

## QUONOCHONTAUG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Oral History

# RAY and JESSIE ECCLESTON

With Holly Schroeder

October 11, 2000

Interviewed by Anne S. Doyle

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**DOYLE:** I am with Holly Schroeder and also Mr. [and Mrs.] Eccleston. They are going to talk about their memories of West Beach.

XXXXX Now all of the cottages were named after members of your family?

**JESSIE E:** Well, the Woodbridges named theirs after Alice--Woodbridge Eccleston.

**DOYLE:** OK. This one?

**RAY:** XXXXX Named after xxxx. That used to be the top of our five-car garage.

**DOYLE:** Oh ...I see

**RAY:** XXXXX [as a result of ] the '38 Hurricane. Xxxx.

**DOYLE:** Did it actually land right where it is? Or did you have to bring it over from another place?

**RAY:** We had to move it back, quite a ways. And then of course in the '44 and '54 [storms] it got turned quite a bit. It used to sit square this way, but now it's xxxxx because the hurricane pushed one end of it. Instead of tryin' to move it back, they just put another foundation underneath it, the way it was.

**DOYLE:** I see. Now the one we're in now—

**RAY:** This one we built in 1939, after the '38 Hurricane. This lot used to be our playground. It was xxx to the road and it was - well, when we had a lot of company [--at the Woodbridge Cottage] at least every weekend. All the bedrooms were full, and sometimes my brother and I had to sleep on the floor because—xxxx

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**DOYLE:** Eight bedrooms were all filled--Hmmm?



**JESSIE:** That's why, when we built, we built two bedrooms: one for my [ dad]and one for [guests] And xxx they're up on the beach, and I'm preparin' food and doin' all this and that. Well, we had been down that road.

**DOYLE:** [Laughing]

**RAY:** We got married in the Woodbridge Cottage—

**DOYLE:** Oh you did? What month?

**RAY:** In front of the fireplace. June the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**JESSIE:** XXXX.

**DOYLE:** Now, can you tell me a little bit about your parents' coming down here and where they came from and how they found out about Quonnie –

**RAY:** Ashaway. I don't know how they found out about it. Dad bought the property and built the first house, which was like a one-room cottage with a small "L". He bought around –I think it was in 1898; I'm not sure.

**DOYLE:** Oh.

**RAY:** I was born on May first 1911, and we came down here in June 1911. But I've been coming here -- this is my 89<sup>th</sup> summer down here.

**DOYLE:** So every single year of your life you've been here.

**RAY:** Right.

**DOYLE:** Now what did your dad do? What was his –

**RAY:** He was a general contractor, and then he started the Westerly Lumber Company and ran the Westerly Lumber Company, and then he had founded the Westerly Improvement Society. He had three or four different companies he worked at. In Westerly he had the lumber yard and another in Groton xxxxxx..

**DOYLE:** So he had resources to build his house.

**RAY:** Yeah.

**DOYLE:** Now I know that there was an Ashaway group, further down , near the end; so obviously there were several people from Ashaway that came-

**RAY:** Well, the group up above, just off the chimney stones--

**DOYLE:** Yes –

**RAY:** The Villa Marguerita they call it—

**DOYLE:** Yes, I remember there was a hotel –

**RAY:** They were probably called the Ashaway Group because everybody was from Ashaway, at that time.

[LOTS OF TALKING OVER EACH OTHER]

**JESSIE:** All the neighbors from Ashaway came.

**RAY:** They used to come down from Ashaway in a horse and wagon.

**DOYLE:** Do you remember that?

**RAY:** Oh yeah. This was the xxxx way to get here.

**DOYLE:** All the way from Ashaway. And when you were here, you were here for the whole summer. So you brought all your clothes and whatever you needed in the horse and buggy—

**RAY:** Mm hmm. And we didn't have to worry about going to the grocery store because the grocer came to us. XXXXX [MUCH TALKING OVER EACH OTHER]

**DOYLE:** Sammy – I remember Sammy.

**JESSIE:** He had a store. And you would place your order, a week before, and he would bring it.

**DOYLE:** Where was he from? Do you know?

**JESSIE:** Yeah. He had a store; the Browns' store, that we used to have come around with groceries—

**RAY:** I can't remember where --it was in Westerly, wasn't it?

**JESSIE:** No.; it was –

**DOYLE:** You said the Browns store, Jessie; where was that?

**RAY:** XXXXX

**JESSIE:** No, nothing related to them.

**RAY:** No; nothing related to the Browns here, no.

**JESSIE:** No, but where was his store?

**RAY:** An old brown truck--

**DOYLE:** Oh.

**JESSIE:** But where was his store?

**RAY:** I can't remember – but was it in Bradford?

**JESSIE:** No; it wasn't Bradford. There used to be a xxxx 'cross the road.

**RAY:** Down Cross's Mills, I think. I don't know; I'm not sure. I was not xxx the store, because I'm not a—I'm 89; my memory is not that good as it used to be.

**DOYLE:** I know; but I don't think I'm going to believe you about that! [MORE TALKING OVER EACH OTHER—UNINTELLIGIBLE] So you remember the trips down. Now what about-- when you were married-- had you come down before?

**JESSIE:** Oh yeah. After we were married-- But we grew up in [the beach area] between xxx and xxx. But remember: between the houses, there was a boardwalk that went all the way down toward the water. It separated Mrs. Rich's and the Canonchet Cottage. It was the Canonchet Cottage, and then it was Mrs. Rich, and then Mr XXXXX. They both had money, and when their spouses died, they married each other, and we used to think that was terrible: two people with money married! [LAUGHTER]

**DOYLE:** Who was the Canonchet cottage named after?

**JESSIE:** [People] from Canonchet.

**RAY:** It came from brothers who originally came from Canonchet, Rhode Island, which is half way between Hopkinton and Hope Valley.

**DOYLE:** So your parents bought it from them.

**RAY:** My dad --It was up for sale, and my dad bought it from them. I think he paid something like twelve hundred ninety-five dollars for it.

**JESSIE:** It was just a wooden boardwalk that separated the two; the houses were so close together.

**RAY:** The houses were close together. Each had a garage in back. Originally it was a barn. And then they put an apartment up over the horses. They put in several cars and made a garage out of it, and then put an apartment up in what used to be the hay loft.

**DOYLE:** Oh, I see.

**HOLLY:** This was behind the Canonchet--?

**RAY:** That was behind the Canonchet, yeah.

**JESSIE:** You remember Joe and Jennie xxxxx don't you? Dad used to let them – cause they used to work for the lumber company. They had it most every year.

**RAY:** XXXX.

**JESSIE:** Yeah, because they were a lot of company for your mother.

**RAY:** Yeah.

**DOYLE:** So your parents got the Canonchet, and then they built the Woodbridge.

**RAY:** Dad built the Woodbridge first, but it started as a one or two-room little cottage. But he added on, another [room at a time]. The last addition was putting a third floor on.

**JESSIE:** And that was dormitory style.

**RAY:** Dormitory style.

**JESSIE:** It was unfinished, xxx and we put our shoes in there with the stones and worked on the xxxx floors. And you know the only thing that survived was that third floor-- floating in the Hurricane in the pond. [ALL TALKING AT ONCE] And the mirror and shoes were still on.

**HOLLY:** That's when it became xxxxx.

**RAY:** No; that was xxxxx [ALL TALKING TOGETHER]

**JESSIE:** He saved six; remember he had a little baby in the car in the Hurricane  
No; that was there.; nothing was lost.

**RAY:** Just the grey cottage, which was the top part of our xxx-car garage.

**DOYLE:** Oh, just to the garage.

**RAY:** Well, the garage with the apartment up over it. That's where we stayed in 1938, the year that XXX [Gail] was born. [Gail] was born in January, '38, and we stayed there. There was a big xxxxx on the day of the Hurricane, except that we'd had a rainy week, and we couldn't get the clothes and things dry; so we went to Westerly to our apartment in Westerly so's to get the laundry and things done. And we were there when the Hurricane struck. Otherwise, we would have been gone.

**DOYLE:** Now, was there anybody in any of your little cottages that you have there?

**JESSIE:** Well, his sister Dias and her husband were there in the Woodbridge Cottage. Xxxxx. He worked at the Westerly Lumber Company, and his sister did private bookkeeping xxxxx. So she went back to the office; she said "Gee, I think I'll go and catch up on some of the stuff." So he had come home for lunch, and she had gone back again. Otherwise, they would have been here. But why she decided she—

**RAY:** I can't remember how come my mother was –

**HOLLY:** But where was Honey then, their daughter?

**JESSIE:** [UNINTELLIGIBLE RESPONSE]

**DOYLE:** Yeah, because it was -what-- late September.

**HOLLY:** Now the Crumbs were still here.

**JESSIE:** The Crumbs were here. Now, Mr. Crumb and Mrs. Crumb decided that they'd have to leave when it got so bad. Now Marjorie Pendleton and her son were at the cottage over next to them.

**DOYLE:** I'm sorry; do you mean over next to where the Crumbs are now?

**JESSIE:** Well, there was a little cottage here, which was the small Crumb cottage, and then the big cottage. All right; now they came out of the cottage and got in the car to leave. And Marjorie Pendleton and her son got in back, 'cause they had no car here. So now, Mr. Crumb started to think: they had put their good silver in the oven, and the watch, his father's or his grandfather's pocket watch, that he thought the world of—so they'd put it in the oven. And then he thought better of it. Now he stepped [out] to go get the watch; in the meantime, she stepped out too.

Then there was the big tidal wave, Marjorie said; the current just took the cottages and just smashed them all to pieces. In doing so, it slammed the doors of the car, so that they [the Crumbs] were washed away and both killed. Now she and her son rode out here in the back, with all of this high water surrounding the car. They were just on top of it. The car just floated on top of [the water] like a boat. she said. [ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**HOLLY:** Who was the son? Palmer Junior?

**RAY:** The Crumbs' car.

**HOLLY:** Yeah, but the son: the Pendletons' son?

**RAY:** Charlie Pendleton.

**HOLLY:** Charlie Pendleton. Yes, 'cause Palmer was already born.

[GENERAL AGREEMENT: SON WAS CHARLIE]

**HOLLY:** Yes, it was a second marriage.

**JESSIE:** Now, Mr. xxx and some of the others were still down here. They were from the xxx cottage--

**HOLLY:** This is the xxx cottage; this one down here.

**JESSIE:** They got out of that and they went between—which is now--

**HOLLY:** The Hathaways?

**JESSIE:** No --isn't that terrible [that I can't think of it]

**RAY:** Between Hatch's and --?

**JESSIE:** No--

[MUCH GUESSING; ALL TALKING OVER EACH OTHER]

**RAY:** Herschels?

**JESSIE:** Oh, Herschels! And xxxx [Grimes] That was between that, and the boys going by would go by the xxx. But they joined a circle and held on, [saying] "We've got to stick together." Well, when the water receded enough, they went and got her out of the car and the baby. And Charlie xxxx.

[CHORUS OF OH'S]

**JESSIE:** It was a difficult time, but it all xxxxxx.

**DOYLE:** Where did the car end up?

**JESSIE:** I don't know where it ended up., because they said they took them out of it and all stayed together, until they could all get off.

**HOLLY:** It's a nice little [story].

**RAY:** The Herschel cottage stayed.

[More talk among them]

**HOLLY:** XXX nice little cottage behind it, wasn't it?

**JESSIE:** Yeah. There was some cottage there; it stood behind the two of them.

**HOLLY:** Yeah. Tell me, who was with the xxx [Roths]?

**JESSIE:** I don't know, but there were several.

[TALKING OVER EACH OTHER]

**JESSIE:** I think Dr. xxxx [said] they're just never going to come back. Xxxxx died.

**HOLLY:** Who? The daughter?

**JESSIE:** Yes; the daughter died. Xxxx

**HOLLY:** She was unmarried, wasn't she?



**JESSIE:** No; she was older.

**RAY:** She was –

**JESSIE:** I can't remember, but she was older.

**RAY:** My age.

**HOLLY:** Oh; his wife then maybe? Didn't they have a young daughter?

**JESSIE:** She had a daughter, but was my daughter's age in school. Xxxx She got her mother's house and all that. They've sold it now.

**DOYLE:** On Route One somewhere? Did they—

**HOLLY:** That was a fortress. You know, it looked like it was --you know. The road went innocently--

**JESSIE:** That's because of the Hurricane! She never wanted to come back. And I asked her to come down to visit, and she said "I'll come down," but—  
xxxxx.

**HOLLY:** The same was true of Mrs. Campbell.

**DOYLE:** I've talked to Barbara Ornberg -Hutchins? She told me the story of their cottage on the breachway.

**JESSIE:** Oh yes, and having to walk through the storm xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** Did you know her? Did you know Barbara?

**JESSIE:** I've known her all my life. I knew her mother. And I xxxxx after her grandmother.

**DOYLE:** Oh my goodness! Now where did you grow up? In Ashaway?

**JESSIE:** No; in Westerly.

**RAY:** I grew up in Ashaway, until I was six years old. And then Dad moved to Westerly, to be closer to his business. Then they sold the house in Westerly, so we moved out to Ashaway again—right across from the library. That big house right across from the Ashaway library, with the big porch on it. That's where I grew up. And to go to high school, I had to come from Ashaway to Westerly for the high school, because Ashaway at the time didn't have a high school. And --

**DOYLE:** How did you get trans—how did you get yourself to Westerly to high school?

**RAY:** My father brought me down, on the way to work.

**DOYLE:** Oh, I see. So you were driven, then.

**RAY:** And after school I'd go to the Lumber Company and ride back home again. And then Dr. Worthen came along, after a while, and wanted to buy the house. So my father told him what the price was, and Dr. Worthen said, "Oh that's too high." And my father said, "That's good; I didn't want to sell it anyway." But after that, Dr. Worthen came back and said, "I'll buy the house from you; I'll pay your price." So Dad sold that house, in Ashaway, xxx, for \$8500.. [ALL REACTING TO PRICE] Well, it seemed like a high price. So anyhow, then we moved back to Westerly again. And from then on, we stayed right in Westerly.

**DOYLE:** Where did you [two] meet? I mean, at school? Did you go to school together?

**JESSIE:** Oh no. He's six years older than I am.

[LAUGHTER]

**DOYLE:** So how did you --

**RAY:** Well, my brother, Charley, was Mongoloid. And Charley had a retired school teacher tutoring him. So then Dad had Jessie come down, to help tutor him and take care of him during the summer. So she stayed in the house with us during the summer. And that's how we met.

**DOYLE:** I see. OK.

**HOLLY:** I remember him.

**JESSIE:** All right. He was the younger son, Charley. He could write his name, do the dishes, and make his bed and sweep. And he was the only one, when he went back to Ladd School, that could do that.

**RAY:** Charley passed away in Rhode Island Hospital, because when they got sick, they couldn't stay in the Ladd School. XXXXX

**JESSIE:** He lived the longest --

**RAY:** When he was born, the doctors said he would only live to six months old -- and he was 63 when he passed away.

**HOLLY:** Wow.

**DOYLE:** So how many other brothers and sisters did you have?

**RAY:** I had just one sister, who was xxx years older than me, and my brother who was two years younger.

**DOYLE:** What are some of your memories down here, when you were younger? I remember you told me about coming down here in a horse and buggy, but once you were down here, what are some of your memories?

**JESSIE:** Well, you fished –

**RAY:** I did a lot of fishing. Before the '38 Hurricane, we had five boats in the breachway; and I used to go out in the boats fishing, and my grandfather had a little fish market down here.

**DOYLE:** Right on the breachway?

**RAY:** Right on the breachway.

**JESSIE:** That's Crandall's now. It was right here. There was a small cottage; this is where the small cottage was, where Syd Polouski's house was. But the boathouse held the boats. Across from the fish market, they put in a sink; and then he had walkways with cars. And the people bought fish, and clams and crabs. And you'd go in and he'd say, what sort of fish do you want? Live fish? Xxxxx. [LOTS OF LAUGHTER]

**RAY:** Or, do you want to arrive when I'm cooking it? When it's done on one side –it'll flip itself over. Xxxxx. [MORE LAUGHTER]

**DOYLE:** Oh, that's wonderful!

**JESSIE:** I had to have a thyroid operation; and afterwards, they said I'd have to eat a lot of raw clams, and xxxxxxx. He had a little place down there, So, I stacked them up on paper plates and had a little plastic spoon. So I'd go down there and xxxx. The people from Eldridge House—I couldn't keep up with them, because they'd all go and have xxxx -

[ ALL TALKING AND LAUGHING LOUDLY AT ONCE, RECOUNTING UPROARIOUS EXPERIENCES PERTAINING TO THE FISH MARKET.]

**RAY:** They'd put ketchup and hot sauce on them xxxxx fish market.

**DOYLE:** Now, did you go fishing to supply the fish for the market?

**RAY:** Yes. We used to go out—we had a dory, a 16-foot dory—

**JESSIE:** He bought it from the Coast Guard.

**HOLLY:** Really!

**RAY:** And we'd go out in that 'cause it was real seaworthy. X XXXX. And we'd go out, and we'd catch fish.

**HOLLY:** Out in the ocean?

**RAY:** Yeah. Out in the ocean, rowing.

**JESSIE:** Double rowing, in the middle.

**RAY:** And after a while, Phil Gavitt –remember Phil Gavitt?

**HOLLY:** Yeah.

**RAY:** He was a boat builder. In the well, in there, he'd put an outboard motor in the well and have it stationary. And then have a tiller on the back. And would go out that way. And if the darn motor conked out, it was an awful job to try to row it because you'd have to pull all that water that was in the well.

**JESSIE:** The evening I was out, a thundershower came up, and we couldn't get in; so they came out and put us in up here, on your little beach.

**RAY:** We put a [ladder] up. Well, I've got a picture up here, of two that I caught-

**JESSIE:** XXXXX. He remembers better than we do.

**DOYLE:** Oh, look at them!

**RAY:** That day, we caught 35—between Bob Gager and I, we caught 35 blackfish. And I cleaned every one of them.

**JESSIE:** And now do you wonder why we peddled them all over the beach?

**RAY:** I never charged anybody for them; I liked to give them away.

**DOYLE:** Is that right?

**RAY:** After they were cleaned. Xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** You mean --you're just talking about the blackfish. Because you said that if you were supplying your grandfather--

**JESSIE:** This was years after that—xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** Oh, all right.

**RAY:** That [picture] was taken after the '38 Hurricane. XXX. My grandfather was gone.

**JESSIE:** Everything was gone down there.. But our greenhouse was built afterwards, and [Axel's] Fish Market was.

**DOYLE:** This is the new xxxxx.

**JESSIE:** The brown one was the Eriksons' house at that time. But, it's all underneath – now it's all built up, enclosed underneath; you'd never know it. The one next to xxxxx's; now it's all closed in under there, which was xxxxx somebody that passed. I don't know how come, but-

**DOYLE:** Did you know Mr. King?

**JESSIE:** Oh yes.

**DOYLE:** He moved across the street from me. Yeah, George.

**RAY:** He used to lived down here on the xxxxx. the King Cottage.

**JESSIE:** We remember that, on the breachway.

**DOYLE:** Did you go in there?

**JESSIE:** Oh, sure.

**DOYLE:** What was it like in there?

**RAY:** Three cottages together with porches in between—

**JESSIE:** It was all very rustic, I mean not finished off or anything; but people didn't care. We used to like it that way.

**RAY:** xxxx Most of the houses were left open to the xxx.

**JESSIE:** George King never threw out a fish. He would even eat the xxxx, which none of them did because xxxxx. [MUCH TALKING OVER EACH OTHER] But he said anything that comes out of the sea is fit to eat, and he would never throw anything away.

**DOYLE:** Oh, that's a good story.

**JESSIE:** Yes, good story. I was [actually] on the boat --afterwards we were together -- that they went out on. After one of them was – I don't know, something happened to it. So on this last one, I brought the load in. Xx xxx can tell you that had nothing to do with xxx.

**RAY:** XXXXX. A little 12-foot dory

**HOLLY:** [COMMENTING ON ] little 12-foot dories.

**RAY:** I used to have a good boat, but—

**JESSIE:** Well, George King donated one of his to the Mystic- Museum-

**DOYLE:** Museum.

**RAY:** That was a better runner than he used to row out there--

**JESSIE:** It was an old, old [boat] the family got in Mystic -

**DOYLE:** What was it Franklin Gaffney--

**JESSIE:** Frank Lamperti?

**DOYLE:** Perti?

**JESSIE:** He was a xxx from Central Beach, right across from - where uh--.

**RAY:** He used to have a cottage down here, he and his wife.

**JESSIE:** Well, that was -

**DOYLE:** Is that what his name was, Lamperti?

**OTHERS:** Lamperti.

**DOYLE:** Oh, OK.

**HOLLY:** The Rossis were in xxxx. And the Hathaways weren't here during the Hurricane., were they?

**JESSIE:** I don't remember seeing them or not.

**HOLLY:** And then there was the story about after the Hathaways came the Marsh brothers.

**DOYLE:** I've heard about the Marshes, but I don't know -I've just heard the name.

**JESSIE:** Well, they're both gone. [ALL TALKING TOGETHER] Now Mr. and Mrs. Marsh owned down front near the xxxx. And he bought the corner lot over here.

**HOLLY:** Behind it.

**JESSIE:** Behind it. And he gave it to his wife for her birthday. All right: At the time of the Hurricane, their house left it and deposited it on the lot that he had given her for her birthday. So he said, she's my family, that's the lot, but she's got my house now. [LAUGHTER] Well, he had a good sense of humor. He was so quick about [saying that lot was] near Picnic Rock.

**HOLLY:** xxxxxxxx---?

**JESSIE:** I don't know.

**DOYLE:** What happened?

**HOLLY:** He had company. [They got in trouble in the water] near Picnic Rock. And Mr. Marsh went in to save them. And he got bashed against the rocks in the waves. So did he save them or not?

**JESSIE:** I don't know xxxxx, but it injured his legs. And they would take him down with a beach chair and set him in the water, and let the water rush over it. At first he couldn't move, and they finally got him so that with braces and crutches he could, but not too well. And they fixed the house downstairs for him, one corner of it they made a bed for him because he couldn't go up and down stairs and all and electric xxxxx put in so there would be heat down there for him.

**DOYLE:** Now they were not here during the Hurricane.

**JESSIE:** No. Not that I know of, but -

**RAY:** Xxxxx that make me go about every fifteen or twenty minutes. It bothers me when we've got company. But that's the heck of growing old!

**DOYLE:** Yeah. I'm a physical therapist, so I—[LAUGHING] I used to do home care. Um - so let's get back to your memories of when you were younger here, too. What kinds of things besides fishing did you --

**JESSIE:** On Xxx's lot, there was a xxxxx here; it was a badminton court. There were swings here, and then we had a big see-saw over there—

**DOYLE:** So it was like a playground.

**JESSIE:** Yeah, for different ones. But it was not small; it was huge, so everyone could use it. And then a miniature golf that we had -

**DOYLE:** Oh -really --

**RAY:** The swells were so high as we remember them, I guess -

**DOYLE:** This was before the Hurricane though -

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** The xxx were still standing when the xxx, xxxxx and this house is probably six foot six we're in. We cut the xxx off, and xxxxx the middle girder under this house. Xxxxx and then it was way up in the air, and the house swayed.

**HOLLY:** That was the xxxx, too--

**DOYLE:** So you remember, Holly?

**HOLLY:** I remember the swaying, yeah, yeah. And you really --

**RAY:** And you really could swim!

**DOYLE:** So everybody came –not just anybody—

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** Xxxxxx went the whole length. And you ate –xxxx people didn't rent then. So you saw all your friends xxxx that you liked so that —

**RAY:** However, [the custom was] after you ate your meal at night was to take a walk [along] the boardwalk and visit with everybody. Everybody was very friendly; everybody knew everybody.

**JESSIE:** And just about everyone had sun-porches, so there'd be rocking chairs on them, so you could stop and say hi and—

**RAY:** There'd be a [baby] walking, too --

**JESSIE:** You could say, what did you get today, fish? Or did you go clamming? Or blues [crabs], because then the pond crabs, big blue shells----

**DOYLE:** I remember blue crabs –

**JESSIE:** So you'd just discuss what you did --

**HOLLY:** It was a real xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** Yeah –

**HOLLY:** My two brothers went -- it was what the whole family did after dinner –

**JESSIE:** Everyone did it!

**HOLLY:** You'd see all your friends, and you'd stop off and have a swig or two and—

**RAY:** Not after I had a heart attack and had to retire! In the summertime, I retired down here. After that I did odd jobs for different ones around here – her mother was one of them I did work for xxxxx. I did work for Charles Lamperti

**JESSIE:** The Dowds—

**RAY:** The Dowds were supposed to --

**DOYLE:** Oh the Dowds –tell me about them. I've heard little pieces but nobody seems to know them very well.

**RAY:** [TECHNICAL GLITCH OF SOME KIND] Xxxxxx and Florence was the artist. She did all the work – made lampshades and all that other stuff.



**JESSIE:** They had a little workshop.

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** Out in the back. And they had a garden. And I used to have to go and spade up in the sun, and plow the ground and put a fence up. And xxxx anything about the garden, because it was such a nice big one.

**JESSIE:** They used to love fish—

**RAY:** They used to love fish -

**JESSIE:** So we gave them fish, and one day I went out and I got eight bass; and I thought, I gotta get rid of these before he comes home from work. So I called them up [and said], "Would you like some bass?" and they said, "Oh yes, we'd love it." And we've always given it to them clean. So they came down in the car, and I gave them two fish. [MUCH LAUGHTER] Well, they said, "Oh we can clean them." But afterward, Ray told me xxxx what they did was cover the eyes. [MORE LAUGHTER]

**RAY:** After that I xxxxx [ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** Xxxxxx saw what they were doing and xxxxx. [MORE LAUGHTER]

**HOLLY:** There was a story: they were in that house during the '38 Hurricane.

**DOYLE:** Oh they were?

**HOLLY:** And they went from the main house, where that awful monstrosity is now—the big castle that was built by Mrs. X. That was their garage, with a wonderful guest house on top of it, upstairs. And they were able—now this is what I heard from my mother I guess—or Mrs. Candless—they went from the big house to there; they got in the guest house, which xxx. And that stayed, that really is standing, as did the big house. And no one knew about them. And they had some of the coll--- they were world shoppers I guess—and they had a collection upstairs in the guest apartment, of matches they'd gotten from all hotels in Europe (you know how they used to do in the old days). And they made them exit; and the morning after, people going around in rowboats knew they [the matches] were there, and xxxxx they sacrificed their match collection xxxxxx.

**RAY:** Xxxxxxxx. talked to me about Florence's dolls when she xxxxx

**DOYLE:** Ohhhh.

**JESSIE:** I said to Ray, there was nothing about them that we didn't know. But with all the years that we knew 'em and we worked for 'em and helped 'em out and all—

**DOYLE:** Now it was their parents that originally bought the house –Agnes’ and Florence’s parents, that built the first xxx house.

**HOLLY:** Gee, I don’t know --

**DOYLE:** I did search that in the Land Evidence books—

**RAY:** Xxxx the Dowds’ house—

**DOYLE:** Xxx I mean it was 1906 or something like that.

[SEVERAL TALKING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** I don’t know who built their house, no.

**DOYLE:** Did that actually get moved in the Hurricane, and they just put it back?  
Or did it stay --

**RAY:** Damaged, but they repaired it; it got fixed up. It didn’t get moved.

**DOYLE:** It must have been very well built.

**RAY:** It was. [TECHNICAL GAP] I knew Florence and Agnes. Agnes died – well I don’t know just how old she was, but Florence was 100 years old when she died.

**DOYLE:** Oh my goodness!

**RAY:** Matter of fact, she [celebrated] her hundredth birthday a few days before she died.

**JESSIE:** Not too long before – I remember, I always did send cards and all. And she would make cards that would be with dried flowers put on it, so nice-- being artistic. I used to look forward, you know, to getting them because I wouldn’t want any different. I saved a couple of them. . .

**HOLLY:** Oh good --

**DOYLE:** Well, did you have the most contact with them after the Hurricane? Or even before the Hurricane?

**RAY:** After the Hurricane.

**JESSIE:** After both of them.

**RAY:** Matter of fact, xxxxxx [BOTH TALKING AT ONCE] when I started working for myself; it was after I had my heart attack --

**DOYLE:** Now you were here year-round after that –

**RAY:** No.

**JESSIE:** We've never been here year round.

**RAY:** We call this our year-round town. We vote from here. We have to be here six months. But for the winter, we go to the xxxd's motel, at Dunn's Corners, because this house is not insulated so well, not winterized, our water [might] freeze up. And with electric heat it would be too expensive to try to heat it without insulation.

**JESSIE:** Another thing: We can't shovel snow.

**RAY:** Another thing - I can't shovel snow [MORE TALKING TOGETHER]

**DOYLE:** That's enough reasons!

**JESSIE:** And my daughter's nervous. Xxxxx I wouldn't want to be down here. Now I look out and the lights are on over there at night, you know. Now the summer's xxxx, so it seems different xxxx but I'm not much good - the girls are there, five and one; but at eighty- one xxxxx—she runs out of

[MUCH LAUGHTER AND UNINTELLIGIBLE CONVERSATION]

**DOYLE:** When you said the other half of the family -

**RAY:** Our sisters -

**DOYLE:** What xxxxx ?

**JESSIE:** Donna --no

**HOLLY:** What's the one I know best that was here?

**JESSIE;** Gerry -no--

**HOLLY:** Sometimes she runs out of work—

**JESSIE:** Yeah; xxxx; it's over there--

**HOLLY:** Hmn.

**JESSIE:** She's the one that usually stays down. One of them, Georgia, and then I think eleven or twelve in her family - there are five girls and—

**RAY:** Yeah, five girls and six boys, but I don't remember how many she had—she lost some of them in xxxxx.

**JESSIE:** Yes, she xxxxx.

**RAY:** Xxxxxx.

**DOYLE:** Now, how did you get your water, when you were growing up here? Did they have –what was the source of it?

**RAY:** A well. A dug well.

**DOYLE:** Did you have individual wells?

**RAY:** We had a dug well.

**DOYLE:** There was the —um –the—

**JESSIE:** Oh they put that in after Sam Grills sold all his –

[GAP IN RECORDING]

**DOYLE:** Somebody said –you know who the Bemises are—

**JESSIE:** Yeah.

**RAY:** That was just xxxxx for Sam Brown's house.

**JESSIE:** Harold Brown put that little patti—

**RAY:** Xxxxx. [BOTH TALKING TOGETHER] He had bought the Clarke Farm, from the Bemises.

**JESSIE:** No, no, no Ray.

**RAY:** When [ John] Brown sold it to the Bemises, he retained the right to use the water. And he run a pipe down through the swamp and under the road and through the xxxxx[BOTH TALKING TOGETHER]

**DOYLE:** Oh, to make –

**RAY:** Yeah, but that was the only one. Xxxxxx farm. But that was the only house that was on that land, other than the Bemises' two houses.

**DOYLE:** Yeah, I understand.

**RAY:** But he used to own it; he sold it to the Bemises.

**DOYLE:** But this other group, having to do with Mr. Grills–

[ALL TALKING TOGETHER]

**JESSIE:** Our house was the dividing line. Grills owned xxxxx.

**RAY:** Xxxxx Grills owned xxx that group. There was 13 houses on it.

**JESSIE:** Even now.

**HOLLY:** [ASKING QUESTION; EVERYONE TALKING AT ONCE]

- RAY:** They can't put any more on it. They can't put any more, because if they do, then they'll have to come under the state inspection and have it inspected.
- JESSIE:** But they do still have it inspected.
- RAY:** They have it inspected themselves, but not every month. [With their own inspection it's only] twice a season.
- HOLLY:** Xxxxx in the '60'. I can't remember.
- DOYLE:** So that was fairly recent. OK.  
Now what about – did you spend time over at the bowling alley?
- RAY:** Oh yeah.
- DOYLE:** And Mother Brindley –can you tell me about her too?
- JESSIE:** The bowling alley – that was our main thing, from growing up. Every Saturday night, the Gagers had a little orchestra–uh--each one of the Gagers played an instrument. The mother and the three sons.
- RAY:** The mother played piano. The father played –violin and trumpet; Bob Gager played saxophone--
- DOYLE:** My goodness!
- RAY:** Wally, the oldest boy, played trumpet, and Toby, the youngest one played drum. They had a little orchestra. And every Saturday night, they'd hold a dance down here.
- JESSIE:** Not at the [bowling alley] --at the Eldridge [House] , right in back of the bowlin' alley.
- RAY:** Right back of the bowling alley.
- DOYLE:** Oh, OK.
- JESSIE:** So you could bowl or you could dance and everyone would come. Even Doris Day, the movie star, xxxxx on the beach., East Beach. Xxxxxx The Laverys and she came and [danced ] with us.
- RAY:** Chester Morris used to come down a lot too.
- JESSIE:** And Adrienne, his sister.
- RAY:** And Adrienne with her brother.
- JESSIE:** All of them. But there was so much --You could do most any-- And on a rainy day, if you didn't have anything to do, and it wasn't busy, you could

set up for each other. They would let you bowl and set up. In fact even when Dale, my Dale, came along, they were telling the xxxxx don't move me , and all of them would come. On a rainy day if they didn't know what to do, they'd come and popcorn, lay on the floor, throw it up , and catch it. But they always cleaned up. Xxxxx. You know you look back and you laugh. The kids were good; they cleaned up.

Xxxx At the time, remember the nets on the beach where the fishermen would go and pull them up xxxxx—

**DOYLE:** Now where was that?

**JESSIE:** Across, in front of the Coast Guard Station and all the way out to the point. Now they'd go over and pull the nets. Well, every once in a while, the kids thinking it was smart xxxxx the fish and leave it in the middle of the xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** [LAUGHING]

**HOLLY:** Xxxxx and he said there were hazards between -- around what I call the Coast Guard beach --

**DOYLE:** No--really? That's where Barbara Ornberg --

**JESSIE:** Xxxxx And Bill Pendleton had a place. Xxxxx. We used to go there all the time. That's when my father and Bill Pendleton xxxx. That was a second home to me over there; we used to go with them.

**HOLLY:** Did you walk across the beach with them, or did you take a boat?

**JESSIE:** You could walk at low tide. Well, this side of it we had xxx. Now the Coast Guard station, xxxxx, and they had a boat and you could pull yourself across. Xxxx. They had a patrol on this side, as well as to down to Weekapaug, 'cause we used to walk with them, xxxxx. And we thought that was a big deal. And we also walked East Beach, to Blue Shutters.

**DOYLE:** [The beach patrols] When they had to punch in, or whatever, what was that process?

**JESSIE:** It was just a key.

**RAY:** It was like a little xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** It was like --? I don't understand exactly how that worked.

**RAY:** It was a short xxxx, about this size. And it was registered. At the end of the xxxxx [trowel], there was a pole with a little box with a key in it.

**DOYLE:** Uh-huh.

**RAY:** They'd take that key and turn that, and that registered that they had been there.

**DOYLE:** Oh, OK.

**RAY:** It registered the time and so forth.

**DOYLE:** I see.

**RAY:** And then that tape was recorded.

**DOYLE:** OK; thank you for telling me about that.

**HOLLY:** [There was] one at East Beach and one at Weekapaug—?

**RAY:** One at East Beach and one at Weekapaug. And they used to patrol, I think it was twice a day.

**DOYLE:** All year round--?

**RAY:** All year round. They walked about.. To look for anything along the way that might be wrong.

**JESSIE:** Well there was one xxx and there was xxxxx and all kinds of things.

**RAY:** There were also boat accidents and--

**JESSIE:** And accidents and all. And people washed up [on shore]

**RAY:** And if there was anything wrong, unusual, they'd have to report it to the xxx, so then they'd go out in lifeboats and try to save them, you know.

**DOYLE:** Were you ever around when that actually happened? When they were trying to -

**RAY:** Well, there was a lot of practicing.

**HOLLY:** [They did] a lot of practicing [for storms].

**JESSIE:** Some storms - I've seen too many. I don't want to go through anymore. I've seen them bring up dead young people and dead cats xxxxx. I was here alone that last one, when the two-colored men—

**DOYLE:** Now what are we talking about? What year?

**JESSIE:** Oh, maybe ten years ago.

**DOYLE:** I see.

**JESSIE:** I was xxxx. We were the only ones that had a phone. And if I called up, then they'd all meet them here. [LAUGHING] I ended up making so many pots of coffee we didn't have one for breakfast! I heard about it!

**DOYLE:** [LAUGHING]

**JESSIE:** I had to go out front, and said, oh I don't know. So I went up on Margie's deck. And when the boat come along, there was two colored men that tried to get out. And one of them had a rope caught around his leg, and he was pulled overboard. Now the boat went out and it dragged him out. And the other one was lost overboard when the boat tipped up. So the first one I saw was floatin' by and I thought at first it was a [buoy?] you know; but then—so I came home and I cried. Well, the [moon?] got back out, and the boat sunk, and when it got right out here at Turtle Rock, it got warped and caught on the rock. So Dunn's Corners Fire Department and the police come and the ambulance. But those two men had come, and they brought the bodies up where I [could see.] None [one?] of them took his wallet out, to check identification., whether he was a policeman or not. I've never seen such a wad of money. But it was a pay slip; he'd just been paid, and had cashed xxxxx [TAPE NOISE]

**HOLLY:** They had [n't?] been fishing there for a long time.

**JESSIE:** Well, I was the one that saw them up on the road there, next to Sam Gavitt's. but I can't think of the name of the people. I was up on Picnic Rock. I'd gone out on xxxxx looking for xxxxx and I'd just come back and stood on Picnic Rock when I saw something goin' by, and it was a cracker box out in the water. So then I looked and saw a man, right in back of it. So I ran back. I had a xxx that had to be done that day, so I told Ray. So they went and got their boat and went out. And they got 'im and brought 'im in.

**ALL:** Ugh.

**JESSIE:** Xxxxx. And down at the breachway, while they were getting the person, Frank [Pulaski ?] or Bob Gager would go out every time. You know; the boat-- they'd always have to go out. And it seems as though he was always alone. And after they brought that little boy up, they all xxxxxx; they weren't too xxxxx anymore. For a birthday gift for his grandsons, decided to take 'em out fishing. And the mothers dropped 'em all off and the mothers went shopping. Now, the accident happened xxxxx but the boat overturned and with a life preserver on that winch, but they couldn't pull him out because the life jacket and everything held him up underneath there.

**RAY:** Up underneath the boat.

**JESSIE:** Underneath the boat. I don't know how many times --even xxx and two of them tried. But they just couldn't do it. And after that, any trouble come up, I'd head for home. No way. I --uh-- But the mothers come back and oh, my heart just went out to them. One of the youngsters was all right, --they got him, but the other got caught.



**DOYLE:** What about your memories of Mother Brindley?

**JESSIE:** Xxxxxx. We used to go down and break up the ice xxxx

**RAY:** Xxxxxx. [TAPE NOISE] Used to go down in the summer time. And xxxxx the ice chipper. And on top of the ice cream cans, we'd put a layer of ice and then a layer of salt and a layer of ice and a layer of salt. And she'd say, "Make sure you don't get any salt in the ice cream!" [LAUGHTER] Xxxxxx I remember we used to put a cover over the ice cream

**JESSIE:** I never remember giving a good push! Xxxxxx. I suppose she xxxx. She was trying to make a living on it. She did all right in the summertime, especially with kids.

**DOYLE:** Was she still there during the World War?

**RAY:** [MAKING UNINTELLIGIBLE COMMENTS TO WHICH DOYLE RESPONDS :]

**DOYLE:** Yeah, yeah.

**RAY:** Xxxxxx. She generally had a wood stove; I think it was for heat.

**DOYLE:** Tell me something about-- Did she also peddle her ice cream around, not just in her store? What was the story about that?

**RAY:** Well, not after she moved down and opened the store down here.

**DOYLE:** Mm Hmm.

**RAY:** When she opened in Xxxxxx, [the market]--, I think she did have a little horse and wagon--

**DOYLE:** That's what somebody was telling me!

**RAY:** --That she peddled ice cream and other stuff with --but she --xxxxx. I don't remember that. But I remember hearing about it.

**DOYLE:** Yeah, OK. I heard somebody mention it. That's why I couldn't -- But nobody else has been able to tell me about it.

**RAY:** The only thing I remember about it is being down here.

**DOYLE:** So she wasn't a real xxx kind of a person. She was a very --

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** She was a talker. She had everyone's favor.

[MORE TALKING ALL AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** She knew just everyone down here, and knew what was going on because the different ones would come in and tell things: I'm sick today, or so and so's xxxxx.

**RAY:** She'd always say that.

[LOTS OF LAUGHTER]

But – that was a summer at the Bowlin' Alley. You didn't need a xxxx ; you could go to xxxxx or xxxxx or some other buildings.

**JESSIE:** That was a working phone, though.

**DOYLE:** Xxxxx a gathering place for people. Now why would you go to Mother Brindley's and not get your ice cream at the Casino? I mean why didn't–

**JESSIE:** Well, I don't remember – first off—[whether] they had ice cream xxxxx  
[EVERYONE TALKING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** [I don't think] they had ice cream.

**JESSIE:** Oh, that's right; They had penny candy –popcorn and all, but—

**DOYLE:** Is it true that they had a one-arm bandit? Somebody was saying—

**RAY:** Yeah, they used to have those darned things.

**DOYLE:** A xxxxx too?

**RAY:** Yeah. That was before they were made illegal.

**DOYLE:** Oh. They didn't keep them up after they were—

**RAY:** [Not really.] They had a lot of equipment. One was a nickel and the other one was a quarter.

**JESSIE:** I think the quarter –oh I don't know. [LAUGHTER]

**RAY:** As a matter of fact, when they got rid of them, my daughter-in-law, Mo Phillips, met with someone and had it sold up in Ashaway.

**DOYLE:** [Laughing] Did he make a lot of money?

**RAY:** I don't know!

**JESSIE:** It was just for her own use.

**HOLLY:** So at one time there were two Dominoes?

**DOYLE:** Yeah. No; no – the third one was at the Sea Breeze Inn, so there were actually three.

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** There were only two bowling alleys –

**DOYLE:** Yeah, but the Kenyon House had one—way down—

**RAY:** We never had one up there--

**JESSIE:** We never got up there-- only for the dance, and the square dances.

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** [Except for shelter] during the '38 Hurricane. The xxx were just rebuilt. And all of these xxx got across the pond. So they went across the pond, toted them back, web-style, with a boat hitched on, and floated them back, across the pond and down the breachway. And then loaded them onto a truck or something and put 'em back in. They had to turn 'em upside down and refinish 'em. That was after the '38 Hurricane.

**DOYLE:** But the dance hall never went.

**RAY:** The dance hall was rebuilt afterward.

**DOYLE:** Oh! It was rebuilt? After the '38 Hurricane—

**RAY:** Yeah; and the back end of the bowling alley.

**DOYLE:** I don't remember the dance hall. I just remember the bowling alley.

**RAY:** Well of course the bowling alley went out in '44 was it, Jessie, that they rebuilt it?

**DOYLE:** I think that – it must have been after--it must have been [hurricane] Carol in '54, because I remember--.

**JESSIE:** Carol.

**RAY:** It was '54, then.

**DOYLE:** Yeah.

**JESSIE:** I can't remember; it's gone now.

**HOLLY:** There was something, because there was a store there in the '60s.

**DOYLE:** In the '60s. Hmm.

**HOLLY:** Yeah, because I can remember –

**DOYLE:** But was the bowling alley in operation then too?

**HOLLY:** Yeah; then it was Grills'—in the '60's.

**DOYLE:** There was a time when young boys would stay upstairs. Was that the time?

**HOLLY:** Yeah. That would be the '60's. There was a rental office too.

**JESSIE:** I used to be scared when I had to go up and down!

**DOYLE:** Oh!

**JESSIE:** They 'd hang out the window and swear up and down--

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE]

I never knew where he brought them in from.

**DOYLE:** I heard – the story that I was told –and I've met one boy that had stayed there, briefly; and he said there was a psychologist or psychiatrist from New York City who would bring some troubled boys up.

**JESSIE:** I remember that

**DOYLE:** And apparently his father knew the doctor, and his son was getting in trouble; and so his son was going to spend the summer at Quonnie.

[EVERYONE COMMENTING AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** I used to be a lot more of an [optimist?].

**RAY:** So did I.

**JESSIE:** I used to go up to the breachway fishing a lot. So you'd meet a lot of them up there. For one you could get snappers or you could get flatfish and all in the pond. Even yellow butterfish – you might see one of those. And mackerel – we haven't seen any of those in years. I used to get them for the fishermen who came down in a boat; I'd give them to them to use for bait. If they were thrown over, they'd [jump on]them. When I'm not fishing, I didn't have anything for them. They'd xxxxx the little carts; they brought them over and put them on. And I xxxxx this poor elderly gentleman was in a chair, sittin' there fishin' and all. And I'm taking a knife to 'em, xxxxx and all. Well, I got a meal. When I got a meal, I just couldn't do it.. And he hollered at me: "What are you gonna do with that?" I said, "I'm gonna throw it back as I have the others. "And he said, "Oh no; come down to me. Don't worry; it's good to eat, Ma." I said, "Do you want it?" He said, "Yes!" I said, "Come clean it!"

[GREAT LAUGHTER AND COMMENTS ALL AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** I was having fun!

**DOYLE:** A man named Munroe Hoxsie was telling me about---- the first breachway used to be—now you were living xxxxx [ALL TALKING OVER EACH OTHER] right down here. Another one --

**HOLLY:** There was another one we showed you on the map yesterday.

**JESSIE:** Yes. Now this one, they say locally it's a --now the sidewalk is all tones and cement and everything, except right past—

**HOLLY:** It went down xxxxx--

**JESSIE:** Yeah; there were three stairs that went down, and then you have a wooden one because you could not keep the wooden --the water would come under the [RAY AND EVERYONE TALKING AT ONCE]

**DOYLE:** Could we take a walk through?

**RAY:** It soaks the frogs up during the weather in storms.

**JESSIE:** That's why we built this up so much--

**DOYLE:** OK. But this is the -- Way back in the 1800's, I heard that this is where the boats would come in, at one time.

**RAY:** I don't remember any xxxxx going through --

**DOYLE:** OK. But --

**HOLLY:** But there was one up by um—xxxxx kind of where the Sea View was, and you could see it when

**DOYLE:** How far back did that chart go?

**HOLLY:** About 500 years ago.

**JESSIE:** Well, they say this one xxxxx. Now with every hurricane building up that wall out there, Sam Grills built it, in front of this house here, it reverts the water this way, so that our house is gone through. It comes right up over the back and comes this way. Xxx meridian -- Mannix notes they wanted to extend it, but you can't. They don't let you.

**RAY:** Environmental Resources -- you have to get permission to extend the stone wall [beyond our] property. Ray Mott xxxxx , but it was built before the regulations.

**JESSIE:** But that was just built in front. If they'd gone down the side—

**RAY:** When they rebuilt, there's a lot [added] on to it. They weren't supposed to but they did.

**HOLLY:** Hmm. I'm working on a theory of other, [worse] storms xxxxx and pullies, and there's no regulation about that. If you've got enough leverage, you can move the rocks that way.

[EVERYONE CONTRIBUTING HIS/HER OPINION AT THE SAME TIME]

**JESSIE:** And you know, the people around us—all the years I've seen this – they don't get permits for anything. And when we asked for a permit for the house, to put cement around it, to see if that would keep it from traveling: No Way! They wouldn't let us do it. Unless we went up to 16 feet.

**DOYLE:** [Did they] really!

**RAY:** Well, I would have to raise it up and put a solid foundation under it. So's I'd have a garage underneath.

**JESSIE:** [TALKING OVER RAY:UNINTELLIGIBLE]

**RAY:** Xxxxxx. But , to go under the house, I'd have to xxxxx over. Xxxxxx up stilts. But I'd like to go up maybe a couple of feet, to have a hearth. But they said, you go up, you got to go 16 feet.

**HOLLY:** As much as that – 16 feet?

[MORE DISCUSSION BY EVERYONE AT ONCE]

**JESSIE:** [COMMENTING ABOUT SOMETHING] down at the breachway. It was built right down to it and closed all in and I – Sissons' got one; that house. I found them out. They got away with it too. And so many little additions around, here and there, and I would think "damn;" we'd be the ones that would –

**DOYLE:** -try and go the right way and--.

**JESSIE:** We tried when we went to shingle xxxxx , and we had a problem. And no. He spoke to the xxxxx—

**RAY:** No; and they said is this cosmetic or is it necessary? And I said, if it wasn't necessary, I wouldn't be doin' it.

**JESSIE:** Why would we spend the money for shingles and all that work?

**HOLLY:** Oh my; maybe we shouldn't have gotten a permit for shingling either.

**DOYLE:** Why do you need permits for shingling? I never heard of that.

**RAY:** I'm just wonderin' --I haven't seen many permits on xxx Herschels' house after he replaced all those windows—

**JESSIE:** You know what? Loeckler—he says he'd spend all of his time down there; he can't wait for all these darned [regulations]. And it's true; you go down there and you wait and wait –Now when you wanted to do Shingle Nook, you could do half of it and not the other half—was that it? I can't [remember] but there was something like that. Now who's going to do – unless it's xxxx work to get someone down there, why would you--?

**RAY:** Xxxxxx is it necessary? Well you know darn well if it wasn't necessary, you wouldn't be doing the work. But that's –

**JESSIE:** Now we're ocean-front property. There's no house out front. Mosiers'house isn't there. Where'd you see 'em? That's an illusion.

**HOLLY:** [ASKING BUT UNINTELLIGIBLE: Yes, but --?]

**RAY:** Xxxxxxx. Ocean-front property. Yes.

**JESSIE:** They doubled it because of a—

**HOLLY:** It didn't [appear] to be

**JESSIE:** I went down there, and I said to them: Our house doesn't have this or that or the other thing and all; and it has crawl space underneath and there's no ceiling in the back bedroom xxxxx. And he says to me, "Well **JESSIE:** you can tear down the house; that's no good anyway. How much was your view?" I said, "\$138,000 for a view?"

**HOLLY:** [That was Mosiers' -- you're not Mosier's ]

**JESSE:** Well, I said to her, "You come down." She had a houseful –a whole line full of sheets on the line that she had washed. I could no more see the ocean or anything else. Between the rose bushes and everything else, I said "You come down and take a look."and you'll see some of my xxxxx .

**HOLLY:** A million-dollar house is not going to come.

**JESSIE:** No! It isn't?

**HOLLY:** No, because Grills is some kind of a—he made the beach a lot, so there's a lot between you and the ocean.

**JESSIE:** Well, they're not going to come down in the winter! There was no one around, and there wasn't a damn leaf on a tree or a rosebush; and of course, they were in Florida. I got no satisfaction. All I got was upset xxxxx.

**DOYLE:** Oh gosh; yes.

**HOLLY:** Huh. [Do] I remember xxxxx they got an exception?

**RAY:** I don't know.

**JESSIE:** I don't know. They don't discuss it. And I don't ask questions.

**HOLLY:** But either [ALL TALKING TOGETHER]

**JESSIE:** I still can't – now look; this property is so narrow, and this is the only way we could fit this size house. But he says, [IDENTIFYING "HE"—A TOWN OFFICIAL?] "Your lot is still big enough; it's the size of Needhams' down here."

**RAY:** Needhams' is a bigger lot than ours.

**JESSIE:** I just looked at it. You know how it was: theirs was from xxxxx to the xxxxx. This is so maddening!

**HOLLY:** [VOICE MUFFLED] Xxxxxx. I found him.

**DOYLE:** How did you get to file it, if you found him?

**HOLLY:** He was going to help us then.

**DOYLE:** Oh.

**HOLLY:** And I don't know how he was able to buy—He didn't know about it.

**JESSIE:** Well, he did everything--

**RAY:** Well, it was just like when Dad sold this house to xxx. If we had known about it, my sister and I would have got together and bought it.

**DOYLE:** Oh, so you don't own that anymore –

**RAY:** First we'd known that it was sold was we saw two people coming out of the house, and Mom was with them, looking around. So I went out and asked, "What are you doing?" And they said "We're looking over our property." I said what do you mean, your property?" And they said "It's our property; it's been sold; we just bought it from you."

**DOYLE:** [GASPING] Oh ----

**JESSIE:** Xxx's father had a girlfriend that lived in New York; and she put it in the New York papers. No one around here knew it.

[EVERYONE REACTING AT ONCE]

**RAY:** They bought it for \$60,000, including the two front lots!

**DOYLE:** Oh – including!



**RAY:** You know the Woodbridge and the Canonchet, so they had the whole darn thing for \$60,000.

**DOYLE:** Oh my goodness –

**RAY:** So they were there for a while, much to our disgust. But xxxxx.

**HOLLY:** So xxxxxxx.

**JESSIE:** Yes, but I couldn't hang my clothes out: they flapped and they bothered her dinner. I couldn't use my xxxxx because that was her bedroom. Some xxxxx had broken; she tried to make 'em pass at the end of the street, not the driveway. because the light would shine in her bedroom. Oh, there was something every day.

[ADVERSE REACTIONS FROM ALL]

**JESSIE:** The end of it-- when they came down to the house one night—the wind blew that way. And it kept her awake.

**RAY:** And my sister and I were very upset.

**JESSIE:** I was so glad.

**RAY:** But afterwards --

**DOYLE:** How can you resolve something like that?

**RAY:** But afterwards we found out that xxx Edith Smith's daughter, and she was a set-up. So Xxx bought it from Edith Smith for \$6500, with the extra lot, side of it, which was Mrs. Richie's house. So she sold this house to the Mosiers, for \$60.,xxx – but kept the two front lots. So that made her xxxxx.

**JESSIE:** Now she xxx a back lot from Mrs.----

**HOLLY:** Where was Richie's house, in relation to that?

**JESSIE:** Well, there was the Canonchet and then Mrs. Richie's was next.

**HOLLY:** OK; I got it. Who was Richie anyway?

**JESSIE:** Well we bought this back lot, right across, the whole length, from Mrs. Marsh. [SEVERAL COMMENTING AT ONCE] Well, we uh-- first, sister Doris (and brother-in-law) wanted it back of their house. Well, we debated and all; and sister said, "As long as we retain a right-of-way."

**RAY:** So we retained a different right of way, toward the back.

**JESSIE:** So we can get to our house now. I said, I don't care xxx. So we paved to the road and we paved you know, like that. And the agreement was that

when we sold the property to Miss Xxx, she would give us a right of way across their path to get to the beach.

**DOYLE:** Oh.

**JESSIE:** I took the woman at her word, which I shouldn't have done: she never did it. Although the man –

**RAY:** Major Mannix said we could go across –

**JESSIE:** And all the rest of 'em said we could – I just crossed it now. But it's the principle of the thing.

**RAY:** Then the xxx bought this from [x Reilly} She gave them a five-foot right-of-way, a footpath right-of- way, across this end of the lot, so the Hur... are the only ones to impede that right-of-way to get out on the beach.

**HOLLY:** XXXXX?

**RAY:** Yes; xxxxx

**HOLLY:** That's a xxx-- thing—

**RAY:** Mr. Mannix xxxxx

**JESSIE:** Mr. Mannix – David, I mean,. Dave put all of those rocks out front , even on private property: they are private. Letting kids climb on them xxx--

**DOYLE:** Do you mean --xxxxx

[ALL TALKING AT ONCE] [PLUS LAUGHTER]

**JESSIE:** It's private; it's private . I would never stop anyone, children or what. She's got grandchildren; they were flying kites. So she owns the sky, she owns the world!

**DOYLE:** But then that's the past.

**JESSIE:** She died two years ago. [MUCH COMMENT]

**RAY:** She moved to Westerly for a while, and I guess everybody was so miserable that then one day she went up to New Hampshire to be near her daughter.

**HOLLY:** Well, good.

**JESSIE:** Her daughter came down not long ago, and she was with a friend. She thought it would be all right if she went and looked in the windows. Well there was no one over there. So Margaret told her yeah; So she went and looked in to see her friends. But even she didn't get along with her children. Xxxxxx. I felt sorry for them.

**HOLLY:** You're right. Sometimes –

**JESSIE:** I never saw a nicer man than [Matt Wallace]. And we got along so well. And someone xxxxx a radio 'cause she ended up in the bedroom mostly. XXXxx. And something should upset him, and they would take him to the train; he came every Friday night and went back Sunday afternoon. And the holiday Monday Ro would take him up to the xxxxx and get ice cream. And every once in a while, he brings up a piece of corduroy and I'd make up something for my daughter.

**DOYLE:** What would he bring up?

**JESSIE:** It was not xxxxx– he was in the clothing industry; cloth, cloth you know. And he would sell to the different mills, etc. In fact this is half of a xxxx that I put up; I felt calm this year xxxx. I like this material; he got it in Florida. And he brought enough so I gave it to Doris and she made drapes, I made some for my daughter, and then finally Dave made some for himself, and I thought they were great. He's just been fine, all these years; and I can't get any black shades anymore.

**DOYLE:** These are World War II black-out shades?

**JESSIE:** No; but they are – oh, I have black-out shades. They were here during the war. We carried them at the end of the war.

**DOYLE:** You did –

**JESSIE:** Yes. They were here. And we had the black-out shades, and the army outpost was on the two lots.

**HOLLY:** Where was the two guards?

**JESSIE:** Right out front. And the latrine – This house was here—the latrine was right down there, so they'd come here at night and listen to radio, there'd be a welcome coffee maker down over there. So they'd stay a little. And – it's comin' in north, they'd go xxxxxx a couple of times around the xxxxx.. So they'd go this way and through the long grass and all and make their way down to the latrine!

**DOYLE:** [LAUGHING]

**JESSIE:** Xxxxxx the dogs. And you know, they couldn't have been nicer boys.

There was Harry Rufner, xxxx. from Tennessee, and he lived for fried potatoes. So we got some for him, and he came over one night and cooked a great frying pan of raw fries. And he ate every one of 'em with ketchup on them. The next day, I go out on the back porch, and here's a piece of butter right there. So evidently he had had some bread he had brought over too.

**DOYLE:** But did they also have their places that they lived?

**JESSIE:** Oh yes, two: one for sleeping and one for xxx. My daughter was small and I had a police whistle. Now [one afternoon] she was over to Herschels playing with kids, or she was over with one of the others. I blow it twice that it was time for a meal. Xxxx, going someplace; time to get home. And that the two would have to pick up what they were doing. [BUT THE GIRLS DIDN'T COME RIGHT AWAY]

So, I go outside, and I stand on the porch and I blow the whistle three times. [ALL OF A SUDDEN] Two [soldiers] come running out of the xxx x puttin' out guns, and they come right over and pointed 'em at me. I just looked at them and said, "What in the world?"

And they said, "That's an emergency! That's an all out! When we hear that, we've gotta be up and ready to shoot!"

**DOYLE:** Ooh! You do have a knack! [LAUGHTER]

**JESSIE:** But afterwards you get to know all of them. And xxxx wasn't so bad -- They put a blanket down on a chair and slept. They enjoyed a nice beer or something, and they weren't supposed to have it.. I said I don't want it; no. I'm afraid it might cause arguments or something else. We got it all figured out. We said, "If anyone has a xxxxxx, we'll initial it." And they did. And they xxxx a shot glass at night. But xxx.

But I was rushed to the hospital with gallbladder, and Ray's mother was dying of cancer, and Ray was up having to stay with her, and Doris was. So Gail and I xxxx. But those guys would come over and take care of us women. And those issue stamps they had, she could go over and cut 'em because where she had been with 'em, they could smell 'em. She'd cut 'em up.

END OF RECORDING

