

Wingo, June audio only

OH 448

DOLDE: ... And just start out by saying this is Jennifer Dolde. It's Wednesday, July 14, 2021. I am speaking with ... by telephone. And Rose, your full name for us, please.

WINGO: [00:00:19] June Rose Wingo.

DOLDE: And your date of birth?

WINGO: [00:00:23] 7/9/'53.

DOLDE: Very good. Thank you so much. Well, like I said, I really want to start from the beginning and then move into your work on *Dove* and then even beyond. But let's start with where you grew up and a little bit about your childhood.

WINGO: [00:00:43] Oh, I grew up in Cambridge, Maryland... In the neighborhood... I was a latchkey kid. I roamed around a lot by myself [laughs] pretty independently. And just had to be home by the time the streetlamps came on.

DOLDE: What part of Cambridge? Yeah, of course, I grew up near there as well. I'm trying to place the community, the neighborhood.

WINGO: [00:01:30] I don't know. What's a qualifier?

DOLDE: Oh, I just meant the street or something like that.

WINGO: [00:01:37] Glenburn Avenue.

DOLDE: Oh, okay. Right. Yes. Very good. And were you an

only child?

WINGO: [00:01:45] No, I have ... did have two older brothers.

DOLDE: Okay. And what did your parents do for a living?

WINGO: [00:01:56] My mother was a medical transcriber. And
my father was a tool and die caster.

DOLDE: Okay, and they both worked fairly close to Cambridge?

WINGO: [00:02:14] Yes. They worked in town.

DOLDE: ... So you were a free roam child; latchkey kid. What
connection did you have, if any, to the water, to boats at
that point in time? Was that part of your roaming?

WINGO: [00:02:33] It was, definitely. My father bought me a
little aluminum rowboat when I was 11. And I was, from the
time I could get in the water with the boat in the water in
the Spring until I went back to ... it ... school,
basically, and sometimes even at after school and weekends,
I was rowing that little boat on the Choptank River. And I
kept the boat in a slip, where my father had his converted
crab boat into a little pleasure cruiser. He kept it at
the municipal dock, right in Cambridge at the end of High
Street. And so I kept my little boat there. And I would
row down to the Choptank River Bridge and have my crab net
and chicken nets. [laughter] And the only PFD I had wasn't
really one. It was the seat cushion. And [laughs] I
didn't have any water with me. I didn't have any food with

me. I was just out there and rowing around the pylons of the bridge over to the other side, over to Talbot County. And that was before the shore there, right at the bridge entrance on Talbot county... in Talbot County was developed. And it was just marshy. It was a marshy wonderland, where I could go up little... just little muddy inlets into the marsh. And then, I would get hungry and thirsty. And I was four miles [laughs] from [laughter] where I needed to be. And I [laughs] would just row back, many times in tears. [laughs] But it was great.

DOLDE: In tears because you were so tired and hungry?

WINGO: [00:05:12] Yeah. Yeah, and I had to keep rowing, I had to get home. [laughs] There was no cell phone, "Daddy, come get me." ... And they had no idea where I was.

DOLDE: Oh my gosh, and that is quite a distance and quite a deep river.

WINGO: [00:05:34] It was absolutely crazy. And sometimes, the wind would come up, blah, blah, blah. Anyway, I didn't keep the crabs I caught [laughs] because I felt bad for them. But it was fun. It was fun dip netting the crabs off of ... off the pylons. And yeah, having the chicken necks hanging over the [laughs] side of this little rowboat. So that was my biggest connection, I would say, the grandest connection that I had to the water when I was

growing up. And then, of course, when my girlfriends and I... well, one in particular, reached a certain age, where the estrogen kicked in, instead of going along the pylons, I would call my girlfriend and we would get ... she would bring her seat cushion. And we would row out to this place where we knew the boys were with our transistor radio; [laughs] battery powered. And sometimes we didn't find the boys. But sometimes we did. And they all had ... they were skiing behind their boats. And here we were rowing up in our little dinghy. But it was fun. And there was a beach on that point and where they skied off of. And ...

DOLDE: Was that the Dorchester side or was that over on the Talbot side as well?

WINGO: [00:07:24] That was on the Dorchester side. Yeah. Yeah, heading southwest from where... excuse me, where I kept the little boat... And the boat was ... the little boat was abandoned for driver's license.

DOLDE: Ah, yeah, yeah. So you went to local schools?

WINGO: [00:07:49] Yes.

DOLDE: And let's see. So that would have been the Cambridge High School that became the YMCA? Is that ... that's where you went to ...?

WINGO: [00:07:58] Correct. Yes.

DOLDE: It's where I went to middle school. [laughs] They

turned it into a middle school until it collapsed, [laughs]
literally on top of us, almost. And what were your other
interests? Did you like school? Were you interested in...
I don't know?

WINGO: [00:08:17] No, I was just interested in boys.

[laughter] I didn't have - I was not a lofty thinker.

DOLDE: Mm-hmm... What about ...?

WINGO: [00:08;29] [**I liked?**] sports. Yes, sports. Yeah, I
was in ... yeah, I was a three-season athlete.

DOLDE: ... So with brothers, dad, maybe your mom as well,
what were you guys, building things? Were you doing
projects? Were you a hands-on person with that kind of
thing at home or elsewhere?

WINGO: [00:08:53] ... Yeah, crafty in that my grandmother
taught me to crochet when I was young. And I like that a
lot. Yeah, so I did work on ... I'd find different crochet
patterns and work those up. And that turned into
crocheting string bikinis. [laughter] So yeah, and I did
some sewing also, but not a lot. And other than that, I'd
say ... I would say that I spent a lot of time going
through my mother's bookshelves. She was a Book of the
Month Club gal. And one of her clubs was paperback issues
of the 100 greatest novels and including *The Hunchback of*
Notre Dame and *Frankenstein* and *The Scarlet Letter* and

David Copperfield. And yeah, that's ... I can't really remember any of the other names. But we don't need to go into that. You don't want a transcript of a 100 ...

DOLDE: No, no. So you don't claim to be the most outstanding student. But clearly, reading is great ... the greatest way to [laughs] exploring different worlds anyway. So you were learning in that in that manner.

WINGO: [00:10:54] Yeah, I was a fantasizer, honestly. I would just ... I would get lost in the woods around Glenburn Avenue, heading out 343. I didn't know where I was. And that's when there were still woods that were parallel ... kind of, sort of parallel to route 343 going out of town out Cambridge, as well as getting lost in the books that I was reading.

DOLDE: And so growing up, I don't know how long your family had been in the area, whether they have a long history in the ...

WINGO: [00:11:42] No, they did not have a long history. My father moved. Yeah, we moved as a family for his work.

DOLDE: About how old were you, pretty young?

WINGO: [00:11:51] I was four. Yeah, yup.

DOLDE: So did you have a sense in ... of the community and its... ? Obviously, you were ... you knew about the water. You had your own explorations. But did you have a sense of

the maritime history, the history in general? That wasn't

...

WINGO: [00:12:09] No.

DOLDE: ... something that ...? Yeah.

WINGO: [00:12:11] No. Nope.

DOLDE: ... So we have you at high school. We have you rowing to find boys. [laughter] Tell me about what you did next. And then we'll work to how you connected with Mr. Jim.

WINGO: [00:12:31] ... So I had gone ... well, I decided I'm ... that I might go to college. And so there was no grooming for that. It was just, "Oh, I see people going to college. Maybe I should do that, or could do that". And so I put a deposit for application into Salisbury State. I don't know what it is now. But that's what it was then; and went to the beach, Ocean City, to make money so I could pay for college. And when I got to the beach... I worked for Phillips Crab House and and as a waitress ...

DOLDE: Which one was that? The one that's about the, what, 30th? 30th Street? Is that ... that's the original one?

WINGO: [00:13:42] Yes, yes. That was the only one then.

[laughs] Yeah. And I hooked up with a crew of kids that were my age that were either surfing or following surfers as ... with boyfriends or whatever. And so... I was hearing these adventures about people going to Hawaii for

the winter and Puerto Rico for the winter. And, basically, I'm not going to say just hanging out because it was [laughs] planting oneself in a community where you don't speak the language and you're not part of the culture, is a bit of work. And we were young. And we were just learning to cook for ourselves with different food and walking a lot to get what we needed for food. And also walking to the beach to watch people surf. And the folks that I was hanging with in Puerto Rico... Well, first of all, I just said, "Pardon me, fuck college. This is good [laughs] for me." [laughs] And so, I went with friends to Puerto Rico for a number of winters in a row. And I actually ended up having horses while I was there. I ... they were rescues. I paid 25 dollars for a horse and fattened up the horse. And sold the horse for 75 dollars when I left. I didn't have saddle. I didn't have a bridle. I would just wrap a rope around the horse's snout and have some little reins and take the horse down the hill every morning to the beach alongside the sugarcane field. And the horse would munch on sugarcane most of the day. And then I'd go back down and get the [laughs] horse and ride back home, up the hill. And so yeah... yeah, we were experimenting with vegetarianism and learning how to cook any, very cleanly. And that was a great switch to what I was used to eating as

a kid, which was just pretty much junk [laughs] and out of the freezer. And yeah, being latchkey, I ... potato chips, [laughs] pretzels, Coca Cola; yeah, not good. So anyway, yeah, that was really great to figure that out at age 18.

DOLDE: Had you had experience with horses? That seems like that came out of the blue.

WINGO: [00:17:54] Well, my first experience with a horse was a really great tree in the backyard of our house on Glenburn Avenue. It had this crook in it. It was a big tree. But one of the low branches had a really great crook in it, where I made a saddle [laughs] out of something, probably just a blanket, and reins around the vertical part of this branch. And I would ride that horse for hours. [laughter] It was a tree. I'm telling you, it w...

DOLDE: I have [inaudible] horse. [laughs]

WINGO: [00:18:43] I was fantasy ... i was a fantasy kid. So then in high school, after I got my license, there was a woman, whatever, a classmate whose family had a farm, down county. They had ... it was a working farm. And they had horses. But they weren't workhorses. And [laughs] I swear I don't even remember the woman's name the ... now, but ... my classmates name. She offered ... I don't remember how the connection happened. But she offered for me to come and exercise her horse. And I don't think I had any

experience before that, except for the tree horse. And so I would drive down there. And after getting a little lesson about brushing and saddling and bridling, I just go for a ride for an hour or two, and bring the horse back and put the horse away. And so that was my only experience before having these horses in Puerto Rico.

DOLDE: Well, it sounds like a fabulous experience. How many years did you do that, the wintering? You said about three years?

WINGO: [00:20:33] Yes.

DOLDE: ... And then at this ... and then in the summers, you were still working in Ocean City for Philips?

WINGO: [00:20:40] Yes, yes. And, that lifestyle, I ... that played out for me. And... somehow, I connected with some folks back in Cambridge that had a deli. And they asked if I might like to come and work in their deli. And so I said, "Yes." And meanwhile, I connected with some other folks that were living in a communal household. I'm not going to call it a commune because it was not. We all had jobs outside of the house. It was a big house. And I'm not going to say where it was because... It was in the Neck ... I'll just say it was the Neck district. Well, I guess I have to say where it was.

DOLDE: Is this friend that ... is this your friend Davis?

WINGO: [00:21:58] It was very near Richardson boatyard.
That's what I'm ...

DOLDE: Yeah. I ... Someone's already spilled the beans, I
think about it, so...

WINGO: [00:22:07] Oh, okay. All right, probably ... maybe
Catherine.

DOLDE: I have not been able to get in touch with Catherine.
I'm still looking for an email or a phone number. But ...

WINGO: [00:22:18] Oh, well, I have her physical address.

DOLDE: Okay, well, that would be helpful.

WINGO: [00:22:24] But that's another thing.

DOLDE: We can do that at the end. Yeah, I think she's w...

WINGO: [00:22:29] Well, probably not because we're gonna run
out of battery. [laughs]

DOLDE: Oh, okay. I think she works at the Smithsonian if
she's not...

WINGO: [00:22:38] I don't know. But we're getting off topic.
And I want us to stay on it.

DOLDE: Let's do that. Yeah.

WINGO: [00:22:43] Okay. So, this... I would walk my bike
through a wild area to get to Richardson Road. I think
that's what it was called because it was just ... the
Richardson clan was down there, to ride my bike six miles
into town to my ... to the deli job. And by walking my

bike through ... to Richardson Road, it cut off, I don't know, maybe a half a mile. Or it would be a mile total round trip. And so that's how I got to know the Richardsons. So that's the segue for that. And... at one point ... at some point, Fred Asplen got to know the Richardson ... Fred Asplen was also in the communal household. And Fred got to know Jim Richardson. And... Jim ... Mr. Jim invited Fred and I over to dinner. And that dinner was to ask us if we wanted to come work for him. And he was retired at the time. And [laughs] Fred and I just looked at each other and [laughs] said, "Yeah, of course, we will [laughs] come and work for you... or with you." And [laughs] so the folks at the deli at the de... who owned the deli were very sweet and got me a little carpentry kit together with a hammer. And I don't even remember what else. But yeah, that's [laughs] was how we connected with Jim Richardson.

DOLDE: What was the ... compelling to you about doing that? That's a very much a departure from what you had been doing before.

WINGO: [00:25:24] I don't think so at all. I ... m... it was following my desire to just ... for serendipity. I just didn't even think about it. It was, "Let's go," just like Puerto Rico and not going to college. Like, "Let's go."

It just was ... it was part of, very much a part of who I was of not needing to think about what was next and knowing that... [laughs] We were so bare bones financially. We just made it work. We weren't ... none of us in that I was associated with ... none of the people I was associated with were thinking about, "Oh, I need to buy a house," or "I need a better car," or "I need to climb some ladder of prominence," or... Oh, what's the word I want? I can't think of the word I want. Just a profession, having a profession, we were not of that mindset. And we weren't ... I ... [laughs] we got the label of hippies. But we were not hanging around smoking weed, at least I wasn't. And if there were drugs, [laughs] it wasn't much because we couldn't afford it. So... yeah, and there wasn't even that much alcohol, to tell you the truth. So... although on Friday afternoons, [laughs] well, I'll tell you that story when we get into the *Dove* and working. So anyway, I don't how I got ... oh, because you said it was a departure from what I was doing; maybe different, but no not departing from who I was ...

DOLDE: No, it does fall ...

WINGO: [00:28:21] ... as a soul ... a soulful person.

DOLDE: Did you know anything about him by reputation or only having met him previous to this?

WINGO: [00:28:34] Nope. Nope. Nope. Yup. [laughs]

DOLDE: Yeah. So what do you r...?

WINGO: [00:28:41] We learned about it as more and more attention was... he started getting more attention. Mr. Jim started getting more attention as he aged. And isn't that the way it goes? [laughs] Here I am, almost 70, and you want information from me from how long ago, [laughs] right?

DOLDE: Exactly.

WINGO: [00:29:16] [laughs] And so the same thing was happening to him. There were ... we were ... should I t... keep talking about what we started, what we did there at first or ...?

DOLDE: I'm trying not to interrupt your flow. You're flowing naturally and ...

WINGO: [00:29:35] Oh, okay. All right. So ...

DOLDE: I'll prompt you. I'll try not to interrupt.

WINGO: [00:29:40] Okay. Okay. So Fred and I said, "Yes." And we showed up. And Jim Richardson said, "Oh, you [laughs] need tools." [laughs] And so he had some tools that we could use. But very quickly, Fred and I realized that we needed to go find our own tools. And so one Fall, it may have been the first Fall that we were there, we decided to... We did some research and decided the place

to go was a tool barn in Jonesport, Maine. That's where the best old tools were to be found close to us, that where we could drive. And so... we did it. And we found some really great old tools that had not been scarfed up by collectors that kept them on a mantel. We needed tools to use; adzes, slice chisels, draw knives, mallets, caulking iron.

DOLDE: At that point, you knew what to look for? Or were you ... did Mr. Jim, give you an **[overlapping dialogue; inaudible]**?

WINGO: [00:31:36] We did know what to look for. Yeah, we learned a lot very quickly. You go into ... [laughs] we went ... you go into Mr. Jim's little shed. And there all these tools, lined up. And he would tell us ... he told us about the new steel not being as good as the old steel. And he would find ... he would get... steel springs from old trucks and cars and make his own blades for different tools out of, yeah, out of old, better, stronger steel that kept an edge when you sharpened it. So, yeah, the first things we worked on at the ... the first projects we had were restoring log canoes. And I don't know if log canoe races happen anymore on the Choptank. But they were then. And there were owners of these very antique boats that you probably know about being in a maritime museum of

... sure. We were working on **holes**, masts.

DOLDE: ... Do you remember ...

WINGO: [00:33:17] And then ...

DOLDE: ... any particular... ? Yeah, so the log canoe community is alive and well. Do you remember any particular boats... canoes ?

WINGO: [00:33:24] No, I don't. Nope. I don't. And we ... [laughs] it was unfortunate. We only got [laughs] invited ... here we are doing all this work on these boats. And we only got invited once to come out on a race. And I understand why; because there's some experience [laughs] involved in moving the... moving out the raking boards and knowing how to sail, first of all. So ... at ... but it was a lot of fun. And we got dunked a couple times. It was fun. Yeah, so meanwhile... the mainmast of the *Constellation*... sitting in the Baltimore Harbor was rotten. And Jim Richardson was asked and accepted the task of making a new mainmast for that tall ship. And we were there for that. And I ... this ... we don't even ... I don't know that anyone ever figured out what the tree was, what kind of tree it was from the west coast. But it was huge. It was ... no, I hope I'm not exaggerating. But I think it was more than six feet at the **base**. Lying down on the ground, it was more than six feet in diameter... or

tall, whatever tall. And it got floated by barge from Baltimore to Richardson boatyard. And somehow, the tractors and... yeah, somehow we got it situated so that we could work on it and start working on it. And I believe it ended up being 90-some feet long finished with a t... little **topmast** on... and you can find the facts on this one yourself. I don't remember those details. But it was pretty amazing having to square that up and taper it [laughs] at the same time to meet the specs for it working on that ship. So that was a long project. I don't remember, maybe six months. Have you talked to anybody else about that?

DOLDE: They have. And I'm not sure. You're exactly right, I can probably look up those details. But there's at least one other person who was around for part of that. But I think **he** may have been around the longest of this group.

WINGO: [00:36:43] Yeah. And you wouldn't have been able to talk to Bill [**Hanks?**] because he's gone now. But he came in on that. So there were three of us. And then, I'm not ... I can't remember if Westergard was in on that or not. But yeah, it was amazing. We did have to use chainsaws for the first cuts. But after that, we **popped** up, [laughs] well, I won't go into the whole process. But after that, it was axes and adzes for tapering this log, this tree into

a mast. But there's ... I'm sure there's lots of history about mast making that that museum has that ... we did it.
[laughs]

DOLDE: Right. Well ...

WINGO: [00:38:00] Well, we did have to use an electric plane at the very end. Yeah, we had electric planes going, so...
And ...

DOLDE: Well, getting into those kinds of tools, did you get direct instruction? Was it following by example? How did you acquire these these skills?

WINGO: [00:38:24] [laughs] We just did it. We learned by doing it. Jim Richardson was there. And he made sure that we knew how to be ambidextrous with our tools because he got more out of us [laughs] that way. We wore ourselves out, right-handed or left-handed. Yeah, so we all, in this, knew how to switch hands adzing. We did a lot of adzing. And once you get it, yeah, it's about... it was about learning. It was more about learning woodgrain than it was this skill of the tool because you could just rip all day long and wear yourself out if you weren't working with the grain of the wood.

DOLDE: Was he critical at points? How did he teach or what were his corrections like when you, I'm sure, made mistakes?

WINGO: [00:39:54] Uh-oh, my phone is beeping at me. I'm going to ... try to ... I don't think I can plug... I can put the phone back on the cradle and have it still be connected. But I'm going to try it if you...

DOLDE: Is there a speaker button?

WINGO: [00:40:18] If you go away, I will get back on the call by... with my cell phone. And I just can't promise what the connect... how... what the connection will be.

DOLDE: Well, we can try it. Yeah, if you have a speaker, you might be able to put it on the cradle and put it on speaker. I'm sure it won't be quite as ...

WINGO: [00:40:44] I am on speaker. And that's why the battery's ...

DOLDE: I see, okay.

WINGO: [00:40:48] Yeah. So I'm going to put it on the cradle now. If you go away, I will call back on my celly.

DOLDE: Okay. I'll stay right where I am. [laughs]

WINGO: [00:41:01] Okay. Here goes... Okay. So you asked about corrections. I'm sure ... and mistakes; I'm sure we made mistakes that were not critical. And so they went by the way. But we were pretty good at fairing out, well, especially on the mast. It's a simple process. But on a 100 foot, [laughs] almost a 100-foot tree, there were sometimes when we had to figure out what ... "Okay. Is

this tree going to move itself as wood does?" And I don't remember any details about that, honestly. But I know that that was a consideration of the wood still being alive and moving. So now when it came to working on the *Dove*, I remember making a huge mistake; well, a big mistake in measuring for [**hatch cover?**]. And [laughs] it had to be made over again. That's how it played out. I just ... It had to be made over. Anyway ... and Jim Richardson, he's, by this time, he's almost 80 years old. And I'm gaining more patience as I age. And so he was just very patient with us. And by that time, there were ... I don't know if you have the photograph of the crew standing by the hull?

DOLDE: I'm not sure I've seen that.

WINGO: [00:43:37] But I bet there were 10 of us and my dog.

[laughs] Jeez, I wonder how I could... First of all, I'd have to find it. I looked through my ... I ... packets of clippings and whatnot that I actually just went through this morning. And that photograph, it's not in there. But I think I know where it is. If you want it ...

DOLDE: Yeah, I'll ...

WINGO: [00:44:11] ... I'll try to somehow ...

DOLDE: ... [**overlapping dialogue; inaudible**] wonderful photographs. I'm always looking for more. A pic ... a photo of the group would be outstanding. And I have not

noticed that yet in my album that I have.

WINGO: [00:44:22] Okay. All right. Okay. So we did get to go see the mass be stepped in ... onto the *Constellation*... into the *Constellation*. Thirty feet of it was below decks; still is, I think. [laughs] That just was ... that blew my mind. It was just so big; and the crane, and yeah, it was pretty amazing.

DOLDE: But you were around as all the plans were being made for *Dove* because that was all in process before work actually began. So did you ... were you around when William Baker visited and folks from St. Mary's and all of that?

WINGO: [00:45:10] Oh, yeah.

DOLDE: What do you remember about Baker?

WINGO: [00:45:13] We... he was a highfalutin naval architect. We may have met. But I don't remember. And he and Mr. Jim just had to just hash and hash and hash. There were ... as in any building project, the, let's say, conflicts between architecture ... the architect, architecture, and builder, and building materials was very much present. And we heard about it. But it was just a little grumbling from Jim Richardson.

DOLDE: Do you remember any specific thing, areas where, I don't know, compromises were made or changes were made that

Jim... ?

WINGO: [00:46:19] Oh, many. But I ... the details are way, yeah, way, way gone. I was [laughs] ... I didn't know what I was doing. [laughs] And I wasn't a student. I wasn't. It was like, "Okay, well, what's next? And what do I need to do ... what tools do I need? And let's see how to do it." And I just fucking did it, [laughs] which wasn't ... I'm sorry, I'm dropping f-bombs.

DOLDE: That's quite all right.

WINGO: [00:46:59] But you're getting the real me. Okay. [laughs] Yeah, there ... I wasn't a student of ... I didn't have high ... once again, I was not looking for a career. I had a job. It was a job. It was amazing. For me to have had that experience at the age that I was, in my twenties, it just is... I have no regrets. And I had no aspiration.

DOLDE: ... Fair enough. What was the pay like?

WINGO: [00:47:48] ... Oh, boy... Well, I don't remember. But I do know that when we ... a couple of us kept going with St. Mary's City commission with their living history museum that they were building. And I remember going over there and getting 15 dollars an hour as a contractor; self-contracted, which meant that they didn't take anything out of my pay. And so, I'm going to assume that it was less

than 15 dollars an hour. But I don't remember. Does anyone else remember that you've spoken to?

DOLDE: Not ... quote unquote, not much was [laughs] what I heard. But quite frankly, anything approaching 15 dollars an hour sounds pretty good for that time period. But it's not important. It was enough, I guess.

WINGO: [00:49:02] Yeah. Yeah. No, we were thrilled. It was enough that we could afford for each of us to bring on Fridays... take turns bringing a six pack of beer so that after we finished, especially in the hot summer, that we could go sit in the water somewhere and float our beers and yuk it up and massage each other's shoulders. [laughs] So it was a great life, yup. Yeah, so...

DOLDE: Well, let's ... can we talk a little bit about some of the people that you worked with and the personalities and what you remember about... ? I know more than a few of them lived in that... the communal house. But what do you remember about your ... the crew?

WINGO: [00:50:13] We laughed a lot. And we worked hard. Couple people were over there working. I was working over there. And somebody else was working over... And even at lunchtime, Fred and I had a garden at the boatyard. We gobbled our lunch down and go work in the garden... We had a garden at home too. But [laughs] why not have a garden

at the boatyard and share food?

DOLDE: Absolutely. So ...

WINGO: [00:51:00] So we were ... yeah, we knew we had it ...
all I can really say about is that we knew we had a job to
do. Everyone pretty much loved what they were doing and
wanted to be there. And we joked around and laughed as
much as possible. We had fun. But we were serio...when
someone ... we were serious. We had to be.

DOLDE: ... Were there ...-?

WINGO: [00:51:40] It was a 60-foot boat. [laughs]

DOLDE: Yeah, abso... yeah, for sure. It's a big project.

Did ... were there certain people that did certain types of
jobs? Or did everyone do everything? And I'm sure you
know what I'm getting at. And I've heard, for instance,
you did everything everyone else did. But were there jobs
that the women, and I know there were just a few, working
on the project did that the men didn't and vice-versa or...
? What's your perception of that?

WINGO: [00:52:06] ... I think ... I don't think there was
much separation of that way of what you're getting at. I
know what I did. And there were guys doing that too.
So... it just depended on what was most pressing next and
how we would shift. There was a lot of shifting. There
had to be ...

DOLDE: Not s...

WINGO: [00:52:51] ... because there was a deadline. [laughs]

DOLDE: It wasn't necessarily structured in the sense that you had separate teams working on separate parts. It was fluid.

WINGO: [00:53:04] But we... it ... no, it shifted, for sure. Yeah. Catherine and I worked together on deadeyes for a long time... I don't know how long. But it was ... there were a lot of deadeyes. [laughs]

DOLDE: And that's Catherine Moore?

WINGO: [00:53:25] Yeah, and I worked for ...

DOLDE: ... Are you there? ... I may have lost you, June... Okay, well, that was my fault. [laughs] Can you hear me?

WINGO: [00:54:01] Oh. Yeah, yeah.

DOLDE: I have a rural Internet as well sometimes. Okay. So it just paused. [laughs] Very good. We're back. That's great.

WINGO: [00:54:12] Okay, I'll not move.

DOLDE: [laughs] I don't think it was you. I think it was me this time. We were talking about the other women you worked with.

WINGO: [00:54:26] Did you ... d... let's see, I did say that I worked the forge. Did you hear that?

DOLDE: Oh no. Okay, tell me about working. **the forge** That's

hot work. [laughs]

WINGO: [00:54:35] Well, it was a hand crank. And it was hot.

[laughs] We all had to learn what color red to have before we started banging on this metal to shape it and to put holes in it and whatever we needed to bend it. So yeah, that was a really good learning curve. But it was fun.

DOLDE: What parts were you working on? What were you working on in the forge, specifically?

WINGO: [00:55:18] Strapping, strapping for lots of different things. Yeah, I don't remember exactly what, probably, excuse me. You there?

DOLDE: Yes. I'm sorry. My computer just beeped at me.

[laughs] I thought I had [**overlapping dialogue ;inaudible**].

WINGO: [00:55:37] Okay... We fashioned every metal part on the boat; everything that you couldn't go to the store and buy, whatever. So yeah ... so that's what we did on the forge... There were some ... there was some ... metal ... I do remember this. There were some metal rodding, ro... R-O-D-D-I-N-G, that needed to be cut. And it was... Ray, what's the coating on metal that's toxic? It was galvanized. And I wasn't wearing a mask when I was cutting that. And I was so sick the next day, I couldn't go to work. It was really bad. I was ... I got poisoned on that one. But it was just a day. And there was probably some

hangover from that. But yeah, and who knows the long term?

I don't know. I don't want to know.

DOLDE: Well, sure. And you did it ... did you do that work again and use the mask or you never had to do it again?

WINGO: [00:57:12] No, I finished the job. Yeah, I worked it all. I did it all day long. I just cut rod with a torch. Yeah, but it was bad... Let's see ...

DOLDE: What, again, doing some of the... ?

WINGO: [00:57:31] I don't remember a... go ahead.

DOLDE: No, well, if you have something you were going to move into, that's fine. I'm ...

WINGO: [00:57:38] Yeah, yeah, I was gonna move into caulking and pouring pitch.

DOLDE: Perfect.

WINGO: [00:57:46] ... I'm pretty sure that Catherine and I were the only ones that were caulking. Fred might have done some of that. Oh, so you've probably talked to Bill Hanks. Yeah. Not Bill Hanks.

DOLDE: Bill Slacum.

WINGO: [00:58:06] Bill Slacum, yeah.

DOLDE: That was my next-door neighbor growing up. So I talked to him just this ...

WINGO: [00:58:11] Oh, jeez.

DOLDE: [laughs] Yeah, well, Dorchester County.

WINGO: [00:58:15] Yeah. Cool. Anyway... I think he was one of the more skilled people on the ... on that ...

DOLDE: I think he was about maybe ...

WINGO: [00:58:26] ... project.

DOLDE: ... 10 years older than most of the others.

WINGO: [00:58:30] I don't remember. Yeah, he was definitely older because he had... yeah, he had kids already, and yeah... Anyway, I think not everyone caulked. But Catherine and I did a lot of caulking and probably did the whole hull, at least twice because of how things shrink and how we had to just keep those seams filled.

DOLDE: Well David Westergard was saying that the wood was pretty green and really shrank probably more than it should've. Was that your observation as well?

WINGO: [00:59:19] Oh, yeah. Yeah. [laughs] In fact, I don't know whether he mentioned it. But Jim Richardson was ... I would say that was a stressful, very stressful point for him ... figuring out how... trying to anticipate how long it was going to take this hull to swell once it got in the water, and what he could put in the seams so that the leaking wouldn't be too bad, and how long electric bilge pumps were going to have to be in this hull before it finally swelled up enough and if it ever would. So that was tough for him. And yes, the planks were very green.

So [laughs] the seam [laughs] filler that he came up with, [laughs] I remember it was a dark Pepto Bismol pink. And he called it miracle whip [laughter] because he had never used anything like that before. And it was some newfangled product. It was not ... it was definitely not period.

DOLDE: You don't know what the material was?

WINGO: [01:01:07] ... No, it was something ... it was some kind of liquid plastic somehow that didn't ... that hardened enough, but not too much so that it could be taken out when it needed to be replaced; if it needed to be replaced. I don't know what ... I can't remember what the boat finally went in the water with. But I think it was the quote unquote miracle whip.

DOLDE: ... Well and it probably helped to hold the other materials that you put in front of it until everything **clicks** well. [laughs]

WINGO: [01:01:56] ... Yeah, I **don't** remember hearing about that from Captain Tom over in St. Mary's City once it got there. And I don't ... when we ... were able to sail the boat there, the crew members were ... our building crew was invited to go on the maiden voyage. And ...

DOLDE: Paul Hawkinson was telling me about that. Sounds like it was a good time.

WINGO: [01:02:31] Oh, yeah, we had a stowaway and everything.

DOLDE: [laughs] Wait, who was the stowaway? [laughs]

WINGO: [01:02:36] Who? Hmm. Well, I wonder if she wants to k... wants her name in this. I don't know. I don't know. I mean, I know her name. But I don't know that I should mention it.

DOLDE: Sure. Well, that's fair enough. I'm not ... no, that was not part of what he said. That's skipping ahead. But if you wanted to tell me about that voyage, that would certainly be fine.

WINGO: [01:03:07] ... Well, it was a one-and-a-half-day party, [laughs] basically. There was barely any wind, which is a good thing, probably. So we pushed along. I think the fastest we went, maybe, was three knots. Hmm, I don't know why that pops into my head. But I'm just going to say it. And maybe someone else could remember better... But yeah, we did it. We sailed it. And I think all of us would have been really disappointed if another crew was brought in to sail it after the work that we did on it.

DOLDE: Yeah, I'm sure it felt ...

WINGO: [01:04:12] I would have been, no, I would've been ...

DOLDE: ... like the culmination of years, frankly.

WINGO: [01:04:16] Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So going back to the work that the separation, I also know that Catherine and I were the only ones who ... well, since we were the

only ones caulking hull and deck, then we were the only ones pouring pitch into the seams on the deck. And we had ... there was a set of stairs that actually had a little landing before the stairs had to go in the other direction because it was so ... it was high up. We were on land in the boat shed under cover and jeez, I think the boat was probably got ... the deck was probably, I'm going to say, 25 feet in the air maybe because there's the ... there was the keel and the hull. And getting around the hull was the stairway. But so we couldn't ... Catherine and I could not have the pitch pot fire, which was a live ... a little live ... small, live fire on the deck because that would have been crazy. So we had it on the ground. And [laughs] you had to get the pitch hot and molten and run up [laughs] the steps and pour it into the seams. [laughs] So... I'm on pitch duty and pitch pouring. And there is a journalist, which were there were many of that ... coming and going on this project. There was a journalist standing on the landing of the stairway. I don't know if you can picture that. But here I come running up with this pitch pot. And he wants to ask me a question. And I'm still moving, I got to keep moving. And he said ... and the question was, "How has this work changed your life?" And I just said, "My sewing is a lot better," [laughter] and just kept going.

So [laughs] yeah, that was that for him. And there were just so many photographers. And they would say ... we'd be doing something, anybody doing something. And they would say, "Can you do that again?" [laughs] And we just started saying, "No, we can't do that again. But hang around, stay focused. And you're ... and you'll get something. You'll get something that you can print." [laughs] It was annoying, sometimes. We were just trying to work.

DOLDE: That was what I've wr... heard. But it does seem like Mr. Jim, at least to their faces, had patience with them and did what he needed to do?

WINGO: [01:07:57] ... Oh, yeah. Yeah, he would make fun of it later. He was a good soul. And it wasn't harmful. It wasn't a harmful thing that he would joke about these photographers or these journalists, so ... because we all felt the same way. We just we didn't understand their job. And they didn't understand ours.

DOLDE: Well, a lot of repeating, I'm sure, of the same information.

WINGO: [01:08:30] ... Pardon me?

DOLDE: You probably had to repeat ...

WINGO: [01:08:36] What did you just say?

DOLDE: He had to repeat the same information to people over and over again.

WINGO: [01:08:41] Jim Richardson did, yes. For sure. Yeah.

Yeah... So let's see, what would be next that would be ...
oh. Did anyone tell you the story about James Michener
visiting?

DOLDE: No, they didn't. I know that he was there. But I
would love to hear that.

WINGO: [01:09:08] ... Well, it really isn't much because he
and Mr. Jim were off, basically trading stories. I would
say that there was probably someone up and going on in the
storytelling. But Michener was there, basically to get
historical information about Jim Richardson's family
because he, eventually, used that information to interject
or formulate ... I should say, formulate his fictional
family in the book *Chesapeake*.

DOLDE: Yes... And do you remember ...

WINGO: [01:10:07] You there?

DOLDE: ... it was ...? You didn't interact with them. They
were ...

WINGO: [01:10:12] No.

DOLDE: ... was he arrogant?

WINGO: [01:10:13] No, no, no. No, no. I ... no. I
personally did not interact with him.

DOLDE: ... Your landline has sent ...

WINGO: [01:10:27] My phone's r... button ...

DOLDE: [laughs] Yeah, you're ...

WINGO: [01:10:29] The landline has recovered. [laughs] I'm not going to switch now.

DOLDE: Okay. Okay. We were talking about planking, so ... and working with a lot of really heavy timbers, steam bending. Tell me about some of the ways. How were you getting the big pieces into place, [pause] pure muscle?

WINGO: [01:10:54] ... Yes. I was a 185 pounds on a probably a 145-pound frame. [laughs] I was a 185 pounds. And I had a neck that looked like a wrestler.

DOLDE: ... You'd always been athletic, you said so.

WINGO: [01:11:24] Yeah, but I wasn't a bodybuilder. And this, working at the boatyard, starting the hardest work ... or I should say most physical, being first the mast for the *Constellation*; and then segueing pretty, pretty quickly into the work on the *Dove*. We went in the woods with Jim to find the keel for this boat. We cut the tree for the keel and put it on a log, a two-wheeled log carrier, single log carrier from down the Neck district, behind the tractor to bring it back to the boatyard and put it on the sawmill to saw the keel. And I worked the sawmill. I worked the dogs on the sawmill. That's turning the log [laughs] with, I believe, it's called a peavey. I can't remember what we called it. But yeah, it's a big bat with a h... with a

metal hook on the end; sharp metal hook that goes into the
... oh, I don't have to go into that. You guys know that
stuff. But ...

DOLDE: But honestly, yeah, it's of interest; it is, wielding
these things and...

WINGO: [01:13:12] Yes, it was brutish work. And I loved it.

DOLDE: ... So the tree was, what was the keel, the
material;... the wood?

WINGO: [01:13:28] I don't remember. I don't remember. I ...
m...

DOLDE: That's okay. We can ... I can find that out.

WINGO: [01:13:36] I want to say oak. But I don't ... I just
don't remember.

DOLDE: Well, just thinking about what would've grown locally
and honestly, even in that time period finding you know,
enough wood, were you actual... were you part of... ? The
other wood came from a variety of local mills as well; I
think Spicer, one in Easton. Was that ... were you part of
some of that gathering?

WINGO: [01:14:03] No, no. Nope. No, other people did that
research. Yeah.

DOLDE: The sawmill ...

WINGO: [01:14:11] And ...

DOLDE: ... I think it was a bit rickety.

WINGO: [01:14:13] [laughter] I don't think we had an [laughs] insurance policy either. [laughs] Yeah, yup, it was rickety. The tracks were ... the foundation for the tracks was less than sound. That's all I can say about that. We were lucky. We shored things up best we could. And I can't remember the name or the ... name of the engine, the motor that he had, but it was big. And the clutch on it was slippery. And Jim... he worked the clutch. And we did the grunt.

DOLDE: So it was a stationary engine versus a tractor?

WINGO: [01:15:24] ... Oh my God, this engine was huge. This engine was out of some big... I don't know whether it was a big truck or what. But no, no, no tractor could have handled the wheel, the saw blade on this mill.. It was big. I don't know how big was in diameter. But it might even still be there rusting into the ground.

DOLDE: [laughs] Could be, could be. And you were called the steam... the steam box or the steam setup as well?

WINGO: [01:16:05] ... I think that Jim ... Mr. Jim's son in law was involved with that. I was not involved with that. And I don't have a memory of it, except that I think that ... and I can't remember his name.

DOLDE: It was either Jim or Tom. There was a Jim Brighton.

WINGO: [01:16:31] ... I think it was Jim Brighton.

DOLDE: I think Tom ...

WINGO: [01:16:36] But I can't ... I'm not sure.

DOLDE: Tom was working more on other projects, I think in the other shed; Tom Howell.

WINGO: [01:16:43] Oh, yeah. Oh, right. Yeah. Okay.

DOLDE: ... Some of these questions are actually coming from the current captain of *Dove*, who lives and works with this vessel all the time. He was curious about special jigs, clamps, other techniques that you came up with, to put something together or to solve a problem. Can you ... do you remember any incidences of something or ...?

WINGO: [01:17:16] No. No, I don't. Nothing. No, I don't remember anything specific. But Jim Richardsson was a problem solver. And in that kind of work, yeah, you have to be. And he was. Yeah, that's why he had the fame that he does in the work that he did ...

DOLDE: Was he collaborating ...

WINGO: [01:17:48] ... one of the one of the reasons ...

DOLDE: ... with some of the other ...?

WINGO: [01:17:49] ... why.

DOLDE: I'm sorry.

WINGO: [01:17:51] Oh, yeah. He ... I would say that he probably collaborated most with Fred and Bill. What did you say his last name was?

DOLDE: Slacum. Slacum.

WINGO: [01:18:01] Bill Slacum, yes. Yeah, yeah.

DOLDE: And Fred had ...?

WINGO: [01:18:04] And maybe Westergard some because he was
p... Westergaard's pretty sharp.

DOLDE: Did Fred have previous experience with carpentry or
boat building or he just took to it?

WINGO: [01:18:21] ... Let me think about that... I don't
think so. His ... I think his... experience previous was
farming.

DOLDE: [01:18:45] ... And he was local. He had grown up ...

WINGO: [01:18:51] But ...

DOLDE: ... there as well, yes? Asplen is a ...

WINGO: [01:18:53] Yeah, but, yeah, he dropped out of Duke
University in the computer... tech department.

DOLDE: I don't know If you're willing to ... I'm ... we can
talk more about it later. I don't think I'm going to be
able to talk to him. And if there's anything you're
comfortable sharing about his background and his role, I
would certainly love that because I think everyone seems to
agree he was pretty important. So if you're able to share
some of that ...

WINGO: [01:19:27] Yeah, yeah. Well, [laughs] he was smart.
He was really smart. And... I wish that ... he gave me his

email address a while ago. And dammit, I forgot to write it down. I just ...

DOLDE: Oh, I have ...

WINGO: [01:19:52] ... don't write it down.

DOLDE: ... his email. I was able to reach him. And I said ... we can talk more about it after we're not recording. But I can provide that to you. I don't want to put any pressure on anyone. But I also want to honor his role in it to the extent that you would be comfortable sharing what you remember.

WINGO: [01:20:13] Yeah. If you're communicating with him, then I'm not going to...

DOLDE: Well, he's not ... he said he's not willing to ... he's not able to speak with me, at least unless he changes his mind. And that's ... he didn't give you a specific reason. But ...

WINGO: [01:20:34] Well, you know what? I don't need a specific reason to not talk to you about him either then. [laughter] Sorry. I have to honor his privacy. And if he wants to ...

DOLDE: Yeah, I was thinking more generally. But ...

WINGO: [01:20:50] So generally, I think whoever said, whoever you've spoken to, who said that he was integral in the project, is correct... And that's that.

DOLDE: ... Now were you there for the various ceremonies; the keeling, we talked about the trip down to St. Mary's. Do you remember ...

WINGO: [01:21:26] Yes, I ...

DOLDE: ... the events that were a big deal for you all?

WINGO: [01:21:29] I don't remember the events. And we were ... I would say most of us ... okay, I'll just speak for myself... I have been somewhat antisocial all my life. Does it have anything to do with how alone I was growing up and how I filled my life being by myself growing up? Certainly, I had friends and ... that I palled around with and all that stuff. But anyway... not to go too [laughs] deep into that, I stood back. I never needed to be in the limelight or want ... needing to be standing in front of the keel for the cere... I just ... that's not my thing. Plus... we were ragamuffins... We didn't have ... I didn't have any decent clothing. I was braless most of the time. I still am. [laughs] So, to answer the question, no, I don't remember the ceremonies. I was there. I have clippings from the from... when... from the c... from the laying of the keel, the ... when we... when it got motored around ... tended around to the Cambridge municipal dock for ... so we could rig it. And so ... and I was in, yeah, St. Mary's City. But I stood back.

DOLDE: I would be right there with you. So, your family, the community at large, since you were from Cambridge, from Dorchester County, do you have a sense of what the community's perception was of this project? Because I ... from the outside, Maryland and beyond, it was ... got a lot of attention. But locally, my sense is it may not have been quite the same perception about what was happening at the yard.

WINGO: [01:24:37] I think that's correct. Yeah. A few people knew. A few people showed up, my father.

DOLDE: Did people not know or what did they think was happening?

WINGO: [01:24:49] I don't know because I was not out in the community... I wasn't part of any other community organizations. I still am not. [laughs] So it's like I do my community work differently, more behind the scenes. So yeah, no... I have no idea. How the comm... pardon me?

DOLDE: Well, you all were living separately and living in one place and working together; that would contribute to a little bit of isolation from that.

WINGO: [01:25:32] Yeah. I'm still choosing [laughs] isolation. Anyway, well, what ha... I'm just going to say ... I've just used the word incestuous with our socializing. We socialized with Bill Slacum. I do

remember that,, just going over to his place to be with his family. I don't remember where Westergard was living, but... And there were some other people... Yeah, and Bill **Hanks**, there might have been someone living with Bill that was on the project. I don't remember, just as a place to ... [**stakes?**] for the project. Yeah. My memory of ... and the family that ... the ... we spent time with the Richardson family. But it didn't ... our sphere was really small, mine was. I don't know about anyone else. And so... unless other people that you're speaking to have knowledge of how the community talked about it or ...

DOLDE: [**overlapping dialogue; inaudible**] a little of that.

The sense that I'm getting is that they didn't really understand what was going on. They thought it was an odd little project with Mr. Jim and his hippies, which he said fondly. And I'm not sure whether they did that. I was curious whether other boat builders or other waterman people who ... boats were their trade and their... what they were ...

WINGO: [01:27:37] No, but ... yeah, but I'll tell you; if I was a waterman at that time, I ... my guess [laughs] is that they probably thought it was folly. But that's just my opinion, being I ... I'm **net** right now I'm living a stone's throw from people going out fish every day for

lobster. So I know who those people are. And they're tight. They're very tight and very strongly opinionated and wonderful people. The families are amazing. And the work that they do is amazing. But there's not a lot of **flux** in the life of a person who makes their living from fishing... It's hard work. And, yeah ...

DOLDE: I'm going to ask you ...

WINGO: [01:28:55] So ...

DOLDE: ... oh, go ahead. [laughs]

WINGO: [01:28:58] Go ahead. No, go ahead.

DOLDE: Well, I'm just going to say, I'm going to asking you this partially tongue in cheek and we'll see if we can get past the laugh. How did working on this project change your life [laughter] and impact the rest of your life? I know about the sewing, [laughs] but [laughs]...

WINGO: [01:29:20] Well, I ... I'm ... I moved right into... I moved across the Bay to St. Mary's City. And... they needed people who knew how to use... The St. Mary's City commission, I call them hysterians, [laughs] get it? Right?

DOLDE: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

WINGO: [01:29:50] Historians? Okay... They needed people who knew how to use the tools because they didn't want ... or at least were willing to figure out how, to use the tools,

if we didn't know if there were different tools for the ground project, rather than the **flowing** project. So [laughs] they grabbed us right up. And we were willing. Jack Krolak, have you spoken to Jack?

DOLDE: I have left a couple of messages for Jack. And I'm pretty sure it's the right number. And I've not heard back, so...

WINGO: [01:30:37] Yeah, okay. Yeah. Okay.

DOLDE: I don't know if you speak with him. And he was the ...

WINGO: [01:20:40] No, I don't. No, I don't. Anyway ...

DOLDE: Jack went. Who else?

WINGO: [01:30:47] A bunch of us ... who else went with over to the eastern shore ... the western shore?

DOLDE: Mm-hmm.

WINGO: [01:30:54] I think it was just Jack, Fred, and me. And then we were able to put together a crew of a couple other people that were willing to do that work.

DOLDE: And you were building some of the structures that they then put into their living history?

DOLDE: [01:31:15] Yeah, yes, that's exactly what we were doing, yup, ... barns, yeah, well, one barn. Well, Fred and I went over early and did restoration on a slave quarters, which was very interesting. Yeah. Anyway, and

that ... then after that, the rest of the project started to form, starting with... a tobacco barn and then a larger, I'm not sure what they called it. It was more like a meeting house slash, I don't know, it was big. It was a big building. And it all ... and it had to be all post and beam, all hand hewn.

DOLDE: ... And that felt like a natural progression to you? It's not the same as building a boat. But I'm sure there's similarities.

WINGO: [01:32:36] Once again, [laughs] I was hip and free. And that was a pretty hip thing to go to. [laughs] Once again, not a lot of thought. I just ... it was an opportunity. It was serendipitous. And I went for it.

DOLDE: Were you at all drawn to the preservation, the heritage? Was that ... was not one of your motivating factors necessarily, or was it?

WINGO: [01:33:08] Not at all. No.

DOLDE: Okay... Well, I want to do just the ... a sketch of what you did beyond that. But is there any other reflections on Dove or Mr. Jim's legacy that you might want to add before we move on to what you did, and the many years after that in summary form or... ?

WINGO: [01:33:35] ... No. And I don't know how much I want to go into my personal, beyond that, really. I... Okay,

I'll do it. [laughs]

DOLDE: No, I mean, I know, for instance, you built your ... you built the home you live in. I'm interested in, specifically in ways that those skills that you acquired, how they ... it translated and you used them in the rest of your life and all.

WINGO: [01:34:13] Okay. I would say I have brought certain skills with me from that ... those projects. But I was not hot to go to the west coast, where another replica was being built. [laughs] And some people were. Some people were hot to do that. I can say though that I did take breaks from St. Mary's City in the winter. And I did go to California. But it was for different reasons. I was interested in the healing arts without pharmaceuticals. And I still am. But ... so I went and served at a... an institute for healing without medicine ... without medicines using live foods and wheatgrass juice and all that hip... all that other hippie dippie stuff. It was serious. It was a serious ... it was serious work and serious healing. And some really sick people came through and it changed their lives. So in following with the vegetarianism of ... learning about vegetarianism and studying that in the Puerto Rico years and then taking it a step farther... [laughs] It was funny. These really

elderly women would show up from Hollywood. [laughter] And they would have canes. And by the third week of exercise class, they were not using their canes. It was great. Just three weeks of cleansing the joints and everything else ... so I won't go into that. But so I did go back and forth from St. Mary's City to this institute in California for two winters. And... when I was in California, I met the father of my son and... decided to stay there... And I was ... so I was in California for a while; not terribly long. I actually returned to Cambridge, Maryland when my son was a toddler, as a single mom.

DOLDE: Yeah, yeah. You worked at St. Mary's for several years, about ...

WINGO: [01:38:05] Yes. Yeah, Yeah, probably, I'm going to say, three years I was there. And then there was ... there wasn't anything else to do there ...

DOLDE: Yeah, so back ...

WINGO: [01:38:21] ... for me anyway.

DOLDE: ... to Cambridge for a certain period of time. And you've been in Maine for quite a while though?

WINGO: [01:38:31] I have been. I moved to Maine in, let's see, 1988.

DOLDE: ... So ...

WINGO: [01:38:44] ... And I met my now husband in 1990... And

I did not build the house I live in. He did [laughs] in the '70s. So yeah, he's been here a while.

DOLDE: Okay... But you're still ...

WINGO: [01:39:09] I did ... I skipped a pa... I skipped a piece. When I went back to Cambridge after being in California. I studied massage therapy in Washington, DC. And I commuted for that two-year course and lived in Easton in the apartment of a converted wing of one of the really old houses in Easton. And I rent traded. I painted the entire exterior, scraped and painted [laughs] of the house I was living in so that I could afford to ... afford massage school... Yeah, and be a little closer than Cambridge to DC for the commute. And when I graduated from massage school, I started working my way to Maine, trying to figure out where to set up a practice, where there weren't a million massage therapists. [laughs] I'm being silly now.

DOLDE: Well, Maine was little.

WINGO: [01:40:52] But they ... it was... pardon me?

DOLDE: Maine was the place you wanted to settle because you had been there? I know you had been there [**overlapping dialogue; inaudible**].

WINGO: [01:40:59] No. I tried a couple ... I tried living in a couple different places on my way here, just to see what

was going on. And this is with a child [laughs] in tow as a single mom. Yeah. And pla... there are places that I just couldn't ... that just wouldn't open up for me or I couldn't get ... I couldn't open it up for myself, I guess. I'm ... it's not the place's fault. I just couldn't figure out how to open it up for myself. And... I finally landed on Mount Desert Island in Maine, where I was able to set up a practice... And then after meeting my soon-to-be husband, I moved to ... my practice to where we are now in a studio building that was already there. So it was a perfect office setup on the property with it not being in our very small house, so yeah... And w... and my husband and I are cut from a similar cloth. He's a little older than I am. But he's a do it yourselfer and an artist, a sculptor, and a gardener. And so we're a good team.

DOLDE: Sounds like it. So you try to live off of the land as much as possible. And ...

WINGO: [01:42:53] Oh, absolutely, yeah. Yeah, we have a hu... a really big vegetable garden... It's [laughs] too big. But it's too big when we're doing it. But when four freezers are full, then it's not too big anymore.

DOLDE: Absolutely. And cost-effective and more nutritious and ...

WINGO: [01:43:20] Cost-effective? I don't know about that.

I'm not sure about that.

DOLDE: Well ...

WINGO: [01:43:24] No, seriously. The ...

DOLDE: Your time, certainly.

WINGO: [01:43:26] ... Pardon me?

DOLDE: I said your time certainly is ... has value. So the
time you put into it is ...

WINGO: [01:43:35] Time, we had to put up an eight-foot deer
fence two years ago. That was hundreds of dollars; seeds.
The seeds ... prices of seeds are going up. We try to save
as many seeds as we can for ourselves. And then, because
of climate disruption, we are experiencing different
insects as pests than ever before on plants that we have to
... or choose to spend more money on, biological solutions
to those problems than chemical solutions. So yeah, it's,
yeah ...

DOLDE: I'm right there with you. [laughs]

WINGO: [01:44:27] W... yeah... we probably do spend less
money on food than we would if we were buying everything we
get out of that garden. I don't even know that we could
buy the amount, even through a C... the CSAs that are
happening locally. And we certainly wouldn't get the
choices that we have by growing our own food.

DOLDE: ... Well, as ... I think we can wrap up the recorded

portion. But is there anything else you wanted to add
about *Dove* or Mr. Jim?

WINGO: [01:45:15] ... I don't think so.

DOLDE: I'm going to stop the recording.

WINGO: [01:45:23] I'm a little ... I [laughs] have not spent
this much time on the phone for I can't tell you for how
long.

DOLDE: It's very tiring.

WINGO: [01:45:34] I don't know that ...

DOLDE: It's very tiring.

WINGO: [01:45:36] I'm tired. Yeah. So yeah ...

DOLDE: We're ba...

END OF AUDIO FILE