

Interview with Hazel (Caulk) Larrimore 3/9/88. Present were Hazel, Richard Dodds, and Hazel's friend Elsie (Marshall) Jones.

Dodds:

...Coming here to St. Michaels.

Larrimore:

Any what?

Dodds:

The Floating Theatre.

Larrimore:

I remember when the Floating Theater came in here.

Dodds:

You ever go aboard and watch the....

Larrimore:

Oh, Ya. Went on it all the time.

Dodds:

Did you?

Larrimore:

It came in every year, over several years, and we went down. It was down on Long Wharf. And we went down there, and went on to go and see the play. Different play every night, then they gave her extra scenes.

Dodds:

Show after.

Larrimore:

And we'd stay and see the other play. Ya, we went to all of them.

Dodds:

Do you remember any of the plays that they showed?

Larrimore:

No, I don't remember any of the plays we saw.

Dodds:

What else did you do around here for entertainment? Did you go on picnics?

Larrimore:

Well, used to have picnics. You had school friends, and they had

parties, or you'd meet together, and just amuse yourselves. There was nothing else to do. You had to amuse yourselves. But we used to have a good time. 'Course then they used to meet around at different houses, and have pie socials, and play games, and those kind of things.

Dodds:

No television back then.

Larrimore:

No. No television. Well, they didn't even have radio. Well, we did have a radio towards the end.

Dodds:

How did you get to Easton? Did you take the train, or did you drive?

Larrimore:

Well, my sister, she married a farmer, and they lived out here. She wouldn't drive a car. They had a car, but she would never learn to drive, but she drove the horse. She used to take me to Easton. We would drive the horse and carriage.

Dodds:

Is that right? To Easton? How long would it take?

Larrimore:

I don't know. A couple hours. Maybe it was longer than that, I don't know.

Dodds:

You had to go through Royal Oak, too, back then.

Larrimore:

At that time we had to go through Royal Oak. It was a different road.

Dodds:

They did have the old bridge across the creek, but that was for the train.

Larrimore:

They didn't have the bridge on this end. We used to have a good time. we used to meet around different houses and play games, just parlor games, then they called them. We didn't know any better, so we just had a good time.

Dodds:

Did you go ice skating?

Larrimore:

And you had friends in, and all, more than you do now.

Dodds:

Ya. 'Cause everybody knew each other back then in town. Did you go ice skating at all?

Larrimore:

I never did. They used to go ice skating right down here, but I never liked ice. My father used to say that he was going to bring a cake of ice and put it behind the stove for me. My sister would go down there and stay all day and night. They'd skate at night. I'd go down, and stay 10 or 15 minutes, and I was cold. I'd come up.

Dodds:

Is that right? You didn't like the cold.

Larrimore:

I never was much for cold weather.

Dodds:

Did you do any sailing in the summer?

Larrimore:

No, I never. I used to go in bathing. I used to go down here. Used to have a rowboat. We used to go down here to Jack's Point, or one of those places. There was a nice sandy beach, and we used to go there to go bathing. The times change.

Dodds:

Ya, they do. Not always for the better, I'm afraid.

Larrimore:

I know we could content ourselves or amuse ourselves a whole lot more than these teenagers can do now.

Dodds:

I'm sure you could.

Larrimore:

We sure could.

Dodds:

Do a lot more with less money.

Larrimore:

Less money, that's the truth. The church at Easter time, the Sunday school at the Methodist church, where we went to church, would always have an egg hunt, and that went over big. They used to have

it right down here at the Willows. Hide the eggs, and come down there and find the eggs. Didn't take much to amuse you then, because there was nothing else to do.

Dodds:

The Willows was a boarding house, wasn't it?

Larrimore:

Yes, but at that time it wasn't a boarding house.

Dodds:

It was a private....

Larrimore:

It was private. 'Cause she belonged to the church, and she used to let 'em have the egg hunt down there.

Dodds:

Had a big windmill there, didn't they?

Larrimore:

Ya. Georgia Lee's mother owned that place for a long time.

Dodds:

It was a beautiful house. Then was it torn down, or burned?

Larrimore:

They remodeled it a lot, and added on to it. Not the same place.

Dodds:

Do you remember the other boarding houses around here?

Larrimore:

Well, there was one down to Claiborne. Crockett's had a place.

Dodds:

Maple Hall.

Larrimore:

Kemp's had one, Wade's Point. That was the biggest one around here at that time, I guess. 'Cause the girl that lived there, the Kemp girl, graduated in the same grade with me.

Dodds:

Oh, is that right?

Larrimore:

She used to drive up every day in a horse and carriage.

Dodds:

Dodds:

Probably you remember the little cove where the church is, before they filled that in. You know where the cove comes up? Where Christ Church is? The Episcopal church?

Larrimore:

I don't remember that.

Dodds:

The little park that's there now.

Larrimore:

I really don't remember that.

Dodds:

Church cove. They dredged that in the 1930s, I think. WPA dredged that.

Larrimore:

No.

Dodds:

Don't remember that.

Larrimore:

I know where that store was ... the road where the bank, and all the post office. They used to have a store there. 'Course it was changed when they built that.... The bank was on that corner, and when they moved uptown, it just went from one thing to another.

Dodds:

How about some of the people who used to live in town. Any characters you remember well?

Larrimore:

No, I don't.

Dodds:

It seems like, talking to people, there were some interesting people living in St. Michaels in the early years, that you don't get these type of individuals today.

Larrimore:

No, I don't remember them.

Dodds:

How about any of the old boat builders. We talked about Mr. Harrison. Did you know Chat Jones?

Larrimore:

That hasn't been too many years. I remember Doc Jones. I don't know where he is. Did he die? I know his wife was still living.

Dodds:
I don't know.

Larrimore:
I don't remember when.... I believed he died. I don't know. But they moved from St. Michaels.

Dodds:
Do you remember any of the Lambdins in town?

Larrimore:
Who?

Dodds:
The Lambdins. Robert Lambdin?

Larrimore:
Lambdin? Used to build boats?

Dodds:
Ya. Do you remember?

Larrimore:
I remember them. He was much older than me. He used to build boats when I was a child.

Dodds:
Where was he building them, do you remember?

Larrimore:
Down on Water Street. That's where his place was.

Dodds:
On Water Street. Ya.

Dodds:
Do you know any of the people who worked in the packing houses on Navy Point?

Larrimore:
No I don't. Well, I know some of them, but some of them are town people. Margaret Rude's a town person.

Dodds:
Ya. I gather they employed a lot of people from outside the town down there to work, when the packing...

Larrimore:
I don't know.

Dodds:
When the packing houses were busy at one time.

Larrimore:
I don't know anybody that lives over there but Margaret Rude. I know she lives over there.

Dodds:
Right.

Larrimore:
And the fellow that has the Crab Claw.

Dodds:
Jones?

Larrimore:
Ya. He has that restaurant over there. And he's a St. Michaels fellow.

Dodds:
Do you remember, where Longfellow's restaurant is....

Larrimore:
That is over at Long Wharf.

Dodds:
There used to be a beautiful house there.

Larrimore:
Ya, it is.

Dodds:
Was it Fairview?

Larrimore:
Fairview. My sister-in-law used to own Fairview.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Larrimore:
Sold it to Longfellow.

Dodds:
What....

Larrimore:

I think they sold it to Longfellow, or they sold it to somebody else, and it went to Longfellow. He was Caulk. Mr. Al Caulk, or Mr. George Caulk. Had twin boys.

Dodds:

That was a beautiful house there.

Larrimore:

Albert and Alvin.

Dodds:

You probably were in the house, weren't you?

Larrimore:

Ya. They lived there. Then they had a winter home over on Water Street. They must have still lived there.

Dodds:

That's the house she lives in now.

Larrimore:

That's the house she lives in. That was their winter home. But they used to move down Fairview in the Summer when they took boarders.

Dodds:

So they took boarders in there.

Larrimore:

Ya.

Dodds:

They used to have a windmill there, too.

Larrimore:

Ya. That was a pretty place.

Dodds:

That's where they did some of the filming of The First Kiss, the film; was made there, too. When did you marry your husband, Miss Hazel? When did you get married?

Larrimore:

I don't remember the year; 1911 I think it was.

Dodds:

1911, Boy that has been a few years ago. What did your husband do for a living?

Larrimore:

He had an oyster house and a crab house.

Dodds:
Here in St. Michaels?

Larrimore:
Down where you go around.... They tore his oyster house down not too many years ago. When you go straight on down and you make the turn to go around to where that hotel is that they built up in all that new part; well, his oyster house was on this side, on the water.

Dodds:
Oh, ok. Right at the head of the creek?

Larrimore:
Ya. Right up there.

Dodds:
Oh, ok.

Larrimore:
He just had people to pick crabs and shuck oysters in there.

Dodds:
How many people did he employ?

Larrimore:
I don't remember that.

Dodds:
Did you ever go down there?

Larrimore:
No. Very seldom. I wasn't interested in picking crabs or shucking oysters

Dodds:
Probably ate enough oysters and crabs, though.

Larrimore:
I never liked oysters.

Dodds:
Is that right?

Larrimore:
I love crab, But I never did like oysters. Never ate oysters.

Dodds:

How long did your husband have the business?

Larrimore:

Almost 'till he died.

Dodds:

Which was ... when did he pass away?

Larrimore:

Till he got sick and he had to give it up.

Dodds:

But when was that, Miss Hazel, do you remember?

Larrimore:

Times have changed.

Dodds:

Yes they have.

Larrimore:

Well, the granddaughter lives over in this house across the street. And this house are the only ones that belong to the original families.

Dodds:

Original families. Ya. 'Cause there are a lot of Caulks here.

Larrimore:

Now my Uncle lived in this next house across the street, next to Jackson's house, but he didn't build it. He bought it from somebody else and he lived there. He was a Lighthouse Keeper at Bloody Point.

Dodds:

That was where you went out to visit him one day.

Larrimore:

Ya. The times change, though. I mean all the people here, they're all strangers that have moved here. The people next door were strangers, and the ones next door, and the next door.

Dodds:

Newcomers, ya. Is there anything else, Miss Hazel, that you'd like to tell me or you remember about St. Michaels back in the early years?

Larrimore:

No. If you asked questions I might answer or something, but I don't know.

End of Interview