

OH 81 s1 EDIT

Q: -- her?

A1: Yes, [inaudible]

Q: Okay.

A1: I'm going to turn this light on because... Anyway, those other rooms are [inaudible]. That's...

Q: He was born February 19, 1864 on Kent Island. So he lived there all his life.

A1: All his life.

Q: Yeah. Okay.

A1: And you can see on his obituary he was a boat build.

Q: Right, right. And he died September 13, 1937?

A1: [00:00:45] He was 73.

Q: Okay.

A1: [00:00:47] He died on my oldest daughter's birthday.

Q: [Boat builder?]. Now, tell me a little bit what you know about the boats that he built and about his career.

A1: [00:01:07] Well, he built one boat they called *The Great Northern*. Do you remember that?

Q: No.

A1: [00:01:15] No, I guess he [inaudible]. Because he's a spring chicken. [laughter] But he brought... It was a real big boat.

Q: Was it a [inaudible]?

A1: [00:01:31] It was a [inaudible], I think.

Q: Skip Jackson, that was Skip Jackson.

A1: [00:01:38] Well, he built a big boat for [Mannix?]. Mannix used to haul tomatoes to [inaudible]. And my father built him a great, big sailboat. And he had to take I to [inaudible] [Baltimore?] to get the mast and everything in it. He really... I don't know the names of the boats that he built because he built so many.

Q: He must... Sound like he built a range of boats and quite large ones to fairly small ones that...

A1: [00:02:10] Yes, he did.

Q: Okay.

A1: [00:02:11] Yes, he did.

Q: Where was his boat shop, Mrs. [inaudible]?

A1: [00:02:14] From down to little creek right where my... [On my brother's, his side?]. Had you ever been down there?

Q: Down by... Down [Dominion?], right?

A1: [00:02:21] Yes.

Q: Okay, on the left-hand side if you come down?

A1: [00:02:23] Uh-huh.

Q: All right. So that's... That boat shop is there now is the same boat shop?

A2: [00:02:28] No. No, in other words --

A1: [00:02:30] Oh, no, my father's is not there. Oh, no.

Q: Okay.

A2: [00:02:32] The one that she's talking about was, it was...  
I think he built most of them [inaudible].

A1: Yeah.

A2: [00:02:37] I think his shop was just a place to store  
parts.

Q: Right.

A1: Yeah.

A2: [00:02:40] And that was right on the corner, just before  
you get what used to be a little store there that used to  
be Thompson's store, [inaudible] Thompson owned it. Years  
back it belonged to, oh, [inaudible] Jones's [inaudible]  
Jones's store. I think Harry Jones's store back in the  
time --

A1: Yes.

A2: [00:03:02] My grandfather was [inaudible], real close to  
inheriting the store. So right alongside of Chester, what  
used to be Chester Service Station, years, ago, the gray  
building there that, right now, I'd like to restore  
antiques and whatnot there. There's nothing [inaudible]  
home there now, and the shop, the shop is still there that  
was used for a tool shop.

Q: Oh, it is still there?

A2: [00:03:25] Yes, it is. It was used by my uncle later to carve decoys, you know or [inaudible] Thompson. And her younger brother used to carve decoys.

Q: How far is the shop from the water [inaudible]?

A2: [00:03:41] Oh, this is probably within a thousand feet from the nearest river.

Q: Okay.

A2: [00:03:45] So the boats had to be carried, wherever possible, with the use of [inaudible] [parts?] that were nothing more than axel and wheels [inaudible].

Q: Right. That's how he got them down to the water?

A2: [00:03:57] To get to the water and [overlapping dialogue; inaudible]. Don't you think so? Probably mules and these old golf carts.

A1: [00:04:01] My lands --

A2: [00:04:02] Like axels.

A1: [00:04:04] It's not like it is today. It was... And you know what I used to do? I used to go down and pack his lunch. And he was having trouble with one knee. And it would hurt him so bad when he got down on his knee because he worked all of Friday, not on boats, but he worked on a Friday, and he died on a Monday.

Q: Is that right?

A1: He worked right until he died, really.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A1: [00:04:33] And I used to go down and lay on my back, when I was girl, and take and putty the nail heads.

Q: That was your --

A1: [00:04:44] And he was so tickled. He said, "I didn't make a better job than you did," because I would just lay there, and I put that putty down.

Q: That was your job, was it?

A1: [00:04:55] That was... I used to go down, take his lunch. And I'd stay down there and help him all I could because he was a good daddy.

Q: So he built the boats... Most of his boats were built right near that tool shed, then, and then launched... Taken down?

A2: [00:05:08] Yeah, I'm not sure about just because of my age. In other words, I know he built some boats there. And the last log canoe that was built on Kent Island was built by him, and my father helped build it. And that was built for [motor?]. That was built for Jack Baxter. And I don't know the name of it. The name is available. It should be available.

Q: I came across this article, which I was going to talk to you later, but it does mention that canoe. Well, it does say that she was the last canoe built on Kent Island. And

I'll go back to it in a little bit, but something like  
*Isabella* or something like that.

A2: [00:05:42] Yes, it was *Isabella*, I'm pretty sure.

Q: Was something like... Yeah. It mentions the name in here  
somewhere.

A2: [00:05:50] It may have been built for Jack Baxter's father  
because Jack's sister was named *Isabella* and is still  
living.

Q: Oh?

A2: [00:05:57] She is... She's married to Harry Porter, who  
was the captain of the governor's yacht for years and years  
and just retired. She's still living. And this boat was  
named after her, the *Isabel*.

Q: *Isabella*, in the 1920s, last log canoe on Kent Island.  
This was a article, I'm sure you've seen this, was Kent  
Island base. This was on Lem Thompson. Is that your --

A2: Yeah, my father's name was Lem Thompson. Now, it was  
Lemuel Alexander Thompson, yes.

Q: Okay. It mentioned that it was Lem, Captain Lem Thompson's  
father who built the *Isabella*.

A2: [00:06:35] Yes.

Q: So that would actually be Joe Thompson then we're talking  
about.

A2: [00:06:38] [inaudible] Thompson. This is Alexander

Thompson.

Q: Oh, okay. It doesn't say who she was built for, but it does --

A2: [00:06:46] She was built for the Baxter family. I suppose it may have been built for the old man, [inaudible] Baxter, but Jack Baxter wound up with the boat. And Jack died about a few years ago. He was well into his eighties, and he died.

Q: So he died... Your father built the last log canoe on Kent Island. That's interesting. Yeah.

A1: Yes.

Q: Do you know what happened to her? Is she gone now or --?

A2: [00:07:10] I think she was sold. I'm not sure whether she was sold for a sailboat. She's probably still in existence. I can trace it because my uncle, Joe Buck... Joe Baxter, which is Jack Baxter's brother, so and Jack... Joe Buck may have known what happened to it, I guess.

Q: You figure it out, we'd be interested to know, yeah.

A1: [00:07:31] Well, I never knew what became of *Great Northern*. Do you?

A2: [00:07:35] No, I don't know whether it still exists or not. Did he have... On the *Great Northern*, did he have any specs on it? In other words, did he draw drawings or anything that was --

A1: [00:07:44] Oh my lands, it was a bit boat because when he used to take me out in it, we would go out fishing, and my lands, it had great, big... What do you call them, [washboards?]. And I used to lay up there on the washboard.

Q: Is that right?

A1: [00:08:05] I used to go around a lot with my father because he... See, my mother died when I was seven years old. And then I used to even wash his feet and everything, [inaudible]. And when I got married, he like to had a fit.

Q: I'm looking at a picture of your father here. He has very powerful looking hands, very large hands.

A1: Yes.

Q: I guess that comes with the trade, I'm noticing.

A1: [00:08:39] Yeah. Well, look, I'm crippled with arthritis, but I have large hands because you'd be surprised the work that I do. I paint these walls. I cut grass, and I spay around, plant flowers. I do it all. I painted all my walls.

Q: Looks good.

A1: [00:09:05] I painted upstairs. I do it all myself.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A2: [00:09:10] It's nice that, you can get your age... I don't know what age you are. You're over 35.

A1: [00:09:15] I'm 83. I'll be 84 years old [inaudible] 12<sup>th</sup> of July. I'll be 84. But I don't think work hurts people. I don't. Because I do so much of it. [laughter] I move furniture. I move refrigerators. I do it all.

Q: Here is a... I don't know. I don't know if you remember this boat. This was the one that we have in the museum. She's a log canoe, but she was built for power. Let's see what we have.

A2: [00:09:52] I've hauled that boat many times --

A1: You have?

A2: [00:09:53] -- because I was [overlapping dialogue; inaudible]

A1: Oh my lands.

Q: Built around 1908, as far as we know.

A1: [00:10:00] I was built... I was born 1907. [laughs]

Q: So you probably wouldn't remember this one. [laughter]

A1: [00:10:11] This picture, my niece had that picture, and she thought that I should have it. And look how it's falling to pieces.

Q: Oh yeah.

A1: [00:10:18] I think, had he been about 126 years old he'd have been living.

Q: I see he has a big mustache there.

A1: Excuse me.

Q: So you you've hauled this boat a number of times.

A2: [00:10:32] Yeah, we have a railway there that is [inaudible]. And when [inaudible] had the boat, it was a [inaudible] boat [overlapping dialogue; inaudible]

A1: [00:10:42] This picture, this picture --

A2: [00:10:44] And we used to haul it for him at that time, you know. I had the good opportunity to talk to Delbert several times before he died. He was in the nursing home at Foster Hills. My wife worked there. And I used to go visit Delbert. And he used to tell me some of the things. I wish that I had carried this tape recorder with me.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A2: [00:11:04] And because it was things that won't be lost on Delbert. And Delbert was very knowledgeable.

Q: Is that right?

A2: [00:11:10] [inaudible] years ago.

Q: Yeah.

A2: [00:11:12] He's only been dead about a year.

Q: Is that right?

A2: [00:11:15] He died just about a year ago.

A1: [00:11:18] This is my mother and father. That's... That was over... That's over a hundred years old.

Q: Oh, that's a nice picture. Yeah.

A1: [00:11:25] And you know my nephew. Catita, Texas, that's

where. He's a Marine from Texas. And he... I got a nice Christmas card from him. He says he'll see me in February. And he works with the Marines, and he's a teacher in the Marines. And he'd taken that old picture. It was falling... I was afraid to pick it up because I was falling to pieces.

Q: Right, yeah.

A1: [00:11:54] And he'd taken and made three or four of them.

Q: Copy, yeah, that's good.

A1: [00:11:58] Well, I give them to my children.

Q: Yeah, that's a nice picture. Well, she was a pretty mother.

A1: I --

S2: [00:12:09] Her mother was a [Cree Indian?] [inaudible].

Q: Is that right?

A1: [00:12:11] My mother was [Indian?], so I'm Indian, so...  
[laughter]

A2: [00:12:14] She was a Cree from... The grandfather [Tully?] migrated from England.

A1: Yes.

A2: [00:12:22] And Tully went to Canada and married a Cree Indian squaw. And then they moved to the western shore, from the western shore to what is now Johnson's Island. And that was [overlapping dialogue; inaudible]

A1: [00:12:35] That's where my father first lived.

Q: Okay.

A2: [00:12:36] Joe Thompson's wife's mother, that was a Cree squaw.

A1: [00:12:41] And my land, she was the nicest person. I think maybe I have some of her traits because I'm great at baking pies and stuff. And you know, my grandmother, my mother's mother, when we'd go see her, she says, "Here's my babies coming." And she'd have open the cupboard up, and there was pies --

Q: Well, no wonder you have so many family visiting you, if you're great at baking pies. [laughter]

A1: [00:13:13] My lands, I made four at Christmas, and I made six cakes. But if you had stopped last week, I had some cake left.

Q: Oh, came at the wrong time. [laughter] [inaudible] your father's name was Alex, Alexander too?

A1: [00:13:28] Alexander.

Q: Okay, was he the one that restaurant down at Pennyworth Farm? I can't remember the name of it. They just made a restaurant out of it two or three years ago. It was originally Pennyworth Farmhouse, and cannot think of the name of the restaurant. Maybe you have been there along the... It's at Thompson Creek?

A2: [00:13:47] Mm-mm, yeah.

Q: It was owned up until about 1894, 1895 by an Alexander Thompson. It was given to him by, I think his mother. And I don't know whether or not his... My great grandfather or great-great-grandfather and your --

A1: [00:14:05] Well [inaudible] in your great-grand --

A2: [00:14:07] It would have been my great grandfather, I guess, if it had been the same one.

Q: Mm-hmm.

A2: [00:14:12] But I do know that Joseph Thompson, who's... He was Alexander Thompson's father, was Alexander Thompson.

A1: [00:14:17] Yes, Joseph Alexander was my --

A2: [00:14:19] Was he Joseph Alexander too?

A1: [00:14:20] My father, Joseph Alexander.

A2: [00:14:22] No, his father.

A1: [00:14:23] His father was named --

A2: [00:14:25] Alex. They called him Alex.

A2: [00:14:26] Let me see. I may have a... Because my nephew was writing a book, writing a family book.

Q: Family.

A2: [00:14:38] Uh-huh. And he said he's going to give me one when he gets them finished.

A2: [00:14:42] He lived on the shore of Crab Alley, Alex did --

A1: [00:14:44] Yes.

A2: [00:14:44] -- in the old house that Alfred Thompson used to live in.

A1: [00:14:47] Yes.

A2: [00:14:47] You know, from what I understand. And I was wondering if some of these boats might have been built back then, back in that road where he --

A1: [00:14:54] Probably they were.

A2: [00:14:55] They all... They'd have [inaudible], and shove them down the back and then crab out.

Q: Right.

A2: [00:14:58] There's a very good possibility that they were built there or at [Less?] Thompson's Railway, which was just a few houses or two houses over. There was a railway right by [inaudible] to Alex, Joseph Alexander's father's house. There was a... An old railway there. There's a possibility that they may have been even built back in there.

Q: Yeah, huh. Well, the one we have has the name *Alberta*, which I don't... Whether you remember that or not. Apparently, the name *Alberta* came from the... One of the owners, man by the name of Phil, Phil King, who was apparently a Black man, one arm. Does that ring any bell?

A2: [00:15:43] The name is not familiar, no.

Q: No? Okay. A lot of this information, we don't have that

much information, but it did come from [Delver Baker?]. So we did get some information.

A2: [00:15:53] This is the boat right here, isn't it?

Q: That is the boat right there, yeah. Some of the owners were Leeroy Smith, John Gardener, Bill King, and King, it was King's wife. Her name was Alberta, and that's where the name came from. But we have a date of about 1908 for the boat. It's interesting how she was built. Her hull is almost like a sailing canoe, but she was built... She never had a [inaudible] in her.

A2: [00:16:22] Oh, she never had a [inaudible]?

Q: Never had [inaudible] slot in her.

A2: [00:16:25] I was wondering if she had been opened up [inaudible] and allow put in the middle of it. In other words, my father used to do that. He'd done it to a boat called the *Wade Hampton*. The *Wade Hampton* was built by [Trav?] Thompson, which was Joe Thompson's older brother, my grandfather's older brother. And my father put [inaudible]. It burst the canoe right down the middle. And so they put a log in the center of it. And they don't use the center board. [inaudible] for motor at this time. And they enlarge the boat that way. Now, that was done to several boats. I was wondering if it was done to this boat.

Q: We think that the hull, all the logs in the hull are original to her, that it probably was not done. That she was --

A2: [00:17:05] It was probably... It was built for motor.

Q: It was built for motor, which is very likely about 1908.

A2: [00:17:10] Absolutely [inaudible].

Q: But she's interested because she's right at that changeover point where they would start building the sail and building her motor, but they built in the old-style hull, the old-style [inaudible].

A2: [00:17:23] I have the balance of a boat called [inaudible] thrown over, and there's just nothing more than the logs left [inaudible]. It was built by, I think, a John Thompson, would have been... It was John Thompson or his brothers.

A1: [00:17:38] Uncle John, he couldn't do it.

A2: [00:17:40] [overlapping dialogue; inaudible]

A1: [00:17:40] That's because he was at home. He was all crippled.

A2: [00:17:44] Maybe it was Tom Thompson. It was either John or Tom. We have the papers. My wife and I have the papers for this boat someplace. And I didn't know whether it was John or Tom.

A1: [00:17:52] Well, you've got to look at your papers because

it might help this gentleman out. [laughter]

A2: [00:17:58] Well, I'd like to have some [inaudible]. I don't know where she may have put them. I have the papers to, I think, three log canoes. Another person bought the three log canoes, and they're going to restore them, and wound up just, we had one on the trailer for about ten years sitting out in front of the house. We even tried to give it away to the Maritime Museum in St. Michael's. [inaudible] And we never were able to.

Q: Huh.

A2: [00:18:23] And so far [inaudible] burst it up and burn them up.

Q: Oh yeah.

A2: [inaudible]

A1: [00:18:29] His father was a [inaudible].

A2: [00:18:31] [inaudible] It would be in with records.

Q: Yeah, the copies, I mean, even the copies would be good for us.

A2: [00:18:39] Okay. I'll try to get the papers. Gee, you want copies of the papers. I'll try to... I'll keep a copy. I'll keep the original. And --

A1: [00:18:46] Isn't it really funny, though, that all in the family of Thompsons were boat builders?

A2: [00:18:56] I'd just love to know [inaudible] while I got it

on my mine, real name was *Morning Star*. It was always called [inaudible] as far as I was concerned, and anybody local.

Q: Strange.

A2: [00:19:07] We all knew *Morning Star*.

Q: *Morning Star*, that's strange. The papers would be of interest because I like to put them with this information here on the Thompsons. I'm just beginning to... I'm beginning to realize now how many Thompsons were boat builders. There were a lot of them, weren't there?

A2: [00:19:26] Most of them, I think, were involved in some way was on boats or working on boats.

Q: Maybe you can just... You already mentioned some. Can you give me any more details --

A2: [00:19:26] And Trav, Trav Thompson was a boat builder that built large boats in Baltimore City. He was Joe Thompson, I think older though.

A1: [00:19:44] Uncle Trav.

A2: [00:19:44] And Uncle Trav, his grandson is still living, Jack Thompson in Grasonville. And I talked to him. I talked to him on the phone yesterday. And he was telling me that Joe, Joseph, as far as he knew... They don't have any pictures of Joseph Thompson then. They're with the other gang working on these boats, yet he said old man Joe

could have come up there and worked on the boats. They do have a lot of [inaudible] sons. Eugene Thompson, which is another brother, his son, by the nickname of [Poke?], worked up there.

A1: [00:20:22] Yes.

A2: [00:20:23] And didn't he have another one named... Was it Shadow or something?

A1: [00:20:27] Oh, there was --

A2: [00:20:28] What was Uncle Jack's --

A1: [00:20:29] -- Earl. They called him Poke, but his name was Earl.

A2: [00:20:32] Earl, yeah.

A1: [00:20:33] Early Thompson.

A2: [00:20:34] What was the other one?

A1: [00:20:34] And then there was... He's been dead so long I forgot his name.

A2: [00:20:44] Gene, Uncle Gene's older son.

A1: [00:20:46] Uncle Gene, there was... It was only three children, Halley --

A2: [00:20:51] Halley.

A1: [00:20:51] -- and Early. And oh, it's right on my... Maybe I'll think about... Oh, I can't think of his name. He was a great, big man. And he moved from Dominion. I guess that's why I... He moved to... From Dominion to

Chestertown, and that's where he died at.

A2: [00:21:26] He died in Chestertown?

A1: [00:21:27] Yes, he died in Chestertown. [inaudible]

Q: Certainly boat building seemed to run in the family. Are there... Think in the article said there's even somebody today still in the business, or repair anyway.

A2: [00:21:50] Well, actually, I'm in the boat repair, and the biggest boats that I've built since my father died, more than nine years ago, had the longest boat I've built is, like, a 16-footer. But I've always been in the boat repair business. And the largest boat that I've ever built myself is an 18-foot boat, large [inaudible] and the usual.

A1: [00:22:12] But junior.

A2: [00:22:15] My oldest brother was in the boat building business up until his retirement and had built, I think, two of his very large boats. I say large... Well, I think a couple that were over 40 feet. And [inaudible], he's in boat repair, and his son is in boat repair. Anyway, Lemuel Alexander Thompson III.

A1: [00:22:40] Roland. Roland Thompson. That was his name. I know I --

A2: [00:22:44] Roland, okay.

A1: [00:22:46] Roland.

A2: [00:22:46] Okay, that was... Yeah.

A1: [00:22:47] Uncle Gene's oldest son was named Roland. And then there was Earl. They always called him Poke. And he... I don't think he's [inaudible] when he died. He didn't live to be very old.

A2: [00:23:01] [inaudible] He was really [inaudible] a comedian.

A1: [00:23:05] That's right.

A2: [00:23:05] He could make you laugh.

A1: [00:23:07] I'm telling you, that's all he... And you know, I have a son that lives in Pennsylvania. He's like that. He's always funny. He's always... I guess he gets that from my family. Because he's always ready to play with your ears or do something, and he's in his 50s. And he's... You got to do something to make you laugh. And that's the way Poke was.

Q: Do the boats that you've built and repaired and the other members of your family still doing it, are they doing it down on that... Where the boat shop is down there in Dominion?

A2: [00:23:49] Yes, that's where... My boats are located right there. And we're all right there out in the little creek area.

Q: Yeah.

A2: [00:24:00] I'm still in the boat business, in some respect.

And the boat business changes, you know. We didn't think twice to [inaudible] wood. But in actuality, if you really in big boat business, and not in the plastic boat business, then you're working small.

Q: You and one of the few... Your family is one of the few families that's still in the business on the island now.

A2: [00:24:26] Probably the only family that... The only original families that goes back. In other words, what we're talking about, you're talking about marina operators today. You're not really talking about boat builders generally, but people that their main way of making their living from the marina is usually selling boats, [inaudible] boats.

Q: Right, right.

A1: [00:24:51] You see, today, I don't know what... You see boats sitting down at the [inaudible], but they don't look like they're made out of wood. They look like they're a plastic or something.

A2: [00:25:03] [inaudible]

A1: [00:25:05] So they don't make boats... My lands, they used to hew out trees, and they were really built. When my father used to build them, he used to take a long tree or something and make... Take... And clean it all off and fix it. And that was the... What do you call it?

A2: [00:25:27] Well, they used to make the log for the --

A1: [00:25:31] The log [inaudible].

A2: [00:25:32] They used to get the logs from the trees down at what you used to call Sandy Point, out towards [inaudible], only it's still on the island. But they called the area Sandy Point. They claimed there was logs down there my father used to say that three people could get around a tree and lock hands around bottom part of the tree. That's an awful [inaudible] long. [inaudible] imagined because I've never seen one of them.

Q: And so that, on the island, that was the main source? That was the main area?

A2: [00:25:57] Right, that was the source, yeah. At the time, while it was good. And they'd just go down there. And they used to go down there. And they took an old axel and set of steel wheels and a set of mules. And they hauled the log back. And so [inaudible] did as a child in helping my father build boats, we used to straddle these logs, once they were shaped into a square for the back [inaudible] of the [inaudible]. We used to sit straddle with a jack plane and dress these until they were small. And I remember that very well because I used to stick to the log. And my pants, you get so gummy, you can almost stand them up. When we were... [laughter] And my father used to walk around

with a [inaudible] in his hand and shake the kerosene on the plane and on the log, burnt to make it lubricant so that we could --

Q: Would stick, yeah.

A2: [00:26:46] So it would stick. And so the shavings wouldn't stick to the plane.

Q: Right.

A1: [00:26:50] You know, them was good old days. Wouldn't you like to go back to some of them days and see?

A2: [00:26:58] Best time of my life.

A1: [00:27:00] That's right. That's right. Seem like to me, when you come from a family like that, you never want to forget it.

A2: [00:27:07] There was things going on.

A1: [00:27:08] And I have a son. My youngest son is 52. That's my baby. He can do anything. He builds houses. He does plumbing work. He puts electric --

A2: [00:27:19] He's really a good craftsman. You're talking about [Alden?].

A1: [00:27:22] I'm talking about Alden. He does electrician work. You name it, and he can do it.

Q: That's good.

A1: [00:27:29] I'm telling you. And then I have my oldest son is a mechanic. And he made a car one time. And he came

down here in it after he made... He made this car and put the motor in there that would a hundred miles an hour. And when he went back to Pennsylvania with it, somebody stole it. And he was a long... It was completely tore up when he... They found it. They had rode it up to a station lane, and way up in the reeds so nobody could see it.

Q: Yeah, that's too bad. Mrs. [Pote?], do you remember... Do you know of any other boats that your father may have built, apart from this one, that might still be around?

A1: [00:28:19] My lands, he built a lot of them in his years. But to name them, I don't know the name of them.

Q: Yeah, yeah.

A1: [00:28:33] The biggest deadrise that he built was that --

Q: *Great Northern.*

A1: [00:28:36] -- *Great Northern.* And that was a beautiful boat.

Q: Yeah.

A1: [00:28:43] But I don't know.

A2: [00:28:44] Was that built for hauling grain, or did you say it was built for, like [inaudible] --

A1: [00:28:46] No, the one that he built for Max --

A2: [00:28:50] He built for hauls?

A1: [00:28:51] -- he built for hauling. That was a great, big... It was a great, big boat.

Q: You think that Buck might know, your son-in-law Buck?

A1: [00:29:03] Well, you know, Buck used to build boats.

A2: [00:29:06] Yes, he did. You know, he's... Now, his father Dorsey was... He wasn't a brother to [inaudible].

A1: [00:29:12] No.

A2: [00:29:13] What was he?

A1: [00:29:16] He was my father's youngest brother.

A2: [00:29:18] Oh, Dorsey was?

A1: [00:29:19] Uh-huh, was my father's youngest brother.

A2: [00:29:21] So he was a brother [inaudible]?

A1: [00:29:22] Yeah, but you know, he had problems. He was born with hard hearing and --

A2: [00:29:28] [inaudible]

A1: [00:29:30] -- and stuff like that. And he... I don't think he ever worked with boats. I don't think he --

A2: [00:29:35] He built small boats.

A1: [00:29:36] Did he build a small boat?

A2: [00:29:37] Yes, well, he liked skiffs and things like that.

A1: [00:29:37] But he lived right down at the shore.

A2: [00:29:41] He built something like [black bottom?] boat. I've seen him build those, little [inaudible] that you break other boats in. And he worked on other boats too. I've seen him work on other boats back then.

A1: [00:29:51] But --

A2: [00:29:52] But generally --

A1: [00:29:55] -- Buck, he used to... He had a... He lived out the road here. They live near Ridgeland now. But they wished to... And he had a great, big house out there that he built boats in. And he used to build boats. But it got on his nerves so bad he had to stop. He would... He'd get so nervous he'd have to walk off from the job, and then he'd come back to it. But now, now all he does is drive a truck. Go from boat building to driving a truck.

Q: Well, I'd be interested to know the *Isabella* might still be around. That's kind of interesting.

A2: [00:30:31] Yeah, I think it is. I don't know who built it, but I think it's very traceable. And I can start with Joe Baxter. And I'll talk to him and see if I can --

Q: All right, that'll be interesting.

A2: And...

Q: Maybe I'll... Perhaps in the spring if I could contact you again, and I'd like to just see where he was, Joe Thompson was building boats, and where the tool shed still is and things like that.

A2: [00:30:57] We went into boat racing too. My brother and I, fact, had one time it was three brothers all together racing. I built... The first boat I ever built was like a [inaudible] boat. Almost 14 years old, and I put a

[inaudible] motor on it. It was just a little plywood boat. And then I got them to race [inaudible] design boats, and was lucky. It was lucky to haul the thing in 1955. [inaudible] racing, the whole thing.

A1: [00:31:29] Who was that gentleman? It was up to me, I --

Q: Well, we'd like to know. We don't know who it is.

A2: [00:31:35] That would be probably the owner of the boat at the time.

Q: That's down in Cambridge, that picture was taken [inaudible].

A1: That's in Cambridge?

Q: Well, that picture's taken in Cambridge because it's... See the ship in the background.

A1: [00:31:49] But it seems like me, I've seen that man somewhere, although there's a lot of people that, when the... You see their picture --

Q: It may have been taken to Cambridge. This is some sort of event going on here because she has a number written on here. It's number six. I think it's on all the boats here. So may... She may have been taking with some old... I don't know.

A1: [00:32:11] You know I wished I had a picture of the *Great Northern* to show Mr. [inaudible]? I really do.

Q: I can go back to the museum and see if I can look her up.

Because she may... She's a big boat. She'll probably be documented boat, and I'll at least be able to find out when she was built and so on and how big she was.

A2: [00:32:28] That's true. She [inaudible]

A1: [00:32:28] It was a big deal. And my father built that for himself. And we used to go down. Because I had a sister that used to live way down the island, Birdie.

A2: Yeah.

A1: And --

END OF AUDIO FILE