

**TERRY HOWARD  
JUDY HOWARD  
January 24, 2006**

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Interviewee: Terry Howard  
Interviewee: Judy Howard  
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Tape, Side A (1<sup>st</sup> Side):

Anne Whealton: My name is Anne Whealton and I am here at the house of Terry and Judy Howard which is located on the southern end of the Island on Beebe Road, located on Chincoteague Island. This project - this interview is for the Chincoteague Library Oral History Project. Today's date is January 24, 2006. I am located in Terry and Judy's dining room. Their house is a beautiful home that has been recently renovated. The decorations are - it's decorated with Judy's Father's, Rad Berry's, Boats which are replicas of ships or down the bay boats from the Chincoteague area. And Betsy Hunt is our technician tonight. And we are going to be interviewing - I am going start out by interviewing Terry.

Anne Whealton: Terry, how are you tonight?

Terry Howard: I am doing very good, very well.

Anne Whealton: Great. Can you tell me where you were born and when you were born please?

Terry Howard: Yes, I was born on Ridge Road, Chincoteague Island on April 2, 1938, on a Saturday morning.

Anne Whealton: Saturday morning, all right.

Terry Howard: One of two.

Anne Whealton: One of two, okay. Who were your parents?

Terry Howard: My parents, my father's name was William Lee Howard. My mother's name was Mary Mariah Daisey Howard.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And can you tell me a little bit about your life as a young child on Chincoteague Island?

Terry Howard: Yes. Growin' up – growin' up on Chincoteague, I grew up as a child of a waterman and because of that to some extent we had – we had limited means insofar as the things that we had to sustain us. We did not – our parents did not have the money to buy us a lot of toys and things like children sometimes get now a days. But we were creative and we found ways to entertain ourselves and we – we made up our own games and – and entertained ourselves. And we did it in a way that it related to the way that our parents and people around us made a livin'.

Terry Howard: For example, we used – we used to pretend – we used to go out in the woods and pretend that we were raisin' chickens. And we would – we would clear off a place around a big pine tree and that would be our chicken house. And we would take pine cones, or as Chincoteaguers call it, pine burrs, and put in that circle and they were our chickens.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Okay.

Terry Howard: We would go – we'd find a hilly place where the sand was kind a yellow and we would dig that yellow sand and out and that was our feed.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And we would sprinkle that sand on those pine burrs, or pine cones, and pretend that we feedin' our chickens. And we also – we had – just like in the real world – just like the people, the adults around us, we had growers and we had buyers. And we had somebody that would buy our chickens after they got big enough. Or at least in our minds they were big enough. And we would use – for money we would take leaves out of catalogs, like a Sears & Roebuck Catalog, we would take leaves out of it. The green leaves in the catalog and the yellow leaves, and we would tear 'em in strips and use that for money. And we would sell our chickens.

Anne Whealton: Fantastic. That's so creative. So good. Can you tell me a little bit about – I think that you're a twin – can you tell me a little bit about your twin brother and the other children in the family, how many brothers and how many sisters did you have?

Terry Howard: I didn't have any sisters. There was four boys. The oldest child was Darryl, my brother Darryl. The second oldest was Mitchell. The third oldest was one of the twins of which I am a set, and that was my brother, Kerry. And then I was the last – last one to be born.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So Kerry beat you out.

Terry Howard: Yelp. He beat me here.

Anne Whealton: How many minutes?

Terry Howard: I've been told about ten to twelve minutes.

Anne Whealton: Oh!

Terry Howard: And – and it's hard to believe that – but I've heard my Mother talk about it many times – it cost \$35.00 to bring us in the world.

Anne Whealton: Wow, what a bargain!

Terry Howard: And we were born - \$35.00 for two babies to be born and we were born on Ridge Road, right over there diagonal across from Mason Oil Company is where we were born and raised. I've heard - my Mother used to tell us different things about how hard it was and my Father too. But – bein' a twin was interesting. When I first – when I was a child I didn't – I wadn't really crazy about it. I – I wanted to be like ever body else, but I was different. And as I grew up and grew older I found out that, you know, that was really a special privilege. Or at least in my opinion it was and still is. To be able to have someone that looks just like you and talks like you and walks like you. Thinks a lot like – a lot like you –it's a unique way to go through life.

Anne Whealton: That's great. How – how big were you when you were born, how many pounds?

Terry Howard: Oh yes, I think my brother may have shared that with you at one time or another. When we were born – I'm sayin' this from memory now, from what my Mother says, I've never seen it documented, but from what my Mother and Father said, my brother weighed, I believe it was eight pounds and a quarter and I weighed six and three quarters.

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Terry Howard: My Mother was a small woman. And I don't believe Mom was over 5'5" - 5'6" at the most.

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Terry Howard: She was – she was just – and I've heard Daddy say many times . . .

Anne Whealton: She was 5'5"?

Terry Howard: Maybe 5'5". If – if she – she may not – may have not been quite that tall.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, because I'm 5'5".

Terry Howard: 5'4". All right. She wasn't as tall as you are.

Anne Whealton: Yeah. Yeah.

Terry Howard: Well, maybe Mom was 5'3", 5'4".

Anne Whealton: Yeah, she was tiny.

Terry Howard: But I've heard – I've heard her and I've heard Daddy in particular tell some things about Mom when she was carryin' my brother and myself, and when it came time for us to be born that it was difficult for her. And he said – he told me many times – he said I didn't think your Mother was gonna be able to bring you in the world and to get through it, you know, and survive. But she did. And when it was all over, Mom said this about it, about us bein' so big. She said, "It was difficult, it was hard for me to get you in the world," she said, "but when it was all over I was glad you were big because I knew you had breath in ya."

Anne Whealton: Awe, that's so – that's great. Now how were you delivered, you said that you were delivered at home. At that time many people didn't go to the hospital, so did they have a midwife and, if they did, what was her name? Do you remember any stories?

Terry Howard: I've heard Mom and Dad talk about the fact that – there was a lady who lived up on Ridge Road a little bit up above us, and her name was Madge Sleigh, and she did a lot a that. A lot of helping to deliver babies. And in those days they called 'em granny woman – a granny – they said – they would say you'd have a doctor and a granny woman, that was the way they described it. As a child that's the way I heard it.

Anne Whealton: A granny woman?

Terry Howard: They called 'em a granny woman.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: Now – now a days they call it a midwife.

Anne Whealton: Yes. I haven't heard that terminology yet. Okay.

Terry Howard: So that's what they called it. Ms. Sleigh was supposed to be the person that was gonna assist the doctor and help bring us in the world. But I think she - she had a lot a people that she took care of and another baby got ahead of us you might say and she was unable to be there. And – as far as I know – it was just Mom, Daddy and the doctor. And the doctor's name – his name was Easter, Dr. Easter.

Anne Whealton: Dr. Easter. Okay.

Terry Howard: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: I've heard of Dr. Lekites and Dr. Easter and . . .

Terry Howard: Dr. Lekites was the doctor that took care of my brother, Kerry, and my brothers, Mitchell and Darryl, and Mom and Dad and all of us. He took care of us as we grew up. Dr.

Easter was the doctor that delivered us. And I've often heard people talk about how – how smart he was.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Well, great, that's great. Okay. Can you tell us a little bit more about your childhood? School and work, what did you do after school, what were your activities, what was life like on the weekends? Did you have chores?

Terry Howard: Yes, yes. We did. We had responsibilities growin' up. I remember in the spring of the year when it come time to do the – paint the screens, and do some work around the house, Daddy would always – he would give us a paint brush and a job to do and we had our responsibilities. And he took us – well when we were fourteen year old he took us – carried us out in these little bays, places like Shelly Bay and Simmon Easton, little place up above Queen Sound Bridge was the first place he ever took us. And in those days the people that worked on the water, ever little tump – ever little spot of water – ever little flat, it had a name. Every area had a name. And there was an area just up above Queen Sound Bridge and they called it “New Virginny.” And New Virginny is where Daddy carried us the first day that he took us out to work clammin'. He took us up there to New Virginny.

Anne Whealton: (Pause) All right. Terry can you tell us a little bit more about spending money and responsibilities and – before you even start on that – you said that your Father took you out at the age of fourteen. That's when you started on the water? Or did you start before that?

Terry Howard: Well, yes, to some degree yes, I did.

Anne Whealton: When did you learn how to maneuver a boat or to do anything on the water, how old were you when you started goin' out on the water?

Terry Howard: Well when I first started to work on the water we would – in those days you could – you could still work the waters – or the bottom adjacent to Chincoteague, all around there. There was no, as far as I know, there was no restricted areas and you could – you could sign clams and work around the – the land adjacent to Chincoteague, or the clammin' areas adjacent to Chincoteague. You could work those areas and there was an area that we used to go to quite often and we would go there during the summer months before Daddy started takin' us out. We'd walk – because we could walk it. It was close enough that we could walk to it. We didn't have to have a boat. It was called Black Point, Black Point Drain. We used to go down to Black Point and sign clams and make some spendin' money like 'at.

Terry Howard: Some other things that we did to make spendin' money, and in particular my twin brother and myself, Kerry and myself, we used to pick wild blackberries. And one of the areas that we used to go to pick those wild blackberries was down where Tom's Cove Campground now is. And there was a – where the Country Store is now, there was a lane that went down through those woods and we used to walk back in those woods to a place called Josh's Field.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And there was a lot a wild blackberry bushes down 'ere. And we would go down 'ere and pick wild blackberries and bring 'em home in a bucket and go around the neighborhood and sometimes even part the way up – up towards town and sell 'em to different people.

Anne Whealton: How much did you get for those?

Terry Howard: I believe – I believe the most we ever got for a quart of wild blackberries was Thirty Cents.

Anne Whealton: Thirty Cents.

Terry Howard: I believe that was the most I ever got.

Anne Whealton: Wow. And they made a lot a cobblers out of that stuff, jams.

Terry Howard: They made – well, yeah, blackberry cobbler was the favorite.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And I'm sure some people used it to make jelly and jams and things like that.

Anne Whealton: That's great.

Terry Howard: And we all – we also got a lot of – what Chincoteague - some people called 'em chiggers, we called 'em jiggers.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: We got a lot of those – and I'm gonna say it in Chincoteague language because that's who I am.

Anne Whealton: Yes.

Terry Howard: We got a lot a jiggers and boy those things would really make you scratch.

Anne Whealton: And what did you use to get rid of 'em?

Terry Howard: We used to put bleach on 'em, a little bit a bleach on 'em. Sometimes a little bit a kerosene.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: To try – to try run ‘em off, but it was difficult because they were submerged below your skin from the way I understand it, they do, they go below the skin. And you – mostly what you did was wear ‘em out.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Now if you don’t mind, I want to go back to the boats again. What were the boats like when you started out as a young boy, what were the boats on Chincoteague around here like, and how did you motor these boats?

Terry Howard: Well most of the boats – when I first started the vast majority of the boats were – they were propelled manually with an oar. They used an oar, or – yes, I started to say a shovin’ paddle. A shovin’ paddle is something that came along with the advent of outboard motors. But when I first started it was – it was an oar. We used oars and we polled a boat and when we got to deep water most of us sculled.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Terry Howard: Learned to scull. And that – when you learned how to poll a boat and learned how to grape her, what they called grapin’ her which meant you put the oar against the side of the boat if the wind was blowin’ you in the direction that you didn’t want to go and you put the oar down along side the boat and graped the boat and forced the stern over to come this way which meant the bow would go where you wanted it to. And you – and the whole process, scullin’, grapin, pollin’, all of it, you were said to have learned how to – when you had mastered all those things you were said to have learned how to carry a boat.

Anne Whealton: That’s great. Now do you remember how to scull? I know – I know Elvie taught Natalie when she first started on the boat as a little girl one of the first things he taught her, was how to scull. Do you remember how to scull?

Terry Howard: Yeah, scullin’s easy.

Anne Whealton: Okay. You want to describe the process?

Terry Howard: It’s – it’s just a motion of the wrist and you put the – obviously you put your oar in the scullin’ hole and . . .

Anne Whealton: Where is the scullin’ hole?

Terry Howard: The scullin’ hole is back on the transom of the boat.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And that’s – on those boats before the advent of outboard motors – all of those boats had what they called a tuck in the stern of ‘em which – which meant the stern of ‘em was raised up outta the water and that it was designed to be propelled manually. It was designed specifically to be propelled manually.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And they called it a tuck. You put that oar in that scullin' hole and when you first started to learn, when you first tried, it's kind a like learnin' – trying to learn how to swim. If you ever watched anybody trying to learn to swim, they just – they're just beatin' and thrashin'.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And when you – when you put that oar in that scullin' hole and you tried to learn that motion, the oar would slip outta the scullin' hole because you hadn't mastered the motion and you were not doin' it right and the oar would slip out. But once you learned what the motion was, once you got the hang of it and you could do it, you could – you could actually scull. The oar would stay in that boat forever. And sometimes people would scull, some people would scull from a sitting position and I remember some of the old timers – and I used – I used to watch 'em and I was – it was interesting to see 'em do it. Some of them when they got in real deep water, they would stand up facin' the stern of the boat, back to the bow facin' the stern, and they would use both hands, they would scull with both hands. And ever now and then they would turn around and look and see how – what kind of – were they makin' any headway or any progress and if they needed to sort a grape her again to make her go a little bit more maybe to the north or south, depending on which they were headin'. But they would scull standing – from a standing position facing the stern.

Anne Whealton: And what's the pattern? What's the pattern?

Terry Howard: It's just – I don't know - I guess you would say it's just like a figure eight.

Anne Whealton: Good. Betsy, I'm sorry.

Betsy Hunt: Can you tell us where the word scull came from? Sculling?

Terry Howard: No, I don't know. I would think – that's probably a term that come from the old country, maybe from England or York.

Betsy Hunt: And what were the boats made of and where were they made?

Terry Howard: The boats were made, a lot of 'em were made out of white cedar. They were made pretty much – all of 'em were made right here on the Island. People like Ira Hudson, the well-known decoy carver, he – he made a bateau; we didn't call 'em a bateau, we called 'em a "battow."

Terry Howard: Judy get – get that bateau, that little boat. She'll get it and show you in a minute. I have a little replica that her Father made of an Ira Hudson bateau and it had a tuck in it and you learned to scull. Now here's what would happen. Here's what happened when the outboard



motor came along. When the actual motor came along the people, they'd put - they got their motor and they put it on the stern of one of those boats that was designed to be propelled manually and what would happen would be the motor would pull it – tuck – it would pull that boat down until it tucked – the tuck in that boat was completely in the water. It wasn't designed to be in the water, it was designed to stay out of the water, but the outboard motor would pull it down, which meant the bow would go up in the air and it was awkward.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: So they had to – they went ahead then, the boat builders, learned to design a boat and they called 'em square stern boats.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And they would – they wouldn't do that. They would - when you – when you gave the motor some power instead of goin' straight in the air she would come up some and then plain, or we called it breakin' out. She would break out.

Anne Whealton: And how many horse power when they first started comin' out with the motors?

Terry Howard: The first motor that I ever saw – the very first outboard motor that I ever saw was called a Water Witch. It was a Water Witch and my Father's brother had it. And I want to say that that motor was probably maybe a five or seven.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: Seven and a half horse power motor.

Anne Whealton: What were people like when they started using motors? What was – how did they feel about it?

Terry Howard: Well, I think that they kind of felt like they had been freed up so to speak because – because before that unless they – they polled or sculled all the way to where they were gonna work, which was sometimes was a long distance, sometimes they would work out in what we called Old Rock Bay or most people call it Chincoteague Bay. They would – if they were gonna go that far they would – they would pay one of the people on the Island here that had a gasoline scow. There were some gasoline scows around. And they would pay somebody that had a gasoline scow to tow 'em out to Old Rock Bay or Chincoteague Bay and then they would tow 'em back at the end of the day. But when – when the outboard motors come along all that ceased because ever body could go to Old Rock Bay on their own.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: They had their own motor.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, I've seen pictures of that. I've seen pictures of people towin' 'em at Rosalie and Bill Savage's house. Yeah, yeah. That was interesting.

Terry Howard: And my Father, my Father used to, Daddy always liked to - he took my twin brother and myself and Mitchell. My brother, Darryl, did not like the water, he did not like - he was just not a water person - he preferred to work in an office or in a store or somethin' of that nature.

Anne Whealton: He used to work for Betty Ellis too didn't he?

Terry Howard: He sure did.

Anne Whealton: Yes.

Terry Howard: He worked for her; he worked for Betty for a long time. He worked for Mason Oil Company.

Anne Whealton: Right, I remember that too.

Terry Howard: Towards the end of his workin' career.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: But the other three, Mitchell, and Kerry and myself, we - we followed Daddy; we wanted to be where he was and do what he did.

Anne Whealton: What sort of things - what sort of seafood did you harvest?

Terry Howard: We caught clams and oysters. Oysters - clams and oysters.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And how do you oyster?

Terry Howard: We - we did what you called brushin'. The season in those days, when I first started out, the season came in in October and we did what they - again, what they called brushin', which means you were catchin' or gathering up seed oysters and you caught 'em on the oyster rocks or along the grass points and places like 'at. And you sold the seed oysters to a buyer and eventually the buyer, when he got a monitor load, he carried 'em to places like Tom's Cove or Cockle Creek or Chincoteague Bay.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And planted 'em.

Anne Whealton: Okay, he planted 'em. Why?

Terry Howard: He planted 'em there on private grounds so that they would continue to grow and increase in size and eventually it would be – you'd have not only an increase in size which would obviously would increase the volume of oysters that they'd have on hand. In other words, they would plant a thousand bushel and I don't know how many thousand they would harvest, or they would plant more than a thousand. They'd plant – most time the monitors that they had carried about twelve hundred bushel – a thousand to twelve hundred bushel. And they'd plant 'em in these places that I just talked about. And they would do that the whole season until oyster season ended. And I believe in those days the oyster season ended – I'm sayin' this from memory now and – it was the end of March I believe.

Anne Whealton: Okay. When did it begin?

Terry Howard: It begin the first of October.

Anne Whealton: I'm sorry.

Terry Howard: But – but through the years, the reason I'm a little vague on the exact months that they started and ended, I do know for sure it was October that it started and either the end of March or April it ended. But because of different reasons, the seasons have changed. They've changed the dates from time to time.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: It's different now than what it used to be.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Great. Now, what kind of predators did oysters have? What kind of things did they have to face in planting the oysters, any predators or weather or – what kind of things did they have to deal with?

Terry Howard: The biggest – the biggest enemy that the oyster had was the oyster bore, or you can say Chincoteaguers again, we called 'em screw bores.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Screw bores for oysters was the number one enemy. Sometimes a starfish would damage oysters. They were an enemy too. Insofar as the weather was concerned, except – except the few days that they were on the monitor when they were gettin' a load together, they were exposed to extreme temperatures because in those days – back in those days – we had hard winters.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And they were exposed to extreme temperatures. But an oyster lives his life for the most part on – in an area where he's – the tide exposes him and he – he adjusts to it and he's

– I can't think of the word I want to use now – immune. He's somewhat immune to cold weather. He can stand a lot of cold weather.

Anne Whealton: More so than a clam?

Terry Hoard: A whole lot more. A clam – a clam cannot – a clam can tolerate very little freezing. If a clam freezes he dies.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: An oyster can freeze and if he's not bothered, is not moved around, or jarred around, when he thaws out he'll survive. Or a big percentage of 'em will. And when they were on – on those monitors, when they had all these oysters on the monitors, until they were able to get 'em overboard, they - they went from here to South Bay with the monitors and the boats . . .

Anne Whealton: Where is South Bay located?

Terry Howard: South Bay is almost down to uh – almost down to where you go around the point of the Peninsula and head up the Chesapeake Bay.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: Places like South Bay – just little towns along the Shore there, Townsend, Gargatha, places like that, that's where – that's how far they would go. They'd go as far as they could until they run out a marshland.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: When there – when there was no further place – no place any further to go, they'd turn around go back the other way.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Betsy Hunt: What – what's a monitor?

Terry Howard: A monitor is a big flat – it's like – in other words some people would use to describe it would be a barge. Just a flat, I guess you would call it maybe a rectangular shaped vessel.

Betsy Hunt: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: They would carry, as I said a while ago, up to, I've seen some that would carry as many as twelve hundred bushel.

Anne Whealton: All right. Now I have two questions for you. How many pearls have you found?

Terry Howard: Clam pearls?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Let me tell ya a little story about a clam pearl.

Anne Whealton: All right, sounds good.

Terry Howard: Just one clam pearl – I’ve found a few because I worked on clams a lot. And when you worked on ‘em you soon learned what to look for. And a clam that had an – if his shell was – looked like it was afflicted or malformed, mis-formed, that was an indication that there was a pearl there. And when – when a waterman found one he would – he would open it or break the clam and look for the pearl. It wadn’t always the case, sometimes you’d find a clam that had a crook in im’ – he didn’t have a pearl. But sometimes it did.

Terry Howard: Buy anyhow, the story about this particular pearl that I – that I had one time. My cousin – we were workin’ on Mariah’s Flat and one day when we’re takin’ the clams off we left – somebody left a bag of clams on the Flat. And somehow or other the next day somebody found it - the next day and got back – it eventually got on the monitor. And I think this pearl came out of those clams that were left behind. I was workin’ at Burton’s Seafood. And my cousin – I was baggin’ the clams, dumpin’ – dumpin’ the clams in bags and twisting the bags up and so forth. My cousin was one of the people that was down on the monitor a countin’ and gradin’ clams.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And he found this clam with this crook in it. And he broke it and it had – it had a - the biggest pearl that I’ve ever seen in my life. And when he found it he held his hand up, five fingers, which meant I’ll take Five Dollars for it.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And as – as the saying goes in the tobacco world, sold, sold, sold. I says, “I’ll take it.”

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: I wanted – I wanted that pearl so bad when I saw it. So he sold it to me. And I kept that pearl for some time. There was a fellow that used to come down there to Burton’s Seafood and buy clams from Burton’s Seafood. He had a restaurant, I think up in Delaware somewhere. He had relatives here on the Island. And I got to tellin’ him about this big pearl I had and he – he liked pearls.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And he said, "I'd like to see that pearl. I'd love to have it." And I said, "well, it's gonna be expensive if you get it." He said, "Well how much do you want for it?" I said, "I want Twenty Dollars."

Anne Whealton: (Laughing!!)

Terry Howard: He said – he said "Twenty Dollars, what's Twenty Dollars, go get it." So I went home and got it. They let me go home and I went home and got it and sold it to him. But I wish – if I had it to go over gain – if he had said Two Hundred Dollars – I wouldn't have taken it. If I had it to go over gain.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: But I didn't – at that time, you know Twenty Dollars was a lot a money.

Anne Whealton: Absolutely.

Terry Howard: For anybody.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Terry Howard: Around here workin' and I could use – I could buy a lot of food with Twenty Dollars and - the temptation and the fact that I needed money and all that, I just, I wilted and sold it – sold it for . . .

Anne Whealton: Now do oysters have pearls too?

Terry Howard: Sometimes, yeah, they have a few.

Anne Whealton: Have you – you've never found many?

Terry Howard: I think – I think – only think I've found – the only time I've ever found a pearl was one time when I was shuckin' some oysters and when I got all done, gettin' ready to brush the residue off in the bin and there was a pearl layin' there that I guess had fallen out of one of the oysters.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Or – it either fell out on its own or when I was shuckin' the oysters it just rolled out. Either – however it got there – that was the only oyster pearl that I ever found.

Anne Whealton: Now how is a pearl formed?

Terry Howard: Uh – I’ve always been told that a pearl forms when a – any kind of foreign substance gets inside of the clam or the oyster and it gets down in the gill – gets in the gill of the oyster or the clam and the clam, from what I understand, secretes some kind of solution to – it’s a pain – it’s a thorn in the flesh so to speak to that clam and - or oyster. And then – the clam and the oyster is tryin’ to do somethin’ to compensate for that pain so it secretes some kind of solution to sooth that pain and – and in the process it keeps doin’ it and doin’ it and it builds up around that grain of sand or whatever it is that’s causin’ the problem. And eventually it turns into a pearl.

Anne Whealton: Oh, that’s interesting.

Terry Howard: And pearls come – they come in all kinds of colors. I’ve seen ‘em lavender, I’ve seen ‘em pure white, I’ve seen ‘em a beige color. I’ve seen ‘em partly white and partly lavender. They come in all kinds of shapes. I’ve seen ‘em in the shape of a teardrop. I’ve seen ‘em with a flat bottom and like an oval – or rounded top. All kinds of shapes and sizes. And they are really pretty.

Terry Howard: There’s another pearl that – that people used to get around here, and this was before my time, but I’ve heard my Father and others talk about it, and that was a pearl that they found in mussels.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: They used to harvest a lot of mussels around Chincoteague. And I’m thinkin’ that they’re the mussels that we – we see in the marshes. There’s two kinds of mussels around here. There’s a black mussel and then there’s what we call a marsh mussel. The black mussel is pretty and shiny and sort of an iridescent color.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Whereas the marsh mussel is – is kind of a bland, if I could use that word, in color. It’s – it’s not very handsome. But it’s plentiful. There’s plenty of ‘em. And that, from what I understand, they used to harvest those mussels and steam ‘em and find pearls in those mussels. And they – I’ve always been told that the mussel pearl was the prettiest pearl of all.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Terry Howard: Now I have – I have seen, on one occasion, I have seen two or three examples of mussel pearls, but I never – never found one myself.

Anne Whealton: That’s great. In Ocean City, when I used to work there, mussels were a big thing for appetizers. People – it was like a delicacy, but I’ve noticed that in Chincoteague it’s never really – seems like in our time taken off. So before they used to use ‘em a lot though huh?

Terry Howard: I don't know what they did with 'em.

Anne Whealton: Did they eat 'em here or did they send 'em out to other places?

Terry Howard: I don't know. I really don't know. That's – I don't know a lot about what they did with 'em. I do know that they – I don't even know if they steamed 'em here on the Island or whether they caught 'em, washed 'em and packaged 'em, put 'em in barrels or bags or however they did it, baskets, and then shipped 'em to a market. I – I want to say that they probably shipped 'em in the shells.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Now, I'm gonna go back to childhood. I would like to know – what was the relationship between adults and children like? How – how were children expected to act when you were growing up?

Terry Howard: You were expected to respect your elders. And you were expected to know what it means to say thank you and you're welcome. There was a lot of emphasis on – on being polite and mannerly. Not - not to use foul language. You weren't allowed to do anything like 'at. That – that was a no-no.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And if you said something that you shouldn't say, they'd take you to task for it. And – and in our family my Mother was the one that did the discipline.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And if she said you're gonna get a lickin', you were gonna get a lickin'. And I remember on one occasion I was – I don't know if I ought to put all this on tape or not, but it's – it's true. And I – my response to my Mother in the whole thing is thanks for doin' it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: She – my twin brother and myself decided to walk home from school one day. And I told this story a lot a times – Anne knows it – and Mom – Mom worked in helpin' to make a livin' and she didn't want us to walk home from school because she was afraid we might get run over or we might go out near the channels or somewhere and go in swimmin' and get drowned - or any - somethin' would happen to us. She wanted to be sure that we got home safe and sound. But they only had one bus in those days and one of the consequences of that was that if you were – if you were on the last bus leavin' the school, it meant that you got home late. And it also meant that you didn't have much daylight to play a lot a time. So we decided that we were on that last bus and we decided instead of waitin' for that last bus that we could save some time and walk home and have more time to play.

Terry Howard: And I don't know how Mom found out about it, but some how she found out that we had walked home. And she told us, she said, "Terry," she said, "you and Kerry, if you ever



do that again,” she said, “you know what I’m gonna do to you?” And we said no, what are you gonna do Mom. She said, “I’m gonna make you stand to the kitchen door and I’m gonna make you take your pants off,” and she said, “While you’re takin’ your pants off I’ll cut a switch,” and she said, “you’ll remember the day that you were born.”

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: So, that’s what she told us. And she meant it. And then that’s why I said a while ago, I said, thanks, I’m glad she did. The next day, we didn’t wait a week or two weeks, the next day we decided to do it again. And we walked from where the school was on Church Street down to – we went down Willow Street, walked down Willow Street, to where Willow Street intersects with Bunting Road. And we got to talkin’ about it. We said – we decided on our own collective wisdom that we better go back, which is what we did.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And again, that last bus was late. And we made it back in time and got on that bus. And we went on home. And when Mom come in from work that day, she said, “Terry, did you and Kerry walk today?” And we – wouldn’t story, we wouldn’t lie to Mom. We said, yeah Mom we walked a little ways but we went back and got on the bus. She said, “Get to the door and get your pants off.” And she did exactly what she said she’d do.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: She got a switch and she switched us. But I’ll – I – you know in our day and time people might look at that as abuse, but Mom – I always looked at it as Mom thinkin’ she wanted us to grow up, she wanted us to have a life and she did ever thing in her power, her and Daddy both, to see to it that we did grow up, that we did survive, and that we – we did act like we should act as we went along through life. And she did ever thing she could to make sure that nothin’ happened to us. And she – she gave us a lickin’ but we didn’t walk any more needless to say.

Anne Whealton: Um.

Terry Howard: And again, my response to all of it – if I could call my Mother up today on the phone, I’d say Mom, thanks! And some people might look at it as abuse, but I don’t. I just think – I think I needed it. I disobeyed her. And even – if I only disobeyed her half – only walked halfway home, I disobeyed her half way and as far as I’m concerned I disobeyed her all the way and she made me pay for it. And I’m glad she did.

Anne Whealton: That’s good because we wanted to talk about family values a little bit. That’s, you know, because there’s such – so different yesterday compared to today. And – what else can you tell me about chores that you did around the house? What were your responsibilities and what was it like being part of a family in those days when you were growin’ up? What did family mean, what did neighborhood mean, can you talk a little bit about these things for me?

Terry Howard: Let – let me say – let me talk about how, again, gettin’ back, keep talkin’ a lot about my Mother. We were not allowed to leave the yard and go very far. It was a very short distance. We had a – our world was a small area. And Mom would not let us – she wanted – for the most part she wanted us to stay close by home. My oldest brother, Darryl, was the one when Mom did go to work, he was the one that she entrusted to take care of us.

Anne Whealton: Where did she work at by the way? Excuse me for interrupting.

Terry Howard: Mom – Mom, she did several jobs throughout her life. She worked at Birds Eye Chicken Plant; I believe it was up on Pocomoke.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: She worked in a bean processin’ factory up in Pocomoke. And for about thirty some years she traveled all up and down the Eastern Shore with a vaccinatn’ crew, vaccinatn’ chickens.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And she did that until she said that – she did it until she realized she could no longer keep her end up so to speak. She couldn’t do her part. And she said, “I couldn’t do my part,” so she said, “I hung it up.” And come home and lived on her social security check and Daddy got social security. And they made it okay.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Terry Howard: But we – we were raised – we were raised good. Our values and morals. I remember as a child the insurance man used to come there and again, in those days, a lot different than it is now. If somebody gave you a nickel, you could buy some candy with it. And that nickel would – it would hardly hit your hand before Mom or Daddy, one the other of ‘em, or both ‘em, would say, what do you say? And you better say it. I knew what I was supposed to say. I was taught – taught that way, thank you. And we were taught good values. And the most important thing, as far as my Father’s concerned, all four of us graduated from high school.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: That was – that was one of his goals. He wanted to see all of us finish high school. And we did, all of us finished. But the most – and if he had – if he had been able to send us to college that would a been nice, if he’d been able to buy us cars, that would a been nice. All these things are okay. But the most important thing that he ever – he ever gave any of us was when he taught us to work and be responsible.

Anne Whealton: That’s great. That is really great. Thank you.

Betsy Hunt: Yes, it is.

Anne Whealton: Now how about goin' to church now and the Bible. How did, was that a part of your life early on or when did that begin?

Terry Howard: My church life as a child, Mom and Daddy didn't attend church when I was growin' up. They sent us to Sunday School. We were sent to Sunday School.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And we went to – went to Union Baptist is where we went.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: That is where our whole family – all of our family went to Union. And – if you want – if you want to know about as it went along in later life how Judy and myself got involved in the church, our son, Michael, went to Bible School. And he come home one day and told us that he had – I wadn't home at the time, I was at work but Judy told me when I come home – she told me that Michael said he had made a decision for the Lord and that he had been saved.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And the people, they were havin' a revival I think just a little while after, or maybe right durin' the time, I'm not sure how it was, but there was a visitin' evangelist here and it was ironic that – that the fact that this visitin' evangelist had the same name that we did.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: Our family name really is H-o-w-e-l-l. That's our – that is what our name really is. My Great-Grandfather changed it. I don't know if – if he did it legally, you know went through the legal process with papers and so forth, or if he just did it and it just stuck or what. But later on it was changed to Howard. Some of the grave markers, the tombstones, over in the family cemeteries - cemetery, has H-o-w-e-l-l on 'em.

Anne Whealton: I didn't know that. Okay, that's interesting.

Terry Howard: But this visitin' evangelist, his name was Milford Howell.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And after Michael told his Mother about this decision he had made and so forth and so on, they'd followed up on it. And he came here. And he came with Ralph Daisey.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And I was at work that day because the rest of the story, as Paul Harvey says, tells me that I was at work because when I come in the yard I saw this car in the yard. I knowed whose car it was. I knew Ralph's car.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And I said I know what they're here for. And I aint goin' in 'ere. That aint good grammar but that's the way it was.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: I said I'm not goin' in 'ere. And I got to thinkin', I'm out here in the backyard, I said why should I stay out here, that's my house.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) I live here! So I went – I come on in the house and to make a long story short, Judy – Judy had made a decision for the Lord just before I come in and then I did the same thing. I made the decision.

Anne Whealton: That's great.

Terry Howard: And we been attendin' Union Baptist ever since.

Anne Whealton: That's great. I know you know a lot about the Bible too. I know you know the Word.

Terry Howard: Yeah, we've learned - studyin' the Bible and we hear it preached Sunday - Sunday after Sunday, Wednesday after Wednesday. And with what readin' we do ourselves and stuff.

Anne Whealton: That's great. Now I'm gonna go backwards a little bit. Can you tell me, do you have any memories of World War II? I know that that affected the Island greatly and how you lived. Do you remember anything as a child, what it was like?

Terry Howard: Yes, I do. I remember when they had blackouts and they had – they had the blackout curtains. See I was born '38, so when the war ended I was seven year old. So my memories are not that great, but I do remember some things. I started school in 1944, which meant the war was still on. And I remember chocolate bein' rationed and I remember at certain times they would give us – the store where we bought our lunch, we'd get a hold of some chocolate, they wouldn't let you know that they had it until ever body had eaten their sandwiches and had finished their lunch. And then they would yell - candy, or bubble gum, or Hershey bars, or whatever it was they had. And ever body - was just like a stampede to the back of the store and try to get back 'ere and get one of those Hershey bars. But that – that was part a growin' up during the war. We could - we only got Hershey bars or chocolate candy at certain times.

(END OF SIDE A OF TAPE)

Anne Whealton: My name is Anne Whealton and we are still here at Terry and Judy Howard's house. It is January 24, 2006. And Terry, I think we left off with being a child during World War II, I think you were seven years old. And when we had it cut off Betsy was asking what were lunches like in school when you were a child?

Terry Howard: When I was in school, and again we went to school on Church Street, which later became the elementary school, is now – it's not a school now, it's been abandoned and sold. They did not have a cafeteria. We – the students either went home to lunch if they lived close by or if their parents were fortunate enough to have a car, they'd come get 'em and take 'em home sometimes for lunch. And in the case of our family, because Daddy worked and Mom worked, it was nobody at home during lunchtime, and Mom and Daddy gave us, it was four of us; they gave us a dollar for our lunch – for four people.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: When – with that – obviously it was a quarter a piece for the four of us. And for a quarter you could buy a spiced ham sandwich or a hotdog sandwich, that was the menu. Total.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And ten cents for either one, you could have two sliced ham sandwiches, two hotdogs or a combination. And that meant you had a nickel left if you got two. And Darryl, my brother, Darryl, again, he always took care of my brother, Kerry, and myself. And he always saw to it that we had our sandwiches first and then we could decide what we wanted to do with the other nickel. Did we want a drink or did we want candy. Most – most of the time we chose candy.

Anne Whealton: I knew you were going to say that.

Terry Howard: We got candy.

Anne Whealton: That's where you got your sweet tooth from Terry. (Laughing)

Terry Howard: We got candy, most the time we got candy. And the owner of the store there, it was Mr. Wilbur Twilley, and his wife was Ms. Bertha Twilley, Ms. Bertha Twilley. Two very nice people. They ran the store. I remember a lady that used to work for 'em whose name was Mae, she was another very nice person. They used to – they used to hire – sometimes they hired some of the students in school to work behind the counters, the candy counter, and serving sandwiches and things of that nature. And the students were – they could make 'em a little spendin' money by doing so. And we used to go in there and buy our sandwiches and again, either a drink or some candy, whichever we chose.

Anne Whealton: How about the sour pickles?

Terry Howard: Oh, yeah. That – that was a favorite of a lot of people. Was the sour pickle. They had sour pickles, I think they were a nickel and you got a little brown bag with some oyster crackers in it to go with it, I think for a nickel, I believe that's what they cost. Again, I went for the chocolate.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: I didn't buy – I didn't buy many pickles. (Laughing) But the girls – seemed like the girls mostly went – they liked the pickles, they'd buy the pickles. And they used to sell a – used to sell potato chips which were five cents a bag, and they were in a foil bag, aluminum foil bag, and they were made by Snyder's.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And they were really good. And people – I often hear people that I grew up with say I wish I had another bag of those Snyder's potato chips . . .

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: Like they had then.

Anne Whealton: They are good. I was raised on them also. What was school like as far as – what was your school day like? How did it begin, what were the subjects that you studied, and can you tell me a little bit about any kind of extracurricular activities, or what was school like in those days?

Terry Howard: Uh – in elementary school – one thing that – again if we could just go back to that – the issue of how we had our lunch and how we got fed – if we had a rainy day – they'd – they would say that we were gonna have half – a half session. And they would – instead of – because it was raining instead of letting the students go out and go across the street to the store, they would send out and bring the sandwiches back to the classrooms in a box and you got your sandwiches that way. And it was called a half session and you got home early. And the young'ns - the young'ns really liked that you know. They got to eat in the classroom and then they got to go home early.

Anne Whealton: Because it was raining?

Terry Howard: Because it was raining. They called – if it was really rainin' hard – not if it was just a little sprinkle or something.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: But if it was really a – a real dismal drizzly day, they would – they'd declare, I guess you would say anyway, a half session.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And we'd eat – again, we'd eat in the room, and then we'd get to go home early.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: I liked 'em – I liked half sessions.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And we – we had good teachers. We really had good teachers and then again gettin' back to morals and values, we had teachers – and I don't – I want to make this clear, I'm not saying that we don't still have those people.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: We still got people in schools that love the children and they care for 'em.

Anne Whealton: Yes.

Terry Howard: But just speakin' from my own experience, I remember that they just didn't want us to learn and get an education, they loved us. They cared about us and sometimes because we had our lunch money in our pocket, if you didn't watch out, some of us, and one of 'em is talkin', we'd spend our money in the mornin' for candy or for marbles or somethin' like that, you know, and when lunchtime come I'd have no money. And they would take us to their home and give us somethin' to eat, they'd give us a sandwich, glass a milk, or somethin'. They would give to us.

Anne Whealton: And how did your day start out, what was the routine, did they say the Pledge of Allegiance or what was the routine of the day?

Terry Howard: We'd – ever day we started off with the Pledge of Allegiance. We recited the Lord's Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and the Bible readin'. We read the Bible.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: In some classes the teachers read it. I guess down in the – it's been a long time ago, but in the elementary school you were down in the grades, the teacher read the Bible, and then as we got older and were capable of – the teacher would allow the students – or ask a particular student to stand up and read scripture. And that's the way that we did it. And we did that from the time I started school until I finished in 1957.

Anne Whealton: Wow. So that's when you graduated, 1957?

Terry Howard: Yeah, I finished in '57.

Anne Whealton: Did you have like a senior trip or a prom or anything like that?

Terry Howard: Yeah, we had a senior trip. I went to – I went to New York City on Easter weekend for a senior trip. My Mother, again we're talkin' about limited means insofar as money was concerned, didn't have the money to send me so she went to her brother and borrowed the money. She borrowed a whoppin' Seventy-five Dollars to send me to New York with.

Anne Whealton: Aaahh!

Terry Howard: And my twin brother, Kerry, he elected not to go. I don't know if that helped me or not, but anyhow, he didn't go and I did. We went Easter – we went to New York City on Easter weekend. Got on a train at Lecato, that's where we got on, and rode the train on in to – well, we went through, is it Penn Station in Philadelphia?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And then on up to Grand Central Station in New York.

Anne Whealton: What did you think about New York City?

Terry Howard: I remember gettin' out – gettin' out – gettin' off of that train and I was – I was – growin' up as a child - I was a little bit aggravatin' at times so – probably still am some people would say – but, but I remember some of the young'ns' gettin' off of – off a that train and they just took out. And I guess you couldn't describe it in no better terms than say like a herd of wild ponies.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Because we were from Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) They just literally took off, you know! And I thought, hey, this place – this building we're in looks like another world to me. You know, it was so big!

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: I said, I thought to myself, I want to have fun but I'm gonna be a little bit more careful man, I'm gonna look where I'm goin' until I – until I learned the ropes so to speak. And – but we had a good time. And the thing that I wanted to do the most when I got in New York City, I wanted to meet Jack Dempsey.



Anne Whealton: Oh yeah. Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Did I tell ya about that one time Anne?

Anne Whealton: No, but I've been to the restaurant where Jack Dempsey used to hang out.

Terry Howard: Well, I wanted to meet Jack Dempsey. I went to a lot a rockin' roll shows like all the ya-ya's, I loved all of that, rockin' roll shows, went to Brooklyn, we went to some in New York, and had a good time. But my – the most important thing to me while I was in New York was I wanted to meet Jack Dempsey. I had read about him and seen him on television, in the old fight films, and things like 'at, and I wanted to meet Jack Dempsey. So I got one of my classmates to get in a taxi with me and we went and looked for him. We told the taxi driver to take us to Jack Dempsey, wherever he is, take us there.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Did you find him?

Terry Howard: Yeah! We found him. We went to his restaurant. And when – when we got there Jack Dempsey was in there.

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Terry Howard: And we had our dinner and ever thing and I went over there to 'im and I told 'im who I was and where I was from and I said I want my picture taken with you.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And they had a thing there that you could do it and I think it cost ya a small fee to have your picture taken with 'im and I got it here. I got a picture here in the house somewhere put away of me with Jack Dempsey. He had his hand on my shoulder and I looked like a – I was – he was a BIG man, he was a giant of a man and I was just a little teeny scrawny Chincoteaguer.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: I wadn't big as a cake a soap hardly. And he gave me – he gave me an autographed menu from his restaurant and he wrote on, "Good luck Terry, your friend, Jack Dempsey" – "your pal, Jack Dempsey."

Anne Whealton: Aahh.

Terry Howard: And I still got that too.

Anne Whealton: That's great.

Terry Howard: But we had a good time and nobody – nobody got hurt and we all got back home safe and sound. Had good chaperones. Some of our chaperones was our teachers. And we got back safe and had a good time.

Anne Whealton: Now did they have sports then when you were in high school?

Terry Howard: Yes. My twin brother and myself, they used to have, when I was in school, in elementary school, they had what they called a County Field Day. And – and this event took place at Keller Fair Grounds. What they used to call Keller Fair Grounds.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And all the schools from all over Accomack County, elementary, high schools, all of ‘em, they converged on Keller Fair Grounds on a particular day to have what we called Field Day. And it consisted of track and field events. And I remember one of my teachers whose name was Ms. Mabel Leonard, gettin’ a bunch of us boys together and havin’ this dash. Well – when we run across this field we didn’t have much in the way of – we didn’t have much it was just a field and we run a crossed it. And it was so many of us I thought well nobody ‘ill even notice I was in this crowd it was so many of us.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: But she picked us out. Ms. Leonard picked my brother and myself out. And I – I really didn’t understand why she did it because it looked to me like a lot of ‘em was ahead of us, but they must a been bigger, and she wanted us for the smallest class – weight class it was. Which was the eighty pound class. In sixth grade I was in the eighty pound class.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: (Laughing) And from that – from those humble beginnings you might say – we stayed in track and went up through the different weight classes and – until we graduated from high school. And we went to Charlottesville with a small – very small group – and won the State Championship. . .

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Terry Howard: By one point.

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Terry Howard: We won it by one point and I remember when they announced the decision they said that Elkton High School had won, but our coach had told us that – he said if you win this relay you’ll win it by one point according to my calculations. And they said that Elkton had won. And they were celebratin’, throwing their jersey’s up in the air, and Mr. Poulson (?) said that’s not right. Got to go back in that tent, they got to look these figures over again.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And when they checked it over again sure enough we had won by a point.

Anne Whealton: How about that! That's cool.

Terry Howard: And then the very next year we lost by one point.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: So that's . . .

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: That's great. Now also while you're still in the school stories, can you tell me the funniest twin story from school? Did you guys play any tricks on the teachers where you were identical twins?

Terry Howard: No, we never – we never tried to fool people. We didn't have to try because they were constantly tryin' to figure out who we were. It was easy. I mean – it just come – you might say, it come natural. It wadn't a problem.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: You know, the people just – they couldn't get us – they just couldn't get us – our names and our identities straightened out. They couldn't get – we looked a like and two names like Terry and Kerry, and if you want to know a funny little story. In the old wooden buildin' behind what – where the brick buildin' now stands. . .

Anne Whealton: Right.

Terry Howard: The old wooden buildin' it was – it was a two-story buildin' and we were in the – I think it was fourth grade – and on this occasion, because we looked so much a like and there was so much confusion, they tried to separate us as much as they could. Put one in one class and one in another. They had two fourth grades. And he was in Ms. Watson's class and I was in Ms. Genevieve's class. I was – for a change I was behaving myself and I was in my seat. And my brother was out there runnin' around the – the banister that – as you went down the stairway it was a banister there – and he was runnin' around that banister and it was time for him to be in his seat. And my teacher come out – thought it was me – and she said you should be in your seat now get in 'ere. And he's goin' – he's tellin' – but Ms. Genevieve I'm not in your room.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: Yes you are too! (Laughing) And then somebody in the classroom said, Ms. Genevieve, Terry's already in here.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Oh, my!

Terry Howard: But the – Ms. Genevieve by the way is one of those teachers that used to take us sometimes and give a sandwich and a glass of milk.

Anne Whealton: Aahh . . .

Terry Howard: But – when we wasted our lunch money.

Anne Whealton: That's sweet. Okay. Now, I'm gonna move you on from the childhood, I just wanted to hear so many of the childhood stories because I knew they're interesting and they're different. And they really kind of like talk about the way of life here so thank you for that. Now I'd like to go into you and Kerry have worked together many years. And one thing that I admire about the Chincoteaguers is that if you can't do one occupation you all can do many occupations. So you can always – there's always a way of hustling.

Terry Howard: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: You know, if the job goes out and there's not work available, seems to me that you're multi-talented. Many of the Chincoteague – Chincoteaguers from your generation. Can you talk about your work and your occupation and the different things that you and Kerry did to make a living?

Terry Howard: Well, when we graduated from high school, my brother, Kerry, got a job workin' for Super Giant.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: In Salisbury. He didn't have a car at the time and he either had to carpool – or get in a carpool or else hitchhike. And he did that for a couple a years and it was kind a rough doin' it, you know. Wadn't makin' that much money, but anyhow, eventually he quit that job and, even though we finished high school and the idea of gettin' a good education is to better yourself and so forth and get a better job so that you can make more money, and do better in life, but somehow or other we couldn't get away from what our Father did. We wanted to do what he did. Even though it was – there was not a lot a money in it, no fringe benefits, no holidays, no sick leave, not a lot a things that people ordinarily look for in a job – but it was a way of life that we – we had seen our Father do and we had done it with 'im and we just wanted – we wanted to continue doin' it.

Anne Whealton: And that's to be a waterman?

Terry Howard: Yeah, to be a waterman. And so we did. We worked on the water and we got on these down the bay boats. And run down the bay from here, again to South Bay, and all these little bays, Swash Bay and Rebel Zone Bay and Sandy Island Bay. There's numbers of bays! Hogg Island Bay was the biggest one. And we – we worked on those boats down in those bays for a long, long time. And then it got so in the later years when the concept or the method of makin' a livin' by gettin' on the down the bay boat – a down the bay boat – that that ceased to be. It just dwindled down to there was no boats left that were doin' it any longer. So from then on anybody that wanted to work on the water, you just sort a had to be – he did it as an individual. You had your own little boat and your own motor and so forth. And we continued to do it that way. Catchin' clams and catchin' oysters. Just like Daddy did. For a number of years, up until – it got to the point where the – the amount of oysters that was available was on the decline and it was gettin' more difficult to make a livin' and that was sort of aggravatin', or in my opinion it was. It was some pretty strict regulations that they came out with about having to become a registered waterman and so forth.

Terry Howard: Anyhow, you could not make much money at the time and the paint – the development – the development on the Island was increasing. There was becoming more demand for carpenters, painters, plumbers and Judy's Dad was a – was a painter. They had a good reputation for being one of the best and he took me with him and taught me some things. And my twin brother and myself we still stayed together, worked together, and we got in the paintin' business and we did that for a number of years. For – for – when it first started, the paintin' business, we would paint – we would paint during the warm months and then when the weather started gettin' cold we'd drop the paintin' and go back to the water. Because you could still catch some oysters. And we wanted to do it. So we would alternate back and forth until – again until it got to the point where it was just difficult to make a livin' catchin' oysters. So I stopped doin' that and pretty much put all my efforts and all my energy, and my brother did too, into the paint business.

Terry Howard: And then we went from that and as Anne said just a few minutes ago – if they'd – if somethin' caused us not to be able to go in one direction, we'd go in the other direction. If there was – if there was an obstacle this way, and the other way was clear, we'd go that way. So we started some lawn work, doin' lawn work for people. And we did all – we did all kinds a work, but in particular, my twin brother would say, "Anything anybody would ask us to do as long as it was honorable and we could make a few dollars and support our families, we did it." And we did a lot a different kinds of work. We painted, as far – as far away from here as a little fishin' village in – off the Outer Banks in North Carolina, little place called Engelhard. We went down there one time and painted a hotel.

Terry Howard: And then – we continued to do that until we reached the age that we could collect social security. And both of us took our social security at age sixty-two. We still, to this day, do some – we take small jobs, we don't do the big jobs anymore – but we take, we still do some small paint jobs. And we're now workin' on the newest thing insofar as seafood is concerned, and we are helpin' a fellow out that is – Rob Bloxom – we're helpin' him in aquaculture business. He has oysters and clams that he raises. And we're helpin' him - learnin' what that's all about.

Anne Whealton: That's great. Now I want to get to a fun story. I want you to talk about how you met Judy.

Terry Howard: (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: And your marriage and everything. I want to hear a little bit about that story.

Terry Howard: You want to hear the whole romance?

Anne Whealton: Yeah!

Terry Howard: (Laughing) Well. Judy was raised on Main Street. Straight out from where we're sittin'. I was raised on Ridge Road. Straight east from where we're sittin'. She was raised straight west from where I'm sittin'. I was raised straight east from where we're sittin'. Ridge Road and Main Street. And I used to tease her and tell her she was born in the city and I was born over there in the country.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: They had sidewalks and streetlights and we didn't have 'em. But anyhow, her Father and my Father used to gun together. Used to go huntin' ducks and stuff together. And they both shucked oysters for a livin' in the winter months. They had a lot in common. And I – when I got out of high school I wanted a car, in 1957. I wanted a car. I really wanted a car bad. So I said I got to pull my arms in I can't spend money on girls and get a car. I never will get one. 'Cause you didn't make much money then see.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: So I kind a pulled my arms in and I started savin'. And I saved up enough money and Daddy took me and my brother and took us up to Pocomoke and I bought a '53 Dodge. Black '53 Dodge. And she was pretty. Had whitewall tires on her and she was nice. And one day after I got that car I was - took a little ride down the inlet road 'ere and I don't know how they found me, but somehow or other her Mother, I don't know if she – I don't know if Judy stuck her Mother on me or what, I don't know who got – who layed the plans, but somehow or other they – they intercepted me.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) And she got out of her Mother's car and got in my car with me.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: So we're off to the races.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. (Laughing)

Terry Howard: I want to say like Bonnie and Clyde, but not that bad! (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. (Laughing)

Terry Howard: But, anyhow, we started goin' together and we went together for a while and then we decided to get married. She was fifteen year old and I was twenty. And she wadn't about to ask her Mom could she do it 'cause she knew the answer was no. So we got the license. We went up to Princess Anne. And in Maryland, you know, you don't – I don't know if it's that same way now or not – but you didn't have to have a blood test or anything. All you had to have was money.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) That's easy.

Terry Howard: (Laughing) And go in 'ere and either tell 'em the truth or tell 'em a story.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: So we went up 'ere and she wouldn't go into the office where you had to get the license. She wouldn't go in 'ere with me. She got her cousin, Caroline, to go in. She went in 'ere and posed as Judy.

Anne Whealton: Oh my lands!

Terry Howard: So to speak.

Anne Whealton: Now Caroline who?

Terry Howard: Caroline Reynolds, who is now Caroline Conklin.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: And anyhow, we got the license and ever thing. Paid for the license and got 'em. And then we decided – do you remember what the day, was it a Saturday?

Judy Howard: I don't know the day, I know the date – I don't know what day of the week.

Terry Howard: It was August the 11<sup>th</sup>, 1958. August 11, 1958, we decided to get married. And Caroline went with us. And her boyfriend and we went up to Princess Anne where we got the license.

Anne Whealton: So it wasn't in Snow Hill, it was in Princess Anne?

Terry Howard: Princess Anne is where we got the license. And Princess Anne is where we went to get married. And when we got in Princess Anne the first people I stopped to talk to was the people that I could relate to, which was young people. Teenagers and so forth. And I saw this group of teenagers standin' on the street and we stopped and I said, "We want to get married can you take us to a preacher?" They said yeah, sure, you know, we'll take ya! So they – they took us to this preacher and we knocked on the door and when he come to the door and I don't know if he smelled a rat so to speak or not . . .

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) But he looked at Judy and looked at me. I don't think he believed the story. Because I can't recall his exact response but it was somethin' like – he only married people of his denomination or his congregation or somethin' to that effect. I think it was – really what – really what it was - he aint marryin' you.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) There's somethin' wrong here.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Terry Howard: So anyhow, he wouldn't marry us. And these boys and girls they said you really want to get married? I said sure do. I said I got a girl and I got a license, all I need is a preacher.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: If you'll find me a preacher I can do it. So they took us to a place called Oriole, Maryland, which is a little fishin' village back on the Chesapeake Bay. And when we got 'ere that night the house that they took us to was a retired Methodist minister that lived 'ere. And the house was dark. They were in bed. He was gettin' up in years and he had gone to bed. And they're runnin' around the house, these teenagers, beatin' on the house, beatin' on the doors, and he sticks his head out the upstairs window and he said, "What's goin' on down there?" And they said, one of 'em says, "We got a boy and a girl down here that wants to get married." And he said, "I'll be right 'ere."

Anne Whealton: Oh my!

Terry Howard: And we struck luck this time you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: So we went in that house and stood in that livin' room and he – he said yelp, he said I'll marry you. And he said, "But this is the first time I ever married anybody without having my socks on."



Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) He just had his feet – and he'd stuck his feet in his shoes, you know. And he performed the ceremony and we had Ten Dollars, that's what I had. I had borrowed that from Caroline's boyfriend. No job, had no job, didn't know where we were gonna stay and I had a whoppin' Ten Dollars. So I give that preacher Two Dollars, beat 'im out a bed and give 'im Two Dollars out a Ten. . .

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: That only left me Eight – and I still had to sleep somewhere that night. So we come on home and Judy told her cousin, Caroline, said – we come home and let them out, let them off to their house. And told 'em to give us a little time to get away from Chincoteague and then call our people and tell 'em so they wouldn't worry, you know. We were thoughtful enough to do that. So – so they wouldn't think somethin' had happened to us. So that's – that's – and we went down the County to the Owl Motel. Which is . . .

Anne Whealton: I remember that, yeah.

Terry Howard: No longer a motel now. They use it now for – use it for lodging but it's not a motel anymore.

Anne Whealton: Oh.

Terry Howard: But anyhow, that Owl Motel had little cabins in the back. They had regular motel rooms or they had little small cabins in the back and you could rent one a those cabins for Five Dollars. Do the math.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: Do the math. Five from eight leaves three. (Laughing) We're gettin' low. And we still needed gas to get home the next day. I had that '53 Dodge and gas I think was about Seventeen or Eighteen Cents a gallon then, compared to now. And we – we stopped and we got some gas and the long and short of the whole thing was when we started back home we got to the Dream Drive-In we had enough money left out a that Three Dollars – we had enough money left to buy one sandwich. So we bought a sandwich, split it between us, and then we come home.

Terry Howard: Or did we come home, or did we go to Tommy's and Nancy's first? We went to see them later didn't we?

Judy Howard: We come home.

Terry Howard: We come on home after we had the sandwich and the Dream Drive-In, we come on home and come to her Mother's and Father's house first. And when we walked in the kitchen Judy's Mother, she was a left-hander.

Anne Whealton: What was her Mother's name?

Terry Howard: Dorothy. Judy's Mother's name was Dorothy. We called her Dot.

Anne Whealton: Dorothy Berry?

Terry Howard: Dorothy Berry. And we always called her Dot.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: Dorothy Virginia Berry. And we called her Dot. And Dot was sittin' ere at that kitchen table and she is writin' with that – that left hand she's writin', she's writin, Miss Judy Ann Berry. Mrs. Terry Howard. Seein' – I guess seein' how you signed it you know. And then she looks up at Judy and we're standin' 'ere and she said, "Judy, I didn't think you'd do anything like this." And Judy said, "Well, if I'd a asked you Mom, you wouldn't a let me," "you wouldn't of let me got married." And Dot said well, okay, you're married. And her Father – he says – he comes in during this and I said well, I don't know what he'll say or do. He might bop me.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: So all he said was "congratulations." I said, "thank you," and I never said another word!

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: And then Dot proceeded to tell me that Judy was gonna have a ring. Well, I was flat broke!

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: No job. Flat broke and no job and I said – I said, "Dot that's nice," I said, "but I don't have any money, how's she gonna get a ring, I can't buy it, I don't have any money." I didn't have any credit 'cause I was young, you know, didn't have any established credit. So – she said, "I can't help it, you married her, she's gonna have a ring!" So we got in the old red Plymouth station wagon and uptown we went. Right where Bob's Barber Shop was?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: That was Bruce Davis'. And Bruce and Mary Davis had a jewelry store there. And Dot took us in that jewelry store. And Mary was a real nice person, very kind and generous person. She was there and she started – Judy picked out – have you got it on your hand? There it is. There's the ring on her hand there. She's still got it.

Betsy Hunt: That's beautiful.

Terry Howard: A wide gold weddin' band. That's what she picked out.

Anne Whealton: That's beautiful.

Terry Howard: And the cost of it, Judy, was it Seventeen?

Judy Howard: It was Seventeen Dollars I think and Sixty Cents and she let us have it for Twelve somethin'.

Anne Whealton: Aaahh!

Judy Howard: Because Mom had gotten watches for us when we graduated from like junior high to high.

Anne Whealton: That's sweet.

Judy Howard: They had a graduation like they did, you know, when you graduated from high school.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Judy Howard: So we wore white dresses and you – they always got you a gift so we - each one had watches. So because she had bought two watches, she let us have it for Twelve somethin'.

Anne Whealton: Aahh, that is sweet.

Judy Howard: So that's how I got my weddin' band.

Terry Howard: And then after she got the ring and we come on back home we stayed with her Mother and Father for a while and then we stayed with Mom and Dad for a while and then later we moved – rented a house for a whoppin' Forty Dollars a month and I thought that was – you can't - no way in the world I could ever pay Ten Dollars a month . . .

Anne Whealton: Steep.

Terry Howard: Yeah, it was awful.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) I thought that was awful. But – but we managed and then later Michael come along and that was the only child we had. But he come along and he was – I tried to raise him by the same values and the same things that my Mother and Father had taught me. And he turned out – somebody said, you know, you've heard people say when they're talkin' about their children - I don't mean to brag - somebody told me that if you're tellin' the truth

you're not braggin'. So I can about Michael and it's not braggin' either, it's just the truth, he – he turned out to be a good young'n' and she turned out to be an A+ Mother.

Anne Whealton: Aahh. That's sweet.

Terry Howard: She – I said it this way – I kind a drew an analogy – like with a chicken with her bitties, you know a hen with her bitties, Judy I said – I used to say that Judy only hatched one bittie, but boy did she scratch for it.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) And she – she took care of him. She washed him and kept him – he was spotless. I used to take him to the bus and Margaret, Margaret Bowden, used to say, "He's the cleanest young'n' I ever seen in my life."

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) That's sweet.

Terry Howard: She was a good mother to him. She even helped him – when he was in school she helped him. She didn't – she finished the ninth grade and when we got married she didn't go back. And I graduated. But she helped him more with his school work than I did.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And part of that – part of the reason for that was that she was home all the time. She wadn't workin'. And it was – I had – I had to put all my focus just about on tryin' to make a livin' for us. And – but she filled the void and she really helped him a lot. She was a good mother.

Anne Whealton: And you lived across the street from Rab and Dot Berry too, so it was nice that you had grandparents around and your grandparents – his grandparents also lived on Ridge Road, must have been nice havin' grandparents that were close?

Terry Howard: It was – yeah.

Anne Whealton: Your parents.

Terry Howard: All of our family – their whole family was close. In close proximity. We saw each other just about every day.

Judy Howard: We didn't have a car at that time either. We would – we walked for about how many years? Michael was . . .

Terry Howard: Well, when . . .

Judy Howard: 'Til we moved over here, we built the house, we moved here in – was it '70? '67 we moved here.

Anne Whealton: So you moved in this neighborhood in 1967?

Judy Howard: '67. We had lived over on Ridge Road for about eight years or nine.

Anne Whealton: Okay. With your parents?

Judy Howard: No, huh-uh, in a little, just a little three-room house.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Judy Howard: Had outside toilet facilities. No hot water, nothin', just three rooms.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Judy Howard: And you were talkin' about rent money.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Judy Howard: We went behind – we had Fifteen Dollars a month rent. And at some point and time we couldn't even – we didn't have the money to pay the rent.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Judy Howard: We just didn't have it. We got behind on rent didn't we Terry?

Terry Howard: Yeah. Let me say . . .

Judy Howard: So, it's you know.

Terry Howard: Let me . . .

Judy Howard: We roughed it at times, but . . .

Terry Howard: We were rentin' this little place that Judy's been talkin' about. This little flat-roof place. It was – it had letters written on – metal letters nailed on the front of the buildin'. I don't know why they were on there, but the letters spelled out the word jock, j-o-c-k. And everybody referred to that little house as the jock.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: They'd say you live – you used to live in the jock.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And we did. We stayed 'ere.

Anne Whealton: Were you a Snotty Ridger?

Judy Howard: Snotty Ridger.

Terry Howard: Yes, I was. Born, bred, dyed in the wool. (Laughing) Anyhow, but this rent was Fifteen Dollars and again talkin' about hard times. It was difficult to come up with it sometimes. And I remember one time Roy Twilley owned – he owned this little jock. And I used to go to 'im and give 'im the rent money. And I went to his house one day to pay 'im and I didn't have enough money to pay all that I owed. He wadn't home. But his mother was. Ms. Flossie. And I give her the money and I said Ms. Flossie, I said, "This is all I got, I don't have enough." And she said, "Don't worry about it honey." She said, "I believe in live and let live." She said, "Go home and don't worry about it." And later – if it could get any better, it did. It just got better as it went along. When I found – when I did come in contact with Roy I told him what I had done and what his mother had said. He said give me a piece of paper. I handed him a piece of paper and he wrote me a receipt, received of Terry Howard "x" amount of dollars and he marked it – he dated it and marked it paid in full.

Anne Whealton: Awe, sweet.

Terry Howard: Some people you know – people on Chincoteague were – Chincoteaguers, and I'm sure there's people all over the world like 'at, but we can say here in this – in this community we're compassionate people and concerned people one for another.

Anne Whealton: Yes.

Terry Howard: And that was good. And we had – we needed to be because we were on this little piece a land here together and we had to fight the storms and the mosquitoes and the financial hard times and the depression and all those things that took place. And we – we needed each other and the people were always there for one another. And I – and I really appreciate the fact that here on Chincoteague, and I'm not sayin' that's because you're here, and Anne's moved here too, but the people that come to Chincoteague are good family-oriented people and they fit right in and we're blessed in that sense too. I've met a lot a nice people from other areas. I've worked – worked for people all over the different parts of the country that have moved here – and had some great experiences with 'em. Very generous people. Very appreciative people. They just can't seem to compliment you enough for your work you do. I remember one family in particular, the Kennedy family, had a mobile home over – the mobile home park that Elvie used to own.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: On Church Street. The Kennedy's – I don't know if you've ever met the Kennedy's or not, they – they were from New Jersey. And we used to do a lot of work for 'em. And they'd – when it come lunchtime, I didn't expect it, but they'd go – they'd go to Sundown and get subs. And, by the way, here's another one sittin' right along side of us, we were workin' on a house next door to where she lived. I might embarrass her a little bit though, but she come home from work one day and we're workin' on the house next door and she said, "Would subs be okay for you fellows today?" I said, "Yeah, I believe we could make out with that."

Anne Whealton: Like I said, the key to Terry is through his stomach.

Terry Howard: (Laughing) She – I think – I really think Anne did a – I think she did a little background check on me before – before she introduced herself.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: But people – people that come here they're good people. We're fortunate in that sense.

Anne Whealton: Okay, great. The last thing I want to talk to you about is the Town Council. Can you tell me a little bit about your history on the Town Council?

Terry Howard: Let me tell you how I got – got involved with the Town. Initially, I lived – when – a big part of my life I lived in the unincorporated part of the Island. Over in this little place that we called the jock, on Ridge Road. And that is where I was born and raised. And again, she was born in the incorporated limits. But when we bought this property here and moved here, we were both in the corporate limits then. We lived in the corporate limits. And one of the Council people at that time come to me one day, his name was Jack Hill. And Jack come to me and he said, "Terry how about serving on the Planning Commission?" At that time I was – still workin' on the water for the most part – but I was doin' this little paint job in between times. And he come there to me. My life was peaceful. I mean – I worked and when I come home there was no stress, you know, and I was hungry and tired and I'd sleep like a log and eat like a horse, you know.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: I was healthy. I was livin' the good life so to speak. Not much money, but good healthy lifestyle. And he said, "Would you serve on the Planning Commission?" I thought, I wonder what the Planning Commission is. The only – other than what its name indicated I didn't know because I didn't attend Council meetins'. I wadn't involved.

Anne Whealton: What year was this?

Terry Howard: That was – I'll have to guess at that because I served on the Planning Commission a number years before I ran for Council. And I want to say the approximate time that I got on the Planning Commission would have been around '72.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Terry Howard: Around 1972. And he said would you serve? And I said give me a – let me think about it for a while. He said I'll come back and talk to you in a couple weeks. So when he come back I said I'll do it. So I served on the Planning Commission, I'm guessin' about six to eight years. And then some people started to say things to me like, "why don't you run for Council?" They started encouraging me to run for Council. And then people offered to help, you know, in the way of helping you with the petitions and things like that you know. So I said okay I'll try it. And when the – the first time I run, again back to Mayor Stacio, he was runnin' at the same time, the top three – they had staggered elections – we have staggered elections. In one – in one election they elect three Council members, which is what will happen this spring. And the next election they'll elect three Council members and a Mayor. Well it just so happened that the election that I was in every time was just three Council members. And when the vote tally was over that night I thought that they gave the top – I thought the way they would do it because I hadn't been involved – had no experience – I thought that I would hear the first three – the first three names I heard I thought were the three that had won and my name wadn't in the first three.

Anne Whealton: Um.

Terry Howard: I said uh-oh, I didn't do so well. (Laughing) But they – but they were callin' em off like they came off of the – off of the ballot, the machine, or I – yeah - I don't know if they were usin' machines at that time or not or whether they were still doin' it with the paper ballots - but anyhow, they were callin' 'em off like they were listed on the ballot. And when they finally got to my name I realized I had gotten the third highest vote. And which was just enough to get me a seat. And Tony was the high-vote getter and John Taylor was the second person. And – hence I was on the Council. And I've run for Council – I've been on the Council since 1982 to this day. And I did run unsuccessfully – I want to be honest – I run unsuccessfully for Mayor. And no sour grapes, I give it my best shot, I come up short. And I congratulated Harry Stanley Thornton was the man that won the Mayor's race and I congratulated him and told him, I said "You're the Mayor, put me on whatever committees I can do, that I can help out with." And then – and I stayed on the Council. And I've been on the Council – I'm still on the Council.

Anne Whealton: How many years have you been on the Council?

Terry Howard: This – when I finish this term it'll be twenty-four year.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: I've been on the Council twenty-four year and I want to – I want to go up town and look up the – look in the minutes of the Planning Commission and find out exactly what date the first meeting was that – Planning Commission meeting – that I attended. Because I remember goin' to that Planning Commission session and when they started nominatin' people



for chairman and vice-chairman, I didn't get nominated and I – I guess there's somethin' wrong with me, I didn't get anything.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: (Laughing) But little did I know that, again, from lack of experience, but little did I know that it's easier to be just a member than it is to be the chairman, or the mayor, or the vice-mayor, because there is a lot more responsibility that goes along with it.

Betsy Hunt: How many year-round citizens were here at that – when you were first elected?

Terry Howard: (Pause) I really – I don't . . .

Anne Whealton: Probably about three. . .

Terry Howard: Well, there – probably – I'm guessin'. I'd say – I'd say probably between Three Thousand – Thirty-eight Hundred, somewhere in between there. Wadn't a lot a difference than from what it is now. Not that much has changed. Probably Thirty-two, Thirty-three Hundred. And I remember the first election, it was probably, the people say my vote don't count. The first election, John Taylor beat me by two-three - two votes.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: The second election I beat him by three votes.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Terry Howard: So in two elections between he and myself, and he always, John always garnered a good vote, and his vote – his vote tally never dwindled the whole time he was runnin'. He always garnered a good – good number of votes. But in two elections there was one vote difference between him and myself.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: So every vote does count.

Anne Whealton: That's right.

Terry Howard: I mean in that case the top three vote-getters went in, but it could be in other cases. How about if – if you had to win two out a three. Or one outta – you had to get the highest number out of two elections in order to win.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: I would of – I would have been successful with one vote.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Terry Howard: So it's important. But it's been a good experience. I've learned a lot from it. In particular, discipline, self-discipline. I've learned to listen instead of talkin' – I'm doin' all the talkin' now, but as a Council person you need to listen and be considerate of what the person's sayin'. And also I tried to realize – recognize the fact that our community is made up of native people and people that have moved from all over the country here. And I've tried not to – not to build any walls between us. Not look at people as, you know, you're from Baltimore and I'm from Chincoteague. But you're from Chincoteague and I'm from Chincoteague. You just happened to be born at a different place. And listen to what they've got to say. And I've seen situations where people from other places have made suggestions and the Council was willin' to listen. And again, build bridges and not walls, and it worked out pretty good for ever body. And a lot a good people. And I have a good relationship with the people – the people that live here and the people that moved here. And I think – I think it's – you had to be sincere. You need to be sincere and be real. Just be real and respect people for who they are and what they are.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Terry Howard: And no matter whether they were born on Chincoteague or whether they were born in Philadelphia. They live here and they got a vested interest here. It's their community. And that's the way I try to handle it as a Council person. And it's been successful – successful for me.

Anne Whealton: I think we'll stop there Terry. I just want to thank you so much for inviting us, or allowing us to come into your home and to capture a bit of the way of life and the history of the Island through your life and through your eyes. I just want to thank you and Judy. Again, I'll be back to do some more with Judy and maybe to hear a little bit more about the Town Council because you've seen the Island go from a way of life with seafood industry to a tourist industry, to a housing boom, and I'd like to talk a little bit about that the next time we get together.

Terry Howard: Sure.

Anne Whealton: But I thank you for your time tonight.

Terry Howard: You're certainly welcome.

Betsy Hunt: Thank you Terry. It was fascinating listening to you.

Terry Howard: My pleasure. I hope in some way that whatever I say can be of help to somebody to some people. I hope they find it interesting like you did.

Anne Whealton: For sure.

END OF TAPE.