Morris in the spring.

Liener:
Ah Hah!

Dodds:
I told you there was an interesting....

Liener:
Whose boats did you work on up there? Do you remember?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No, I don't, but his boat had a horse on it (laughs).

Dodds:
A horse?

Liener:
Did Dory Johnson go up with you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Dory Johnson?

Liener:
Jim Johnson's brother.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Liener:
Did you do spat'in up there too in the spring?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Liener:
Ya. I know a bunch of those guys up there, and their boats, too. At one time there were over 200 schooners sailed out of Port Morris.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir. When I was up there they didn't sail. They used power all the time. Had two big caterpillars laying on each side, and both of them had to be running when you start. In the morning they'd get them both into shape. You never used but one. Then it 'd get rough, and you'd turn the other one on (laughter).

Liener:
Well, you sailed out of Port Morris, then, didn't you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes.

Liener:
That or Bivalve, whatever you want to call it. Did you ever in to Greenwich, up at Cahanzee[?]?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No.

Liener:
Didn't make that. Ya all those old places down there, False Egg Island, and Abbots, and.... Did you cross Cross Ledge Light?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes. It got rough up there one day, and I saw two boats well up with water, and sink right behind us. Had about 8 feet of the boat decked up, and it went and sank.

Dodds:
How did you get to 'Jersey? 'Cause I know a lot of boats from here

went up there, but did you go up by boat?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

No sir, we used to drive up.

Dodds:

Drive up?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes, we would join up with the man up there, and get on his boat up there.

Dodds:

You don't remember the name of the boat, you just remember they....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Just his horse.

Liener:

There was a horse up on the foremast.

Dodds:

On the foremast?

Liener:

Ya. Like a weathervane.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, that was a horse.

Dodds:

They had these here down on the bay, too.

Liener:

Well, they had all kinds of stuff. One of them had a finger pointing, a hand up there. Some of them had a big ball.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Sometimes we'd be dredging, and we'd pull up a dead man in the dredge.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Dump him out and let him go back.

Dodds:

You let him go back in the water?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

The dredge was heavy. The boat would turn around and you had a dead man in there.

Dodds:

How often did that happen?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Could be one a day. 'Lotta people got drowned up there.

Dodds:

Where did you stay, Mr. Mc Daniel:? When you were living up there?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

On board the boat.

Dodds:

On board the boat?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes, I lived on Tilghman Island then. I mean Whitman. I'd come home Friday night and go back Sunday night.

Liener:

You didn't get on any of the.... The one guy there, he used to feed four meals a day there on his boats. Johnson's

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Ya. No sir, we had three.

Dodds:

How was the food up there?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

It was good.

Dodds:

It was good?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

They'd buy everything on the boats.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Probably because they had a good cook.

Liener:

They fed good.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir, they feed good on that boat.

Dodds:

What do they have. I'm new to all this, so.... What did they have for breakfast, and....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Eggs and bacon, ham, and Potatoes, Pancakes, anything you want.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Was that the same way on the boats down at Tilghman Island when you used to get on them?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Dodds:

They were good feeding, ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

[?]

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, but I was wondering if they fed you pretty much the same.

Liener:

i've seen them take wheelbarrow loads of yams and sweet potatoes down to the wharf, and dump them on the boat.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Didn't my husband say that they used to really feed them good. What was that man's name who you used to buy the food from when you was at Tilghman's Island? John....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

John.... That big store down there. It wasn't on the water.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Right down there on the water. All the dredge Captains used to but their food from him for to lay on their boats for a week.

Liener:

Old Faulkner's store?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

No, it wasn't Faulkners.

Liener:

You didn't put in to Black Walnut Cove, then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

A little bit. That fella, I can't remember his name, the fella down

there in Black Walnut. Do you remember his name? He was strictly a church man.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

No, I didn't know you then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

He wouldn't even do nothing wrong . He wouldn't catch nothing wrong, or be on the wrong bar, or nothing. You know some of them go out there, they drop their dredge on the tongs' bed.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Strictly with the book.

Dodds:

The boat that you were on, did they do that occasionally?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oh, ya. Plenty of times. Police boat on this side, and we'd drop the dredge on that side of the boat (Laughter).

Liener:

Especially if it was foggy.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

if it was foggy, you could go down and turn around, and make another sweep at it.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Tell them about how you used to try to cheat, using your yawl boat . The push boat. You weren't supposed to use it for dredging. Sometimes if there wasn't much wind, you said that you would use it.

Liener:

Help her along.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Then when they got that airplane, then you didn't have much chance. They could see a long way.

Liener:

Mr. Whip in the airplane. He kept his eye on you, didn't he?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya (laughing).

Dodds:
When you were in New Jersey, Did you get paid on a share basis?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
It was on shares.

Dodds:
It was on shares.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
On Tilghman's Island it was on shares. But then up in New Jersey we'd get paid by the week.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I knew him then when he was up in New Jersey.

Dodds:
What was the pay like? If I may ask.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Sixty dollars a week.

Dodds:
Sixty dollars a week?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
That was in New Jersey. Now tell them about when you was dredging down here.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Getting them shares. One hundred, two hundred, whatever we'd catch.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
So, that was good money then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
At the worst we got about a dollar a day.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
What about the time when everybody paid so much on their food....

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Every body paid for the for and gas, and the boat got a share, and the rest of it got divided by the crew.

Dodds:
That's the traditional way of paying for it.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, And if you didn't make enough, you didn't get nothing
(laughter).

Dodds:

I guess that was incentive to cheat a little bit, too, then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That's right.

Liener:

You never went up on the train, did you? You always traveled by car?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Always traveled by car, yes sir.

Liener:

'Cause train would be a little bit round about. You'd have to go up to Philadelphia, and cross over to Camden, then get on the train there and go down to Miliville, or the branch would run out of Miliville, and Bridgeton sometimes, too.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

You all used to travel ... You used to go up with how many would be in the car when you were going....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Six.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

You'd share the ride.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Go there sunday evening, and come back Friday night.

Dodds:

How long would the season be that you would go up for?

Liener:

About the same as here.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I think so. I think about 4 months.

Dodds:

Four months?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

It ends here in March?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And then you would go right up. It would be until May, or something like that.

Dodds:

So you only get to see your husband on the weekends for four months?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

That's right, and I was home taking care of the cows and horses.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Remember down here the galloper's place in Whitman? Galloper's place?

Liener:

I've heard them talk about

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That was right down Jay Cuver's [?] Lane.

Liener:

Ya, on the right-hand side.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Going down, right.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Then you see a workboat for that young man there. On the water there. What was her name?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Miss Mary Wilson? Well Miss Mary Wilson was where I first met you, and you were dredging then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, but Walker, I usually worked on Walker's back then.

Liener:

Oh, ya. Webley.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
What was her first name? Was an old lady.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
They called her Walker.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
What was the name of the man that used to have that barn there? Her place is right across...

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Peter Kay?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
...her place is real close there.

Liener:
You knew Pete Kay too?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Still there?

Liener:
Oh ya. the place is there. He isn't. No.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Her house was a big brick house. I think it used to be a hospital.

Liener:
Well, partially, ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Partially.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
This Walker place you went on to the water.

Liener:
Ya. He was a lawyer from Washington. That ' s where Dave Baker lived.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Was that the son who was a lawyer, or her husband? 'Cause we never met her husband.

Liener:
The husband. The old man.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Because we never met him, did we Harvey?

Liener:
Then they had a son, Al, see?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
And a daughter, right.

Liener:
And he wasn't worth powder to blow him out of the door.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
He was pretty rough, he was.

Liener:
You knew him (laughter). Man they tore that old place apart inside.
They put an elevator right in the middle of the house. All that
kind of stuff.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
It had a lot of rooms to it.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
What did they have; 23 rooms I think it was.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya, I think it was 20-some. I never worked for her. Just keep an
eye on it.

Liener:
It was 2 1/2 stories.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Liener:
Big columns out front.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Great big... [?] ... and they made stalls for it.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
They say they had separating rooms down in there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
They say it used to be a hospital.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
He said it was partially one.

Dodds:
How long did you go up to New Jersey? How many years did you do that? Quite a few?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
At least ten.

Dodds:
Ten. And this would be the 30s then, too?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I'm trying to think. J.R. is 30 now. And when you started, J.R. wasn't born, so. Harvey I don't think it was quite that long, honey. No, because when we left from this way J.R. was 6 months old, and you had only been going up there for three or four years, I think, honey, If I'm not mistaken.

Liener:
Did you ever meet any of that bunch from Smithville that used to go up there for Captain Shells boat? You knew that there was a crew from Smithville, you know where I mean, don't you? Down there t' Taylor's Island.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Liener:
And Captain Shell always come up there and got his crews. I met a lot of guys around here who have all been like you, dredging up there in Jersey on those boats, and so forth.

Dodds:
When was the season up there?

Liener:
Starting in September.

Dodds:
Starting in September? Like it down here, pretty much. What do you do in the evenings up there? Anything?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Oh, sit on the boat, play cards.

Dodds:
Play cards.

Liener:
He'd rest up (laughter).

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Drinking a little bit. Go see some girls.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Watch it now. You might tell me something you don't want to.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
You can't catch me, it was back then (laughs).

Liener:
There were a bunch of people down there in shell piles and down in those shucking houses.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Well, he carried me up there a couple of times to let me see.

Liener:
Well, that's all gone, now.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
All gone.

Liener:
All gone. The only thing they saved was the store, and they moved that down toward the creek, and they made a restaurant and so forth out of it. All the rest is leveled off.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
You'd never know the place if you go back now?

Liener:
No.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
You get some of them large shell they used to get, and you carry them home and use them for salad dishes. They had some big shellfish.

Liener:
Sea clams.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya, I guess that's what you call them.

Liener:
Well, they're still dredging them up there.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Are they?

Liener:
Oh, ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
But those oysters up there didn't taste like they did on Tilghman' s
Island, did they? Kinda bitter.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes, sir.

Dodds:
Definitely a difference?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes, sir, they was bitter like.

Dodds:
Was it kinda rough place up there? I'd imagine it would be.\

Mr. Mc Daniel:
It would be.

Dodds:
A lotta guys up there. A lot of pretty rough characters.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
You keep yourself hidden. Nighttime, you stayed aboard the boat.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
If you come in early then you walk around.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Then you used to, when you was dredging this way, you all used to
put in at Annapolis, too, didn't you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya. Captain John would.

Dodds:

Let's go back down here to Tilghman now. When did you. . you started out at Tilghman Island dredging.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Dodds:

What boat did you start on.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Captain Wade E. Murphy, the Willie Bennett.

Dodds:

The Willie J. Bennett?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Tilghmans Island. Then I went down to Black Walnut ...I can't think of that guy's name. But he was strictly a church man. Nothing wrong.

Dodds:

Wade E. Murphy wasn't too.... (laughter)

Liener:

That's young Wade E.'s father that he's talking about.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Liener:

Him and Bart.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Bart. Ya, He used to come on the boat...[?]....

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Liener:

He hasn't changed much, too.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

There's my oldest son on the boat there. You all carried him out one time, didn't you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Dodds:

Do you remember the other members of the crew? The regular crew on board her?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. There was Tom Mc Cower, he was cook, and Gene Dickerson. I don't remember if he was first mate. No. We had 6 men on the crew.

Dodds:

Six?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Well, you for one. You got one person, or another person. You can't remember the other guys' names?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Buddy.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

was Mr. Tommy on there? You said him didn't you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, he was cook.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, ya, you did.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

We had to be down there in the morning 4:00, I used to be there.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, 4:00 in the morning. I was dredging all night when it was bad, and I didn't have nothing to go in, so I just walked to Whitman town.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

'Cause he didn't want to get me up that time of night.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I leave home at 2:00, I be there at 4.

Dodds:

Is that right? Leave home at 2 in the morning?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. I used to work on Nat Wilson's farm, right down there Tommy, he shell store.

Liener:

Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Right across the road.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Snow be that deep.

Dodds:

It cold?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

It was cold. I had to be there by 4:00.

Dodds:

Wow.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

My oldest son and I used to pick him up in the evening. We'd go down early enough that we could sit, and watch the boats coming in. And they would be way out, and you would think that they would come right straight on in, but no they would go cut, and go way out, and then come about, and then come in. Oh, it used to take 'em so long to get in, and it was fun watching them.

Liener:

Had to go 'round those flats out there.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Dodds:

What time did you used to get back.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Sometimes you'd pull in the creek at sundown. Then sometimes it would take a while.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

About what time would you get in if you were late?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

'Bout 6.

Dodds:

Six, ya. 'Cause you'd be waiting around a while waiting to get back in.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, but most of those times, he would have his car. But, like he say, there was some of them times when he would have to walk down, but that wouldn't be often.

Dodds:

Boy, but that's a good walk, though. That's a few miles from whitman to...

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Seven miles. It didn't take long, though, when you're young. You run half way, and walk half way.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

He didn't like me to be on the roads when it was bad, and that's why he would go ahead and walk.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Well, where I work now, we used to live in Baltimore, Cherry Hill, and I used to work down in Gamouth[?], in the cement factory, and I used to work for this man, feed man. So, I used to get up at Cherry Hill. Go down to his place, be there at 7:00 in the morning, and work to 3. Then go down to Baltimore Concrete, and work from 3:30 to 12. But the kid ...Dennis was going to school.

Dodds:

That's a long day.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Dennis wouldn't see him.

Liener:

Now they complain if they have to walk a mile.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Kids can't even walk across the street to catch the bus.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

He'd get up early in the morning so he could go on his first job, the kids wouldn't be up. He'd go to work, and when he ate, they wouldn't see him, 'cause when he got in off his second job would be midnight; after midnight, 'cause you got off at 12. the only time they'd see their dad would be Saturdays.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

And then sometimes they would have maintenance work, and they told

me "Don't bother getting off the clock." It'd be 3 or 4:00.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
On a Saturday.

Dodds:
Wow.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
I worked there 20 years, and I was never late, Never lost a day.

Liener:
Boy, that's a record.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
They gave him a plaque when he retired.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
They gave him a plaque, ya.

Dodds:
That's a pretty good record.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Never late, never lost a day in 20 years.

Liener:
That's something.

Dodds:
I guess you had to be pretty young and fit to work on those dredge boats, then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Dodds:
Day after day. You must be pretty strong. Ate a lot, I guess.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Oh, ya.

Dodds:
Walking and all that, exercise.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Then he could eat. now he can't eat.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Lot of times they didn't have no wind. Then we'd lay to and eat all day long.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
And I used to hear you say you all used to play cards out there when you couldn't....

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Play cards....

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
You used to come in, and you used to bring me money, and I'd think "Where'd he get that from?" "Well, I won it on the boat." And I says "Well, I Don't want it because you were gambling." But, times would get a little hard, and I would take it (laughs).

Dodds:
Did you win more than you lost, or the other way around?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
You know, it goes and comes.

Liener:
It would even out after a bit.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Just like these lottery numbers. Some would say that they won \$500.00, but they wouldn't say how much they lost.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya, how much they lost.

Liener:
Same as the horse races. You never hear of when they loose...

Mr. Mc Daniel:
That's what we do now. We all clean at the race track right now. That's what I'm doing right now. They re-tarred and poured some concrete right around where the stables used to be.

Dodds:
When you used to go out on the Willie Bennett, where did you used to go to dredge; what were the grounds?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Black Walnut, I mean Todd's point, and ... What's that other bar? Up

around Claiborne. Any place there's oysters. Then after it'd get rough, we'd have to stay.

Liener:
You'd duck in somewheres.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
That's right.

Liener:
Then I guess you ducked in to ... about halfway down Taylor's Island many a time.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Somewhere, ya. You know, I been shipwrecked three times.

Liener:
Ya?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya (laughs). Then you go with the wind. Any place it wants, you go.

Dodds:
Tell us about these wrecks you've been involved in. What happened the first time?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
The last time is up here to Annapolis, Up here by where the bridge is now. Before they got the bridge in.

Liener:
Sandy Point?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir. And the Captain, Captain John Wilson, he was in his bunk, laying in his bunk, and the water kept hitting the boat so hard, he come out, he looked up, and he said "Pull the sail off." You know we usually pull the jib off, then tie it up, then pull the sail off. He couldn't understand that, he said "You ain't got time to wrap it. Just pull it off, put stops on it." So, we snatched the sail down. Then he said "Get the jib." And we got the jib. By that time, she turned around and draw, and water well up there. Water well up till the mast wasn't showing.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
And my husband couldn't swim.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, but they say all you have to do is get a piece of board about six inches, and that hold you up. And we had plenty of boards out there (laughs).

Liener:

Did you go ashore up there?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

What?

Liener:

Did the boat go ashore up there at Sandy point?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

No, it dropped down in a trough, and the wind was blowing so hard, and i thing he said it was a 35 mile per hour gale, I mean 65 mile gale, and she whirled right around. Then she popped up. Then he said "Give me a little hand here[?], 'bout a hand here on this jib." Said "We gonna tag along[?]." Then he tacked enough to get around Bloody Point Light, then we had it made (laughs).

Dodds:

What boat was this?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Kady Row[?].

Dodds:

The what?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

The Kady Row[?], that big schooner.

Liener:

Kady Row[?].

Dodds:

Kady Row[?] I don't know that name. A schooner?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Captain John Wilson. The Kady Row[?].

Dodds:

She must have been one of the last schooners to dredge then, right?

Liener:

Well, pretty near, I guess.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

She used to be a schooner. She used to have two masts, but when he got it, she only carried one mast.

Liener:

Ya, he put one mast in.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

She wasn't one of these real tall ones, the way most of the dredge boats, when he used to take me down, let me go aboard, see how they were. You had to bend over, but that one you could stand up strait, couldn't you.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, You could.

Dodds:

Down below, ya, in the cabin.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

We'd stop at night in Annapolis.

Dodds:

In Annapolis? What about the other two? You mentioned a couple other times you had trouble.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That was down Tilghman, and we couldn't get back down, so we laid over in Black Walnut all night. That dredge boat looked funny, but they wouldn't fool with it. They wouldn't fool with the wind. Really got be stable somewhere.

Liener:

Can't pitch 'em too much.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

No sir. And his yawl boat, when it gets rough you can't use him, he fill up.

Dodds:

Ya. And you can't swim.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

No.

Dodds:

I guess that's typical of a lot of men....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

but, you know like Captain Funny, he come out from Black Walnut Cove one morning early....

Liener:

This is Funny Parks he's talking about now.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, He'd come out there, and just when he got around the corner the wind hit him. He had full sail on. Turned him bottoms up. So, everybody could swim but the cook. He just walk right around on the bow and just stood up there (laughter) . Then the people who get drowned, most of them good swimmers (laughs). Me, I can't swim.

Liener:

But, you didn't know any of those five fellows that drowned, the last bunch that drowned down there in Hooper's Straits.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

No sir.

Dodds:

What was that, the Agnes?

Liener:

No, that was on the Sommers. I think it was. No, the Acnes sailed out of Foxhole, and he was bound for Cambridge.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir.

Liener:

You saw the ... did you ever see the model we have of the Agnes down here?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I don't know nothing about that.

Liener:

That was a round-stern, single-masted bugeye.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir.

Liener:

John B. Harrison built her down Tilghman. You knew him didn't you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes. Yes.

Liener:

Captain John?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir. That sounds like the man who was on that was owned that store; John Harrison.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Arthur. His name was Arthur Harrison.

Liener:
The one out on the steamboat wharf.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir. That was where we'd buy all our groceries.

Liener:
Ya. Post office out there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Yes, it was. What was his name?

Liener:
Arthur.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Was he? Now, I used to know a Mr. Arthur Harrison who used to run the blacksmith's shop there in Whitman. I used to work for them. But, now I didn't know he was concerned with the boats.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No, it wasn't him it was another one.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I can't think of the man who ... His first name was John, that they used to buy the food from for the boats, and like you said he had a post office there. It was right down there where oyster house and all those places was. Now Faulkiner had a place, but he was a little farther over.

Liener:
Ya, He was on the south side....

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Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Was really busy.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

That you searched when, you know. What was the second one?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I can't think of the name boat he bought after he got the....

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

But, you said that the Willie Bennett.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

The one we bought.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Mr. Murphy bought it.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And you still dredged on it.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Liener:

She wasn't built in Baltimore. She was built down. . . John Brandford built her, down in...

Dodds:

The Willie J. Bennett you mean?

Liener:

...Ya, down there in Everness [?], back of Fairmount.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And they had it wrong in the book, then, didn't they?

Liener:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

They made it in Baltimore.

Liener:

Ya. That was built down there.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

There was some other little word there, but I couldn't make that out. It had enclosed, and then they had Baltimore behind it. Maybe that is what they was saying.

Dodds:

Which was the boat that you took shares in?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

The Willie Bennett.

Dodds:

It was the Willie Bennett?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Liener:

Built in Everness [?].

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, ya. See I couldn't make that little word out in between there.

Liener:

See, there was at Baltimore, up the Bay here; Inverness was another place just outside Baltimore, but the one where this was built was down the Eastern Shore, down there toward Fairmount. You know, they had an Upper Fairmount and a Lower Fairmount, and that was John Brandford's place, down there at Fishing Island.

Dodds:

Fishing Island.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

How about that.

Dodds:

You said that you bought shares in the boat. Who did you go in with?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Tommy Caldwell, and a fella named Bunny.

Dodds:

So, the three of you owned her?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir, three of us, ya.

Dodds:

How... It is of interest that not too many people have gone in like

that. Did you make any money from the boat?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir. we done pretty good.

Dodds:
Did you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:Yes sir.

Dodds:
This was back when?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Pardon?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
About how many years was that, do you remember, before I met you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I met him back when my son was three years old, and he was born in 1942.

Dodds:
Could it have been in the thirties, then?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
It had to, probably.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
It had to be.

Dodds:
It was during the Depression, then

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Harvey, how many years did you own your share in the boat?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
I wouldn't exactly know that.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
You don't know for sure, no.

Dodds:
That was a tough time to be making any money, back then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Dodds:
Yes. 'Course were you still able to dredge your limit?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Dodds:
I'd imagine. The problem today, I think most boats they go out there, there's not enough oysters out there any more to make their limit. But, you never had any much trouble getting....

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No sir.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Seems like then the oysters were quite plentiful.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya, like I told you, when I first went with Wade E., we used to go out there, and we'd catch 300 a day.

Dodds:
Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Three hundred a day. And then, I guess it'd take you about a week now.

Liener:
Ya. Well the limit is 150 now.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Oh, another limit.

Liener:
Then you could pile the deck up, and lay 'er into the hold.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir. Catch 300 a day, and you....

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Then the problem, too, was that they had to be a certain size.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

They do now, I'd imagine.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, but I was saying....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Got to be three inches. He got a cup. He come down and fill that cup up, and after three inches, then you throw 'em overboard.

Liener:

Now, Virginia is going to change their size to 2 and 1/2 inches. How 'bout that? Then there won't be nothing but little pigeon eggs. You cull 'em out...

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Three inches.

Liener:

...Culls, and cullin teams, and primes, didn't you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir.

Liener:

Same as over on Delaware Bay.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir. Then the man come, the police man come with his cup.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And how much were you getting then, you said, a bushel?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Thirty five cents.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Thirty five cents a bushel.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

And we used to make anywhere between 80 and 100 and some a week.

Dodds:

That was considered pretty good money back then, wasn't it?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

It was. It was real good money.

Liener:

But then your weather would knock some of it sometimes.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Ya. Especially when that hurricane come through. Oh, the Agnes! Boy, that was something. That sure sent a lot of boats ashore.

Liener:

Give the sailmakers some work.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Dodds:

So, how'd you like it **like**. I mean its a pretty tough life.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, that was the coldest job I ever worked on. We used to come to work in the morning, the iced by 2" thick on the bowsprit and we'd have to get that ice off before we could go down by the head. And it was cold them winters. 'Cause I used to, I worked down there to.... What was that boat down here in Oxford that go across to Bellevue? I worked down here to Bellevue, and some mornings, I used to work in the stables. What we'd be doing we'd be catching the water from those big horses for taking and pour it in barrels, and they say send it to New York, for pregnant women (laughs). That's what they said they did with it. And that's what job I wants, just standing there all night and catch water. They had so many horses, and in the morning I'd open the top door, and the snow come right in, Right in the top door.

Dodds:

You had some tough winters back then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir.

Liener:

You worked there for Mr. Valliant.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Bellevue

Dodds:

What boat d'you like best?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Katie Row.

Dodds:

Katie Row?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir. She was a big boat, and Captain John Wilson, he was nice to work with, too.

Dodds:
Really?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
He said he drove Chesapeake Bay for forty years, and he was 80-something then.

Dodds:
Ya?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
(laughs) You know Captain John Wilson?

Liener:
Ya, before he died.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Liener:
Another old fella down there, John Larrimore, he hung on. He's only been gone a couple years.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Did you know him?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
No, You didn't know him then.

Dodds:
So, you were on the Rosie Parks for a while too, right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Dodds:
It would have been after '55, 'cause she was built in '55.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Rosie Parks was built in 1955?

Dodds:

Ya.

Liener:

Built three of them, all at the same time. Well, roughly the same time.

Dodds:

That's a picture of her under sail. A nice color photo of her.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Boy, that's a pretty boat, isn't it?

Dodds:

She's pretty fast boat, too.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir. Everything you see, she's in.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And it was named for his wife.

Liener:

Mother.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, his mother!

Dodds:

That's a picture....

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, that's a picture of his mother.

Dodds:

Ya, apparently.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, wow. How 'bout that. "Given by Mary A. Hill, Woodlawn Park." That's over there close to Baltimore, ya, somewhere up near Baltimore, isn't it.

Dodds:

That's over here.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya. "Mother of Orville Parks." Ya, that was the mother all right, "1896." Then she was age 20. How 'bout that. It looks like she was a very small little lady.

Dodds:
She may have been, ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
She looks like it, ya.

Dodds:
How'd you like it on the Rosie Parks?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Fine. Fine.

Dodds:
Was it?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Dodds:
Everything was ok on there?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Dodds:
Did you know she was here when you came to the museum?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya. Me and my son, he was with me that day. And that was the first thing he espied. 'Cause he seen it down Sandy Point.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Dodds:
If I knew you were here that day, I would have taken you on board, 'cause you didn't get on board when you were down here.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No, they didn't let any of us go on board her.

Dodds:
We will probably be taking her to Sandy Point later this year. If you're there, maybe you can get aboard her.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya, what time will that be?

Dodds:
it's usually in the first week of October. Its right in the

beginning of the dredging season.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

We would. It would be nice to let us know, and like I was saying to the gentleman here, anytime you all feel you would like to come over and talk, you're welcome to. We just felt that we were making it easier for you.

Dodds:

Sure, you made it much easier. We didn't have to go anywhere.

Liener:

It was doggone nice of you to come up.

Dodds:

when you were dredging on the Rosie, where did she go?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

He'd go the same place: Black Walnut.

Dodds:

Black Walnut?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Then we had little bars just around, then they used to come up here to Annapolis, Sandy Point.

Dodds:

Was the oysters getting scarce then? I guess this would be the 50s, the late 50s. Were they starting....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Forty something, wasn't it?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Well, a while before we left from this way. That was around, let's see, J.R. was born in 57, he was six months ...I guess that was pushing around 1958. I thought I heard you mention that they were getting a little scarce. 'Cause, yes, you were still dredging then. When our son was born, he was out on the dredge boat, and somebody got the word to him. Didn't they?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And he came into the hospital so excited with his boots on, and mud on his face (laughter). Then you passed out cigars, you said, to the guys on the boat.

Liener:

Oh, my. You must have known a lot of Deal Islanders, and guys down that way.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Liener:

Did you ever meet up with Mr. Albert Brown, down Deals Island, a sail maker?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I can't recall.

Liener:

You had your work done up here.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Liener:

At Downes-Curtiss, and Pritchard?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir.

Liener:

Dave Pritchard?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir. Down here. Pull up on a railway.

Liener:

Ya.

Dodds:

When you first started dredging there must have been quite a few boats out there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Dodds:

...Working.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir. There were so many out there they'd hardly have room to go by.

Dodds:

Is that right? Must have been quite a sight.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
It was.

Liener:
Bunch of them in the 50s.

Dodds:
Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
When you hit a good bar they'd put the spyglass up and see how big your pile was, then here they come.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
I remember when we used to live back on Mrs. Walker's place, and...

Liener:
You could look right out there.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Ya, I, used to, could go to my kitchen window and I could, the bedroom window it was, and watch the men out there working.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
You know, I didn't have a spyglass, but you could see them there working there. It was quite fun, a lot of fun.

Liener:
Out there Cooper's Hollow.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Is that what that was called?

Liener:
Ya.

Dodds:
Do you remember the names of the boats you used to see all the time out there?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Not too much, no.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
You were more interested in the one you were on, I guess.

Liener:

The Ford must have been out there, the Ruby Ford.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes.

Liener:

Seemed to be.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

'Cause I used to **ask** my husband when he come home that evening, was he out there. I'd see all those boats, and I'd ask "Was your boat out there, too?" Sometimes he said "Ya, we was such and such a one." But that was hard for me to tell. It was fun just to watch them right there working, ya. But it was funny how he said that they used to find a spot, plenty of oysters....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That pile come a-raising, then you see the boat come over.

Liener:

That fella kept his eye on you, or how quick you went about and made another lick.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Then they'd come around, and the boss would say "Scatter 'em out! scatter 'em out!" (laughter).

Dodds:

Did you go out in the spring and plant seed oysters when you were on the boats?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir, we did.

Dodds:

Where did you used to plant normally?

Liener:

That was all according to where the sent them to plant the seed.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And I think that was when he went to New Jersey.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

New Jersey, ya. They used to drudge and we'd put them they ground, they had grounds up there. You'd dredge l em and come on the grounds and spread 'em out. Down there they always sell 'em to the buy boat, out to the oyster hatchery downtown.

Liener:
Southwest Lime.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
So, you didn't plant any.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No, they didn't plant any down here.

Dodds:
When you started were they bringing all the oysters right into the pier, or they sell them out there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes **sir**, they'd bring them right to Tilghman Island Oyster House, And shuck them.

Dodds:
Ya, I guess Tilghman Packing Company was still going strong then.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya.

Liener:
Ya, George Harrison.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
George Harrison.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
Did you all have the buy boats come right to your boat out there?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya, out in the river.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
They did.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
They was paying more than what the house we sell 'em to.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Liener:
Well, that saved you a little trip, too.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes it did.

Liener:
Didn't have to run all the way in.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Didn't have to wait for the other boats to be unloaded.

Dodds:
I guess a lot of boats came in together. You had to wait a while for your turn.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Liener:
Lay over. Tie up.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
And boy let me tell you, it used to get cold, too.

Dodds:
I guess your hands were always cold, weren't they?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir. I'd take my oilskins off many times, they'd stand up just like you was in it. It was cold winter then.

Liener:
You didn't have any forepeak on the Rosie Parks to crawl into.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
No sir.

Liener:
You had to get back there next to the cabin.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir, and get that little bit of heat coming out of the stovepipe.

Liener:
Ya (laughter). See, they had a bunkroom right ahead of the cabin. That's not on there any more. The stovepipe went through the cabin bulkhead, then on out on the deck, and what heat they got was from the stovepipe going through there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
You take them oilskins off, and they stand right up. I was froze.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

So, you didn't undress when you got ready to go to bed at night when you stayed aboard those boats?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oh, ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

You undressed? But It would be so cold. I mean you would have to take your oilskins off.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, we d just have to walk up forward, right to the mast. Had a little stove up there.

Dodds:

Do you eat oysters after all that?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oh, yes sir.

Dodds:

You like oysters?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I don't like 'em raw, but I do.

Dodds:

Do you?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

I love crabs, soft crabs, in my heart.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

I've eaten plenty of them during my day, and I still love 'em.

Liener:

Willie Bennett had a forepeak on her.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes, sir.

Liener:

You had a little stove up in there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes, sir.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And lots of times when they were dredging for oysters you used to bring up those fish, those flounders.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, he used to bring me flounders in there.

Dodds:

You used to pick up all kinds of odd things in the dredge.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya. Crabs, we used to have those.

Liener:

Plenty of stones.

Dodds:

Bottles. Do you remember anything really unusual that was brought up, or odd? Apart from dead people occasionally.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That was something. They's so heavy. Man, that dredge would bring them up, that boat turn right around. Captain said "Dead man in that dredge." Then somebody'd get to the deck and dump him, then put him back.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

They say that dead weight is heavy.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Its a whole lot heavier than a dredge of oysters.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

They say that the water's so swift that if somebody fell overboard that you couldn't catch em.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Just like a [?] the ocean. You see those ocean steamers coming in. The [?] boat.

Dodds:

When did you leave this area?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

That was somewhere about '58. Our youngest son was just 6 months old when we left here.

Dodds:
So you were dredging up until about 1959.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Yes sir.

Dodds:
Did you miss it after you left?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Oh, ya.

Dodds:
Did you?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Then I used to have the asthma real bad when I was down in
Tilghman's Island.

Dodds:
Asthma?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
That's right. You know Dr. Reese.

Liener:
Ya. Old man Doctor.

Mr. Mc Daniel:
Ya. He used to call me. He said "Look, anytime you have one of
these attacks," he had a great big bell, like a farmer's bell, he
say "just come ring that bell and I'll come down and give you a
needle."

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:
I used to be so very bad that I couldn't walk, nearly, to the car.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:
He was trying to farm too, you know, get the crops and things in,
in time to get ready for to go on the dredge boats on November
15th, and he couldn't even carry 5 gallons of gasoline to the
tractor, and I had to get hold of one side, and try to help. He'd
get so short of breath. And then sometimes like one or two o'clock
in the morning get short of breath, and we used to get up and drive

down to Dr. Reese's.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

With the window down, and me holding my head out.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, that's right.

Liener:

Old Doc have to feel around in his pockets to find the right medicine for you? (Laughter)

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Do you know the needles? He never even used to sterilize them.

Dodds:

Oh Jesus.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I'm glad it ain't nowadays, I'd have AIDS.

Liener:

You're not the only one that talked about that.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, I thought about that.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

What makes it funny, though, his wife never let him go nowhere by himself, She always with him.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

They used to tell him says, didn't care what time of night or morning it was, just come.

Liener:

He was an old army Doctor.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, that's what they said.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

He was an army Doctor, ya.

Liener:

He had his pockets stuffed all full of stuff, didn't he? He had to go fish around to dig out what he wanted. (laughter) Those were

some characters they had around, wasn't they?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes. She used to go to **his** son, and he said she was pregnant. She come up with a great big tumor.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

That guy, he was giving me medicine that was too strong for me, and I had to discontinue going to him, 'cause his medicine was making me sick.

Liener:

You remember when he died, don't you?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

No. I guess I wasn't here.

Liener:

Upset that tractor on him.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

That's right, he married into Mr. Ted Stewart. He used to work for them, and I remember sometimes they used to have a big cookout, and they all would be there. Yes I remember the young Doctor

Liener:

He had a farm down there on New Road, and he would go down in the morning and fool around on the farm. And he was pulling out fenceposts with this darned tractor, and the thing tripped, and went over, and he was underneath of it. And he didn't come back to the office. They thought "Well, I wonder what's a-matter?" And when they investigated somebody came down and found him there in the field.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Those little Ford tractor, they would kinda...[?].

Liener:

Ya. They'd trip very easy.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

If you hook onto something too heavy for them, they keep on going, fall right over on you. I used to work for his dad, I mean his wife Violet.

Liener:

Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

A turkey man. He raised a lot of turkeys. Boy, he used to raise

them by the thousands.

Dodds:

So you have pretty good memories of those days on the dredgeboats?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oh, ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

And that's what caused him to discontinue working on the dredgeboats, was because of his asthma. So we moved to where we are over in that area, and it would be better.

Liener:

And that relieved it?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya. I had found some type of medicine. I just read it in one of the New York papers. We had gotten nice work for a family, people that used to get those papers. And they had some type of medicine they used to call Mendico [?], and it was supposed to be good for asthma, and things like that. I went to the drug store, I think it was in St. Michaels, and they had it.

Liener:

Old Doc Hutchins.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Maybe it was. It was right down that little main Street. And I got the medicine, and he had it there, and it was just like a patent medicine. They gave it to us right over the counter, and I told him how to take it, and he used to go on the dredge boats, even up in New Jersey, and it really helped him. But then he thought he'd better get away from where the water was. Then it seemed **like** it was asthma. Then in late years he had an attack here a few years ago. He was awfully short of breath, and I said to him....

Mr. Mc Daniel:

The Doctors were trying to tell me I was smoking cigarettes. I said "I never smoked a cigarette in my life, Doc." (laughs) Then he said it was dust then. He had to have something.

Liener:

I was wondering whether that concrete place over there you got any dust there.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, that could be.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

That's what I was wondering, because he had retired from there at the time, and him and I used to take little short walks to 7-11 at night, and this particular night he got awful short of breath, and he started walking, and he stopped, and he says "I'll be alright in a few minutes." And I said "No. You wait right here, I'll go home and get the car, and come back and get you." I did that, and we got back. We were living in an apartment house, and we were on the third floor, and he had to walk all the way up, and when he got inside the door, hung over a chair. He said "Just a few minutes, I'll be alright." I said "No, you're going to the hospital." And he had been to work that day, and he came in and he changed his clothes up. So, we didn't have to lose too much time for him to change into clean clothes now. Got him over to the hospital, and they had him there for a few days before they could find out what was wrong. Finally they found out that he had a blood clot in his lung, and it was too large to pass. And I think what caused it to go into there was from his breathing. He was breathing so hard, the oxygen...

Liener:

Couldn't get nothing past that bottleneck.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

...Right. So, they said, they thought maybe that.... First he hardly said he thought it was asthma. And the Doctor said "No, I don't think so." Then they tried to say he was smoking. He said no. But, then we came to the conclusion that it must have been the plant where he was working, because he used to work in the mixer, cleaning it out. And I used to go down there, evenings, sometimes to carry his dinner down to him. The kids and I would go down, fool around, cause he'd be over there about 3:00. He'd be working there on the night shift. So, I used to see him. He'd come out of the mixer. Oh, he'd be dusty all over, and that's what I think it did. So, he ended up with a little bit of this emphysema. He was on medication before, but the Doctor says his breathing has gotten so much better that they've taken him off of that, but he is on a blood thinner. He has to stay on that. And he goes back every two to three months, for the Doctor to check him over. They said for me to listen up for him to start wheezing very much, then he's have to go back on the medicine. But, some say that maybe the water did it, but I don't know, it may have started out a little bit with asthma. You think maybe?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya, I think so. The doctor ... [?] ... marsh was a little different. The air was lighter.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya. The air. He said he could do much better there.

Liener:

You had more salt air coming off the ocean.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Is that what helped? Oh.

Liener:

Ya, see, the ocean is not as far away from the bay as when you're way up here on the Chesapeake Bay. That's a couple hundred miles down there.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, before the ocean.

Dodds:

Are you keeping busy in your retirement?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I get up every morning about 5 or 5:30.

Liener:

Oh, my!

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That's right.

Dodds:

Old habits, I guess.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Well, he goes down and does his feeding of his cows, and things. And 8:00 you start in on your job.

Dodds:

You have a job still?

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya, he's still working.

Liener:

How many cows do you have to tend?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

I have 6.

Liener:

Good lands.

Interruption in Tape

Liener:

They don't believe me about that shoveling oysters.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oh, man, some people can take that same pile and make two or three more bushels out of it. (laughter)

Dodds:

Well, how do you do that? Or is that a trade secret?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Not everybody on the boat will let you shovel. There are certain people they want to shovel.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

You just let 'em roll in there, and they just kind of stand up.

Liener:

Make 'em stand up.

Dodds:

Oh I see.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

you could hit that tub and watch 'em go down three inches. You just got to not let 'em touch nothing. Sometimes they pull it out, you they pull it out with a ...[?] ... and then it hits against the side of the boat, and they have to carry it back for more. (laughter)
Some people can make 'em really stand up.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Did you ever shovel any?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oh, ya. After I got used to it.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Oh, you had to learn. (laughs)

Liener:

That's when, on a buy boat, see, they'd look at that bucket when it

come over the side, said "alright Cap, send it down here if you don't think you got a bucket full." So, they dump the bucket out on the deck, shovel the same oysters back in the bucket, and they have a shovelful left over. (laughter) Isn't that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

That's right, you shovel 'em in there easy. (laughter) You got to know how to shovel oysters.

Dodds:

You get a few more bushels out of her, right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Ya.

Liener:

Darn Right. If you complain too much, just send the bucket down, dump it out right in front of 'em, shovel it right back in, and have some left over. "Now are you satisfied?" (laughter)

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Just do everything they say, eh?

Liener:

Oh man.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Some of them when they send 'em up they hit the side of the boat, dropped out that's where it is.

Liener:

Oh, shake it right down.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Yes sir.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

A lot of 'em have to have made a lot of money like that, all that extra.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Oysters now bringing 4 or 5 dollars a bushel.

Liener:

How much?

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Four or five dollars a bushel.

Liener:

Oh, more than that.

Dodds:

More than that.

Liener:

Ya.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Boy that's a long way from 35 cents, ain't it?

Liener:

Ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Ya. I was shopping to make something with crabs, ten or twelve dollars, or something.

Liener:

The crabs shot up to 50 dollars.

Mr. Mc Daniel:

Damn!

Dodds:

Retail, ya.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

I like those soft crabs, but the ones they have that people bring around in little trucks, stick on the side to sell, they're so tiny. I've been used to going out like....

Liener:

Three and a half inches.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

Yes. My oldest son and I used to go out. I used to tell him "You go out, I'll be home later trying to catch on the housework, and I'd join him, maybe it'd be around lunchtime. Oh he'd have done caught I don't know how many hard crabs. Crabs were plentiful at that time. And when I'd get down there, he'd put the hard crabs in the box and sit 'em so that the water could kind of seep up in there for them. And we would go on around and start a soft crabbin'. Oh, we'd catch so many soft crabs that we wouldn't go back and get the hard crabs. Wasn't that terrible? It was that we used to catch so many of those things, nice large ones. And I used to put them in the freezer in the winter have all the soft crabs I want. And I

mean large ones, you know you dip down there, and sometimes you'd get up two or three.

Liener:

Now there's the grass that's all gone now, and you can't find them.

Mrs. Mc Daniel:

They used to hide in the grass, ya. But you had to be careful sometimes. You better not put your fingers down there because you weren't sure whether it was a hard crab or a soft crab. (laughter)

Liener:

You wouldn't like Sam Dyes. He could pick 'em out 25 foot away. He had a great big long handle on his crab net. Oh, ya. He could fly [?] faster than a horse could trot. You must have known him. Had that old grain boat, the Henrietta Francis.

End of Tape