

**ROY JONES**  
**February 24, 2006**

Interviewer: Anne Whealton  
Transcribed By: Shirley Fauber  
Roy Jones: Roy Jones  
Interviewer: Anne Whealton

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Tape, Side A (1<sup>st</sup> Side):

Anne Whealton: This is Anne Whealton and I am here in Roy Jones – interviewing Roy Jones. We are at his sister’s house, Mrs. Blanche McGee, and she is present as well as his sister, Eulah. We are – today is Friday, February 24, 2006. And we are here with smiles on and we are ready – ready to interview Mr. Roy Jones. Okay. He is 86 years young and full of life, vim and vigor and a great attitude.

Anne Whealton: So – Good morning Mr. Roy, how are you today?

Roy Jones: I am just doing fine.

Anne Whealton: Good, good. I am here and I would like to talk to you about healing on Assateague and Chincoteague. And if you could expound on what you remember about healing, about when people got sick over on Assateague, what did they do? Were there hospitals? Were there doctors’ offices, how was all that handled at that time?

Roy Jones: Well, on Assateague there were no doctors. And a lot of the ladies over there, they were familiar with home remedies and one time I sprained my wrist and a lady told my Mother to go get some field mullet and soak it in vinegar and wrap it around my wrist and then bandage it up. And the field mullet was a flat leaf, it felt almost like velvet, but it had the healing power. If you stuck a splinter or a thorn in your foot, you could take oxtican laundry soap. It was a brown resin-type soap. And you just took a knife and scraped that cake of soap and put some sugar in it and make like a paste and put that on your foot or finger or whatever it was, and bandage it up and that would draw that splinter out.

Anne Whealton: Wow. Sugar huh?

Roy Jones: That laundry soap and sugar.

Anne Whealton: What was oxtican soap, do you remember – do you know what was in there?

Roy Jones: I don’t know what was in it. I don’t know the ingredients of it.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: But that would draw a splinter out.

Anne Whealton: How about that. How about for colds and sore throats?

Roy Jones: If you had what we called the croup, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: A bronchial congestion, they would take onions and sugar and put it – cook it just let it simmer a while on a stove and it made like a syrup. And that would – that would be good for your croup. It was the . . .

Anne Whealton: Now did you consume it or did you put it on the outside like a poultice?

Roy Jones: You took that inside. Internally, just like a cough syrup.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Sounds tasty. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: No, it was terrible. But it was good if you – now – some things you could buy. You know, like iodine or something like that you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But for sprains they used the field mullet, for the croup you used the onion syrup, for the splinter you used the oxtican soap paste. And that's about the only three things that I know – you know, that they – that they used.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: If you had – I don't know whether people have 'em today or not, but at that time a lot of people would have like a ringworm on their face, like a red . . .

Anne Whealton: Right. Circle?

Roy Jones: Circle.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: If you would put pennies in vinegar.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And let 'em stay a while. And then just wet the place with that vinegar.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: It would cure that.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And my Mother has done it to me.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So that's about the only four things that I know of home remedies.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Now – I know Rosalie - we talk about healing and home remedies a lot when we are walking.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: And she has told me about baking soda. Baking soda, where they used to take baking soda at the beginning of a cold, and you mix it with water, and they would take it and for some reason it would take out a cold or anything that happened. If they had indigestion, that they used to take the baking soda with water. She had told me about that. And we have talked about castor-oil and the different things that they made the kids take. Did they – did you have any of those things?

Roy Jones: Uh – yeah. I've had the bakin' soda and water for upset stomach and indigestion.

Anne Whealton: Right. Right.

Roy Jones: I know that one.

Anne Whealton: Huh.

Roy Jones: And that – but that castor-oil, I never was – I didn't have to have that. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: You didn't have to – you were okay. You were smooth in that department, that was good. (Laughing) Well, that's good. Now how about earaches, I think at one time when I was talkin' to you when you were gardening, you used to tell me different things for garden – uh - when you were talkin' about earaches and. . .

Roy Jones: Well, for earaches if a person smoked a pipe you know, tobacco, blowed the smoke in your ear, was good for earache.

Anne Whealton: Did it work?

Roy Jones: Just – a puff on that pipe you know (puffing sound), in your ear.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: That would be good for earache.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: You take the Amish people today. They seldom ever go to a doctor.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Because they've had these home remedies handed down from year to year.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they work. Down in Carolina if a person has arthritis in their fingers or elbow – they use W-D40.

Anne Whealton: I've heard that.

Roy Jones: Have you ever . . .

Anne Whealton: Chincoteaguers do – I know some Chincoteaguers that use that too and I heard it works.

Roy Jones: They say it works 'cause somebody told Dr. Amron one day, said W-D40 is good for arthritis. He said well don't tell anybody 'cause it'll ruin me.

Anne Whealton: That's good. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: So – so that's about the – let's see, about the baking soda, and the smoke in your ear and they say – I've heard of – if you take – open a mussel, I don't know whether you know what a mussel is or not.

Anne Whealton: Of course I know what a mussel is.

Roy Jones: But – they grow in the marsh.

Anne Whealton: I used to eat 'em all the time.

Roy Jones: Well – that's - that's a different kind. There's a black mussel and then there's the mussel that grows up in the marsh.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: If you take that . . .

Anne Whealton: Is that the one with the iridescent shell – like a different colored shell – it's iridescent kind of looking, like a rainbow?

Roy Jones: The black mussel that they sell in restaurants is a shiny black shell.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And the (pause) . . .

Anne Whealton: We are having a demonstration in here at the moment from Ms. Eulah, she's blowing something in Mr. Roy's ear and has put some cotton in there. (All Laughing) She doesn't talk a lot but she's really good on demonstrations.

Roy Jones: You opened the mussel and take the liquid out of it and warm in.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And put a drop or two in your ear.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: It would be good for earache.

Anne Whealton: Idn't that somethin'.

Roy Jones: So, it's a lot a things that worked. Because, like I said there was – there was no doctor on – on the Island.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And very few people ever got sick for some reason.

Anne Whealton: Idn't that somethin'. Well, you probably ate healthy too. The food that you were eating was fresh?

Roy Jones: Well, you ate . . .

Anne Whealton: No preservatives.

Roy Jones: Just natural food you know.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And over there it was no refrigeration and if – if you wanted fish for dinner or supper, you just took your line and went in the channel and when – when you caught a mess you come ashore.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Now you – you could get about a half of a keg of ice you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And put it in a box and wrap it up and you could have ice a week.

Anne Whealton: Where did you get the ice from?

Roy Jones: From Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Brought it over?

Roy Jones: Brought it over.

Anne Whealton: All right. Now I want to go into – if you remember any of this - as far as the herbs and the plants. Did anyone ever – did you ever help to pick plants and herbs that some of the women or men would put together to make things for certain remedies?

Roy Jones: The only thing I – I could pick the field mullet.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: ‘Cause that’s the only herb that we used you know.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: The other stuff like the soap and the sugar and all that, well, you had to buy that.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Because I know that someone had told me at one time when I was having trouble with hemorrhoids that poke weed was really good. And I went home and I found – I went on the Island and found some poke weed and I went home and I made myself a little bit of a poultice out of that and it worked really good. And I just didn’t know – if . . .

Roy Jones: That weed that has the blue berries on it?

Anne Whealton: No, it was something that – they usually grow around train tracks, where they have stones and stuff like that.

Roy Jones: Oh.

Anne Whealton: And it was – I can't tell you what it looked like now, but I just remember it was called poke weed. And I knew it grew and that it was used for a lot of things around here.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: Do you remember any of the other ones besides field mullet?

Roy Jones: Huh-uh.

Anne Whealton: No. Okay. So why do you think people were more healthy there than they are today? You said because you . . .

Roy Jones: Well, for – for one thing, it was a small community.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: I mean – I mean the more people that are congregated together, the more things you're gonna pick up.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You know one from the other.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: It's just like – take last winter when the flu season was so great, one pastor of a church said well, we won't just shake hands, you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Because the germs can be spread you know from one person to the other. And if you coughed, put something over your mouth and nose and that's just common sense.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But the people – they were friendly. But it wasn't enough of us to really have a large group together at one time.

Anne Whealton: So you practiced social distancing when you were sick? They call it social distancing where you just kind of don't come out and you kind of stay home until you're finished with whatever you have and then come back out to be with other groups?

Roy Jones: Yeah, that's right.

Anne Whealton: Right. Which is the way I was taught too, that you stayed home when you were sick.

Roy Jones: Even – I've seen people at church that they were – I mean they were sick, they'd say – shew, I've got a fever and all that. Well, they just – one person can contaminate twenty-five.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh. Quickly.

Roy Jones: That's right.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Roy Jones: Now you take back in – I think it was 1764.

Anne Whealton: You were back then too?

Roy Jones: In 1764 there were twenty-seven people livin' on Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Wow, that's not many.

Roy Jones: And then before 1900 there was two hundred and fifty.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Roy Jones: And then – I can remember back – 1925.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: In 1925 . . .

Anne Whealton: When were you born, 1922?

Roy Jones: I was born in 1919.

Anne Whealton: 1919. Okay.

Roy Jones: So I can remember how things were in 1925.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And if I'm not mistaken there were sixteen families and about fifty-nine people.

Anne Whealton: Okay.



Roy Jones: And that – that was the last of Assateague Village, you know.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: In other words, it dwindled from two hundred and fifty before 1900. And in 1925 it was down to 'bout fifty-nine people.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And I can remember when they had a church, a store, and Mr. Bill Scott, he kept – he kept a store on the Island for years and years and years.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: 'Course he would have to come to Chincoteague in a big, what we called a pole scow. You know, get his – he'd get five – these fifty-five gallon drums of kerosene you know and all that stuff. And he would take them out of his boat and put 'em in his wagon his self. He had boards that he rolled it right up you know and put it in his wagon.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then, yeah, like I said in 1925 it was down to fifty-nine people.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Did you all live right around – I've been down to the Village, I go - like to go down there in the springtime when the daffodils are coming up. Did you all live right over there by the water, by the lighthouse, or were people more spread out on Assateague then?

Roy Jones: Well, they wadn't spread out too far because the little area that the people lived in was between the lighthouse and the channel.

Anne Whealton: Okay, so it is where I thought, okay.

Roy Jones: And it was all – it was cleared off.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: You know, they had their gardens and their grapevines and big trees and little chicken pens and all that. And today there is nothin' but myrtles and pine trees.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, but I like to go in the spring when the daffodils come up because then you can see where there would have been a house 'cause their usually pretty close . . .

Roy Jones: Yeah. Now you can go over there now and there is just a little bit of the ruins of Mr. Scott's store.

Anne Whealton: Right, I've seen that.

Roy Jones: Just a little bit. That – that was the last place that, you know, fell down.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: A lot – a lot of the houses were moved off on Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: Was your house one of the houses?

Roy Jones: Huh?

Anne Whealton: Was your house over there one of the houses?

Roy Jones: Huh-uh.

Anne Whealton: No.

Roy Jones: Do you know where Keith Andrews used to live down the street here?

Anne Whealton: Yes, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: His house came from Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And here on Eastside, there is – there is a house that is right along side where Mr. Harry Thorne had his store that came from Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And then on down the street farther, the house there, it's a bungalow, that was the church building.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And then goin' on up Eastside where Bill Thomas lived, where he lives now, that came from Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And the one on up past that, that came from Assateague. And then here by Church Street Supply.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Is two or three houses right there, they came from Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: My Grandfather Jones' house is right across the street from the drug store, from H and H.

Anne Whealton: Oh yeah.

Roy Jones: You can see it – it's a tan lookin' house.

Anne Whealton: Yes, I know which one you're talkin' about.

Roy Jones: 'Course they bought – I mean they built some – like a big porch in the front of it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But that was my Grandfather Jones' house.

Anne Whealton: How 'bout that.

Roy Jones: So, the ones that moved off, people are still livin' in 'em.

Anne Whealton: How 'bout that.

Roy Jones: And the ones – the ones that – that were left – when you just abandon a house in no time it falls down. I don't know what makes it.

Anne Whealton: Right. Especially where it's damp.

Roy Jones: They – they don't get no heat, no air.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Roy Jones: They just crumble right down.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, I agree with ya.

Roy Jones: And the only house that is standing now that was over there in 1925, the house is masonry constructed and it's up 'ere on the hill where the lighthouse is.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And the – the Wildlife use it for sort of . . .

Anne Whealton: Right, I've been in there.

Roy Jones: Like a meetin' – meetin' house you know. 'Cause I've been over there and they've interviewed - interviewed me.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So . . .

Anne Whealton: Yeah, I've been in there when Dennis Holland was there.

Roy Jones: So – that was – that was masonry.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And that's stayed. Now between that house and the lighthouse was a big – was a big three dwelling apartment.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they dismantled it and took it down in sections and they moved it to Chincoteague. And I don't know whether they ever did anything with it or not.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But it's been about two weeks ago, and I don't know the family's name, told me that it's Cedar Drive or Cedar Street or somethin' – said it's a house right a crossed the street from her – that's up by Park's Market – up in that section somewhere.

Anne Whealton: Oh yeah, by Piney Island.

Roy Jones: And uh – says they tell me that house came from Assateague and it had a slate roof. And that night when I went home and I went to bed I said a house with a slate roof. I said it was only one house that had a slate roof and that was that big three apartment house between where the house is that is made out of masonry.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And the light house.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: I don't know why they ever tore that down because - which – it – it could have been a historical landmark today. And that had a white slate roof.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So what that lady was talkin' to me - was probably a section of that building, 'cause she said it had a white slate roof.

Anne Whealton: Is it still there on Cedar Drive?

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: I'll have to go see that.

Roy Jones: 'Course they – they have redone it you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And I got to thinkin' – that was the only house on there that had a white slate roof. All the – all the other houses had wooden shingle roofs – not like they have today.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: They were all wooden shingles.

Anne Whealton: How about that. Well, I'm gonna bring you back around, back to healing a little bit more. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: Well, I wish I could . . .

Anne Whealton: I'm gonna ask you a couple questions. I still want to ask you a couple of questions though. Now in those days did they have much cancer on Assateague? Did people know what cancer was?

Roy Jones: The only person that I ever knew on Assateague that had cancer, my Grandfather Jones had a skin cancer on his lip.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And he went to Salisbury and had that removed. And that's the only person that I know on Assateague that ever had cancer.

Anne Whealton: How 'bout that. Now what did your diet consist of then?

Roy Jones: Well, we ate very much like we eat now.

Anne Whealton: Okay, which is?

Roy Jones: You could get – you could get fresh seafood.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You could get fish, clams, crabs, oysters. Uh – and the big meal came on Sunday.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: I mean through the week we ate – we had plenty to eat, but Sunday it was chicken or ham or steak – somethin' like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And (pause) . . .

Anne Whealton: Did you raise chickens over there and cows and all that stuff?

Roy Jones: My Daddy always had a few chickens.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And in the spring of the year when the chickens would want to set you know, just put eggs under 'em and I think in three weeks you had little – little bitties.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And then 'bout the middle of the summer Mom would say, I think that ones big enough to fry, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they taste different than chickens you get today.

Anne Whealton: Oh yeah.

Roy Jones: I mean, we let 'em run out, we fed 'em corn, scratch feed and all that stuff.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: I think a lot a times today, the food – people say that the food tastes different. You don't know what you're eatin' because we don't know what they feed 'em.

Anne Whealton: Right. Exactly, I agree with you totally. And that's why – that's why I'm asking you these kind of questions as to what you ate.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: There were no preservatives. Everything was fresh.

Roy Jones: And like I say we didn't have refrigeration unless we'd get that big block of ice you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And you could put butter and stuff like that, you know, on it.

Anne Whealton: Right. You made your own butter?

Roy Jones: No.

Anne Whealton: No? I made butter. A couple - few weeks ago.

Roy Jones: My Grandfather Jones one time had a cow.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And he would give us all the milk we wanted.

Anne Whealton: Okay, so you had fresh milk.

Roy Jones: Had fresh milk.

Anne Whealton: Whenever you wanted it. Did you drink a lot of milk?

Roy Jones: Not a whole lot.

Anne Whealton: Okay, well what else did you have besides – sounds like your basic diet was seafood and then on the weekends is when you had your chicken . . .

Roy Jones: No, no, not – not the basic diet, but we had seafood.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: I mean – we – when we come over to Chincoteague we could buy our vegetables you know.

Anne Whealton: That is what I was gonna ask you if you had gardens.

Roy Jones: Yeah, and then – ever – just about ever body had their garden, they had their turnip greens.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Their onions, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, and then stuff like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: So we had a lot of fresh vegetables.

Anne Whealton: That is what I thought. Okay.

Roy Jones: And – and we had – we had sort of a balanced diet.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Let's say on a normal day, it was maybe a day where you were – had to go to school or whatever you had to do, just a regular day as a kid growin' up. What would your breakfast, lunch and dinner been?

Roy Jones: Well – well, at that time seemed like I didn't want much breakfast.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And then when I went to school you could – Mr. Twilley had a store right a crossed from – there's a barber shop there now.

Anne Whealton: Right. I've heard about Mr. Twilley before.

Roy Jones: And – and for ten cents you could get – for ten cents you could get a sandwich and a drink.

Anne Whealton: What kind of sandwich?

Roy Jones: You could get a hotdog.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You could get – uh – ham.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Hotdog or ham – mostly get - the sandwiches. Sometimes people would get just a big pickle.

Anne Whealton: That is what I was gonna ask you about. I've heard about the pickles.



Roy Jones: Big pickle. A big pickle and oyster - the pickle cost three cents and for two cents you could get a little paper bag 'bout that tall full of oyster crackers.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: So for five cents you could get lunch.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then I've seen if two boys had a nickel a piece. They could get a can of Campbell's pork and beans and a box a crackers.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And Mr. Twilley would give 'em a little metal spoon 'bout that long.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They would cut the top of that beans and one boy would take a spoonful and the other would take a spoonful. One boy would take a cracker and the other boy would take a cracker.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So they got a lunch for five cents.

Anne Whealton: Fantastic. Idn't that something.

Roy Jones: You could buy a half of a ham sandwich for three cents.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You know a lot a people didn't have more than five or six cents.

Anne Whealton: Five or six cents then went a long way.

Roy Jones: Well, five or six cents you could get a sandwich.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And for a penny you could get two or three pieces of candy.

Anne Whealton: Oh, that's good.

Roy Jones: Or you could get – I don't know whether you've ever seen a digger (?) called twist. Uh – well the ingredients in 'em was just like our cinnamon buns today.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: But they – it was six of those twists in a pan.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And – and it would – the dough was twisted, you know, before it was baked.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And it had the cinnamon, the sugars.

Anne Whealton: Ooohh, that sounds good.

Roy Jones: And you could get a half a pan of twists - it would be 'bout that wide.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: About that long, for five cents.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And you could get you a big nickel orange drink. So for ten cents you could get a lunch.

Anne Whealton: Oh, that's fantastic. Now what - what did you have for supper when you went home?

Roy Jones: Well, uh – just like the average person today would have for supper.

Anne Whealton: What?

Roy Jones: Well sometimes we might have scrapple. We might have a beef hash.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: A wet hash or a dry hash.

Anne Whealton: All right.

Roy Jones: You know, the wet hash had the corned beef and the potatoes and onions.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And the dry hash had the same ingredients, but it was fried, you know.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And we always had eggs.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And there was a fellar over there named Oliphant. He was – well he was in charge of - well about the whole Assateague and he – I don't know if you've – have you ever heard tell of him?

Anne Whealton: I've heard of the name.

Roy Jones: Well he rode this big sorrel horse and he had a . . .

Anne Whealton: Oh, yes I have, I know who you're talking about.

Roy Jones: And he had .44 Smith & Wesson on his side. He was actually a cowboy. He came from Wyoming.

Anne Whealton: Right. Okay.

Roy Jones: And he would order a slab of bacon, you know, a whole slab.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: We would get a – get him to give us a slab of bacon.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So we ate well.

Anne Whealton: And did you have much baked goods? What did you have – like today; people eat a lot of baked goods, a lot of sugary things – a lot of processed food. Did you have any kind of baked goods very often?

Roy Jones: My Mother cooked from scratch.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And she would make cakes.

Anne Whealton: How often did you get a cake?

Roy Jones: I would cake about once a week I'd say.

Anne Whealton: That's what I thought. Okay, once a week. And did she make hot sponge milk cakes?

Roy Jones: No.

Anne Whealton: What did she make?

Roy Jones: She'd make just a – what I call just a regular cake.

Anne Whealton: Okay. 'Cause this is from scratch.

Roy Jones: Sometimes she would make a banana cake.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And sometimes she would make a jelly cake.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, Elvie's Mom used to make banana cakes all the time, I remember them.

Roy Jones: That – that was a jelly cake.

Anne Whealton: Was that like a jelly roll?

Roy Jones: No, just a regular cake, but between the layers instead of puttin' bananas, she would just put this grape jelly.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Whatever she had. Called jelly cakes.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And she could take cocoa and sugar and milk and make chocolate pudding.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And that was from scratch, it wadn't just come out of a box and warm it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, that tastes really good like that.

Roy Jones: And nobody could make chocolate puddin' like she could.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So we – we had a variety.

Anne Whealton: Okay. But a cake was something special right? Was that saved for Sundays or was it?

Roy Jones: Well, she'd make 'em through the week.

Anne Whealton: Through the week.

Roy Jones: And sometimes she'd make a whole big batch of cupcakes.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You know, good fellows.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So my Mother knew how to cook. She didn't mind cookin',

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, and what kind of stove did you have?

Roy Jones: We – we cooked on a kerosene stove which had – I think it had three burners, big brass wicks and it had a oven that you could put on either burner that you wanted you know. And she made . . .

Anne Whealton: An oven that you put on a burner? How do you do that?

Roy Jones: They – the bake oven was portable.

Anne Whealton: Oh, it was?

Roy Jones: You could – you could put . . .

Anne Whealton: I've never seen one of them.

Roy Jones: Yeah. The bake oven was about that square, about that tall.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: See the – the . . .

Anne Whealton: Can you talk dimensions?

Roy Jones: Huh?

Anne Whealton: I said can you talk dimensions since they can't see how . . .

Roy Jones: Well, well the . . .

Anne Whealton: Two foot by one?

Roy Jones: It was maybe uh – two foot long – a little over a foot tall.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: It had a grate in the middle.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And she made – she made her bread. We didn't have too much what we called light bread like you get outta the store.

Anne Whealton: Right. It was good homemade bread.

Roy Jones: Yeah, it was – she made her rolls or biscuits you know and all that, and baked 'em. So we had – we had plenty to eat.

Anne Whealton: That's interesting.

Blanche McGee: Mother was a good cook and she - she loved to do it.

Anne Whealton: That's neat. You had a good Mother and a good cook, your sister said, Blanche. And she loved to do it.

Roy Jones: Yeah. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Now how long did the process take for makin' dinner for her? I mean now you know we have microwaves and ovens and everything is really fast, but I know that those kerosene . . .

Roy Jones: Well, it wouldn't take her over – I don't think it would take – take her five minutes to – to make her bread you know. She had flour, short'nin'.

Anne Whealton: Right. Yeah, but how about a meal.

Roy Jones: And salt and all that. And I would say within forty-five minutes she could cook the meal.

Anne Whealton: Put a meal together?

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Good, okay.

Roy Jones: She could have a pan of chicken fryin' and be stirring up a cake all at the same time and that chicken wouldn't burn either.

Anne Whealton: Really?

Roy Jones: I'll say – I don't know how she did it to save my life.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: She could have her ingredients and she would be stirrin' up this cake and cookin' the chicken and she – she knew how to do it.

Anne Whealton: Fantastic. And how about – you said that most of the people had a garden. Now I know my husband, Elvie, and Ed Bowden, and Terry, all the people in our neighborhood still have the gardens like they used to have. Did the women can a lot then? Did they . . .

Roy Jones: They would – yeah. They – they would can anything that they grew.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And in the wintertime. And in the fall of the year ever body had, they'd say I've got to have – we called 'em a keg of fish.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh, Rosalie has told me about the kegs of fish. Keep goin'.

Roy Jones: Keg of fish. We'd have that in the wintertime. So . . .

Anne Whealton: How did they put together a keg of fish, what was the process?

Roy Jones: Well you cleaned your fish just like you were going to cook 'em.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And you – most of the people – they – the kegs were wood, wooden kegs.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They would hold – uh – what would be the equivalent to a fifty pound tin of lard. Lard used to come in big round cans.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: I think it was fifty pounds of lard in a can.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And these wooden kegs or toads we called ‘em, they would hold – they would hold a half a bushel of fish I guess.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And you – you put a layer of salt down in the bottom of your keg.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And you’d put a row of fish, a layer of fish. And then you’d put more salt. And in other words they were in tiers.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And – and the – the water and the fish would make like a brine you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they would keep, they wouldn’t spoil.

Anne Whealton: That’s so neat. That is really neat.

Roy Jones: And today you can go in a supermarket and you get frozen fish.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: You know, any time you wanted.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then – in the spring of the year, Mr. Lloyd Williams had a fish pound right a crossed the channel. And we’d take a little boat and go over there to his fish pound and say, Lloyd; I’d like to have a mess a fish. And whatever kind you wanted he would let you have, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.



Roy Jones: And then I've never seen a time you couldn't go into the channel if you – if you had the time and catch a mess of fish. You could . . .

Anne Whealton: Did you use nets or did you use a fishin' pole most the time?

Roy Jones: Just hand line.

Anne Whealton: Hand line. Right. That you made.

Roy Jones: And the hand line – your fishin' equipment 'bout that time cost about twenty-six cents.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: You could get a ball a twine 'bout that big, that was ten cents.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And you'd get a sinker, a four ounce sinker, and that was five cents. You'd get two fish hooks; they were called Virginia Pattern Fish Hooks. They – they were good, I mean they were the best you could get at that time.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They were – they were three cents a piece. So that's ten, fifteen and five is twenty. Your fishin' outfit wouldn't cost more than twenty-five cents.

Anne Whealton: How about your pole, oh, you didn't use a pole.

Roy Jones: Didn't use a pole. Fished with your hand. Hand line.

Anne Whealton: Fished with you hand. Okay.

Roy Jones: You hardly ever saw anybody at that time in the channel with a rod and reel.

Anne Whealton: So is there a technique to it? As far as once you catch the fish?

Roy Jones: Well, when – when you hooked the fish you just pulled it in and that was it.

Anne Whealton: And you could just feel it?

Roy Jones: Oh yeah! You could feel it.

Anne Whealton: And you had a net or did . . .?

Roy Jones: You could – you could feel it.

Anne Whealton: Or did you not have a net, you just (sound – wheett).

Roy Jones: Never saw anybody have a net.

Anne Whealton: You just (sound – wheett) real fast?

Roy Jones: Pulled it in.

Anne Whealton: Yeah. That's cool.

Roy Jones: And . . .

Blanche McGee: (inaudible)

Anne Whealton: Come on in here Ms. Blanche. Come on.

Blanche McGee: (inaudible) – they said – tied it to your hand and your hand went with it. It went that a way and you brought it this a way.

Anne Whealton: That's right. You're – did you tie it to you?

Roy Jones: What?

Anne Whealton: The hand line?

Blanche McGee: No, you used your hand.

Roy Jones: You held in your hand.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. You remember doing that Ms. Blanche?

Blanche McGee: Oh yeah.

Anne Whealton: Do you?

Blanche McGee: I'm old. (All Laughing) I'm old honey.

Anne Whealton: No, you're not. I told Mr. Roy we are not old, he said he was eighty-six years old. I said no, you're young in the face of eternity. You are just getting started.

Blanche McGee: Yeah, yeah. But you feel it in your body.

Roy Jones: You hardly ever saw - nobody on Assateague ever worked on a Sunday.

Blanche McGee: That was a no-no.

Anne Whealton: That's great.

Roy Jones: You hardly ever saw a person in the channel fishing on a Sunday.

Anne Whealton: So what did people do on Sundays?

Roy Jones: They just – they just relaxed, rest. Uh – and there were a lot of houses that had these old big shade trees.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they used to sit under the shade in the – in the middle of the day if it was hot you know.

Anne Whealton: So . . .

Roy Jones: You – you hardly ever see a person sittin' under a shade tree any more 'cause everybody's got air condition.

Anne Whealton: True.

Roy Jones: You know, they don't have to.

Anne Whealton: True. Now I understand to, now I know when I first came here it was like this and Rosalie tells me a lot a stories, Rosalie Savage, about Sunday's being a day of visiting. Where a lot of times people would make a big meal and if they had people that lived on the Island or from one end of the Island to the other, they would go and visit on Sundays. Did you have a lot of visitors on Sundays, or did you go visiting on Sundays?

Roy Jones: Not too much.

Anne Whealton: No?

Roy Jones: Now sometimes after the evening meal we would go visiting. Mom would take us up to Aunt Ida Jones', that's Frank Williams' grandmother.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And she could tell you the greatest tales you ever heard in your life. And the youngin' may be scared to death. She'd talk about witches greasing their self and goin' through

a key hole and all that. But – and I can remember going to the church over there once or twice is all.

Anne Whealton: Where was the church located?

Roy Jones: Almost right in the middle of the little community.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And how long had it been there, when was that built? Do you remember?

Roy Jones: I don't know what year that was built.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And was there a particular denomination, or was it?

Roy Jones: It was just Baptist.

Anne Whealton: All right. And what was the service like?

Roy Jones: I only remember going to Sunday School.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And I remember the little – they had a little card like a post card you know, with the scripture on it, a little picture, and stuff like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So you didn't have preachin'?

Roy Jones: I – I guess – I think Mr. Sawyer sometimes used to go over there.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So you didn't have a preacher over there, you had somebody come over from Chincoteague?

Roy Jones: Yeah. Or maybe some layman, you know . . .

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Would talk.

Anne Whealton: All right.

Roy Jones: But that – that was too far back for me. I remember where – I remember goin' one time.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So most of the time people came over to the Island to go to church? Came over to Chincoteague to go to church?

Roy Jones: The – I don't remember of anybody goin' from Assateague over to Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You know, for the – for the – to go to a church service.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: I think before the church was built they had their services in the school house.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: You know.

Anne Whealton: School house over in Chincoteague?

Roy Jones: No, the school house was on Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Oh, on Assateague? Okay.

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: You had a school on Assateague?

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: I never heard anybody talk about that.

Roy Jones: That is where my Daddy went to school.

Anne Whealton: Really. Okay. Tell me a little bit about that, I've never heard anybody talk about it.

Roy Jones: The school house was right to the front of the lighthouse. You know where the concrete – the masonry house is?

Anne Whealton: Right. Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: All right. Go right on down that hill.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And almost to the foot of the hill was where the school house was.

Anne Whealton: All right. And how many grades?

Roy Jones: If they – if they hadn't – if they hadn't moved it, there was a concrete pad that – that was where the school house was. I guess it - you stepped off of that pad and that was steps to inside the school you know.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: I don't have – I don't think they had – I've heard my Dad say they didn't have – it wasn't graded like we have today.

Anne Whealton: Okay, so it was all the grades?

Roy Jones: They – they had readers. First reader, second reader and third reader. That's how it – that's how it was.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Now I don't know how far my Dad went. He never did tell me how many readers he went through, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Unknown: I think one or two.

Anne Whealton: One or two? Yeah, I was gonna say, did people like go to school, or did they spend more time trying to get food?

Roy Jones: No, they – the children went to school. I've got a book at home with a picture of the school house and the children there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: It was a little one-room school house.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And the – and the - of course it was a A-frame roof and up at the top was the bell.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And how long did they go to school during the daytime? What was the day like?

Roy Jones: I don't know.

Anne Whealton: I wonder if it was only a few hours, like two or three hours?

Roy Jones: Uh – they – they probably went just about all day?

Anne Whealton: They did? Okay.

Roy Jones: Probably just like they do now.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Okay. How about that. Now I had never heard anybody talk about the school house over there.

Unknown: You never?

Anne Whealton: Huh-uh, not on that. No one's ever told me that.

Roy Jones: Did anybody ever tell you about how they moved the church off?

Anne Whealton: Yes, I've heard that.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: Uh – well let me ask you, well let me stop for a second. All right, go ahead Mr. Roy, I'm sorry I interrupted.

Roy Jones: The – the people – the people had wood burnin' stoves. And they would go in the – and you could go in the woods and that man that we called – the man that rode the red horse, he didn't mind you cuttin' dead myrtle.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: But he didn't want you to cut green myrtle. He didn't want you to cut the live – the live stuff.

Anne Whealton: That's Mr. Oliphant?

Roy Jones: That was Mr. Oliphant. And my Grandfather had this horse and cart. And he'd – he would go in the woods and cut all ya – all the wood you wanted.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And he'd bring it home and put it out to the wood pile and take an axe and chop it up. Now seasoned myrtle or dead myrtle is almost as hard as oak.

Anne Whealton: How about that!

Roy Jones: But green myrtle cuts easy.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And that's what we burned in our wood burnin' stoves.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Good.

Roy Jones: And some of 'em had wood burnin' cook stoves. You know, they had a – you've seen these wood burnin' cook stoves?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: All right. They gave off the heat plus . . .

Anne Whealton: Plus cooked at the same time?

Roy Jones: Plus cookin' at the same time.

Anne Whealton: All right. This is at the end of this side so I'm gonna turn this over. So we'll join you back in again in a minute.

(Tape 1, Side B)

Anne Whealton: Again, it's Friday, February 24, 2006, and I am sitting here in Mrs. Blanche McGee's kitchen. And I am interviewing Mr. Roy Jones. And Roy, go ahead, take it away.

Roy Jones: Like I said, when Christmas come you got – most time – one toy. I know one Christmas I got a paper cap pistol with a batch of paper caps.

Anne Whealton: I used to love paper caps.

Roy Jones: And another – another Christmas I graduated up to a stopper gun. It was like a rifle but it shot stoppers.

Anne Whealton: Is that like a cork?

Unknown: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: I remember those too.

Roy Jones: And then I finally got up to a BB gun. And in Mr. Charlie Gauhls (sp?) store hangin' from the ceiling was this BB gun.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.



Roy Jones: Which I says, boy Mom I'd like to have that for Christmas. She said well maybe Santa Claus will bring it to ya. Well, Christmas mornin' I had the BB gun and five packs of shot.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And it – it came to a total of a dollar and a half.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: For the BB gun and five packs of shot, for a dollar and a half.

Anne Whealton: Isn't that somethin'. That is somethin'.

Roy Jones: And we – I'd make a lot a toys. I would take – in the summertime – take – if we had watermelon I'd take the watermelon rind and make me like a boat. Put a string on the end.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And in the front the house was a little glade and I could put the string on a stick and I could sail that little watermelon boat - just as happy as could be. And then if we wanted a kite, take a newspaper, string, sticks and from a paste - I had flour and water - and I could make a kite and fly it.

Anne Whealton: That's so neat.

Roy Jones: Or take – take a piece of white pine – white pine boxes then were ever where.

Anne Whealton: White pine boxes?

Roy Jones: White pine boxes.

Anne Whealton: Why, did they bring them for packing or use them for packing?

Roy Jones: They used them for packing. Today ever thing is a – is a . . .

Anne Whealton: Plastic?

Roy Jones: Plastic or wax paper.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And you could take a piece of white pine and make like a propeller, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Oh yeah!

Roy Jones: And you'd stand out in the wind and that thing would just spin – you could – you could make your own toys.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. And that was part of the fun.

Roy Jones: That was part of the fun, yeah.

Anne Whealton: Now your paste that you made, when we were little my Mom used to make us paste out of flour and water, was that the same paste?

Roy Jones: That was the same kind a paste I had.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, that is the kind of paste we had growin' up too.

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Idn't that somethin'. That worked good.

Roy Jones: Oh, it worked.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Good enough for the kites to fly.

Roy Jones: And uh – we could – right on the southwest of that Masonry house on the hill, right out that way, we – we called 'em the hills, their actually nothin' but sand dunes. But they were covered with pine needles.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And we would – it was an old oak fence down below – and we - the sun – the sun had croaked the boards and you'd break you off a piece about that long.

Anne Whealton: Okay, talk dimensions.

Roy Jones: About maybe five feet long.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Thank you.

Roy Jones: And tack a - nail a little short piece across the end of it to put your heel.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And you could slide down those hills on that board.

Anne Whealton: Oh, that's neat.

Roy Jones: Just like a snow sleigh. I mean you could go just as fast as a snow sleigh.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And that board that – the oil in those dead pine needles would get that board just as slick as if you had waxed it.

Anne Whealton: Really! How about that.

Roy Jones: So you'd slide down the hill and then walk it back up to top. So you had to walk up but you could slide down.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And pass away a half a day.

Anne Whealton: Oh, that would be fun.

Roy Jones: Two or three of us.

Anne Whealton: And the hills were that high then huh?

Roy Jones: Yeah. Well, you know how high the hills are . . .

Anne Whealton: White hills?

Roy Jones: Where the light house is.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They were just like that on that side of the road you know. It's a little road that goes right by that masonry house.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then we could go wadin' in the water. We'd go swimmin'. And at first the boats were tied to stakes you know. And at first you'd get in a boat and you'd take a oar and just pull that boat around to the stake 'cause you're afraid to untie it – afraid it would get away you know. 'Cause we hadn't learned how to carry a boat. Then we got so we thought we could – like I'm gonna untie ya and see how I make out.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And – and you learned how to pole, you learned how to skull, you learned how to row. And you learned how to tie – tie a boat.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Uh . . .

Anne Whealton: So you spent a lot a time on the water?

Roy Jones: They're actually clove hitches, but we call 'em half hitches.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Two half hitches and a knot will hold a boat.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And if you wanted to go fishin' you could catch – just pole along the edge of the bank and take your oar and you see a crab – harpoon him (laughing) – and Mr. Collins, the lighthouse keeper, he used – he used to fish with fiddlers – fiddler crabs.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: I never did fish with fiddler crabs, but I fished with crabs.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And sometimes you could catch a little fish and use him for cut bait you know. But you could always catch a mess of fish.

Anne Whealton: Boy, that's a bust.

Roy Jones: Now if – if . . .

Anne Whealton: Did you hunt?

Roy Jones: Huh?

Anne Whealton: Did you hunt at all?

Roy Jones: Did I do what?

Anne Whealton: Hunt.

Roy Jones: No. I never did do hunting.

Anne Whealton: Did many people on Assateague hunt at all?

Roy Jones: Very few.

Anne Whealton: Idn't that somethin'.

Roy Jones: There was – in – well, there was no deer or anything like that on there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. But how about geese?

Roy Jones: There – there were geese up in what we called – where the Wildlife has got ever thing funneled – diked off you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: We called 'em the levels. It was just this long bent grass. And that's what – the ponies – that's what the ponies feed on now.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: But when - when the Wildlife through that – like a little dirt bridge across the inlet so you could go cross to the ocean you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: See that wasn't there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And as you make the turn when you go over to Assateague - right on that side where that little pony trail is.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: That's where the old Assateague Live Saving Station was.

Anne Whealton: I've heard, okay.

Roy Jones: And it's a part of that cistern there today. 'Cause the – the Station was guttered and the water ran down in this cistern and they had a pump.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: In the kitchen, and you pumped your water.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And the – where the little roadway is a crossed, it was – they had made a walkway on pilings and the lifesavers could walk from the Coast Guard Station and go a crossed that like a little bridge over to where the park is on Assateague now.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And it had drains – everything is flooded you know, just like one great big lake. They had drains and one drain went almost up to where that pony trail is. And the other one turned and went up in what we called the levels.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And after a hard rain the rain would run off the levels in those drains and out into Tom's Cove. And I've seen it after a hard rain, the water in Tom's Cove would look red.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Roy Jones: Because it was so much fresh water in it. And – and the oysters would live in Tom's Cove. I've seen Tom's Cove, thousands upon thousands of bushels of oysters in Tom's Cove. Today there isn't one bushel of oysters in Tom's Cove. And people would dredge 'em. I've used hand tongs.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And the last oysters that were planted in Tom's Cove wadn't worth takin' up.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: They died. It wadn't enough alive and nobody knows, because Tom's Cove for years and years was the best oyster plantin' ground in Tom's Cove. At one time it was the best natural harbor on the east coast.

Anne Whealton: Wow. Idn't that somethin'.

Roy Jones: But it silted in and – and the hook kept – what we call the hook now, the name of it is fishin' point – but it is referred to as the hook.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And they – they had two fish factories there.

Anne Whealton: I remember some of the old ruins of one of the fish factories. I used to go down there.

Roy Jones: The ruins of one of 'em is still there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. It used to be a lot more though. You could see a lot more before.

Roy Jones: And the other one – there is a big pile of nothing but rubble and it's a big cog wheel there, if you've been over there lately – I think that cog wheel – that is where the other fish factory was, they were close together.

Anne Whealton: Okay, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then the Coast Guard Station was that way. I think that was put there in 1924.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: That Coast Guard Station.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They moved from the old Assateague Life Saving Station down on the – what we called the hook. If you look at the map I think it's labeled as the hook.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And somebody told me when that Coast Guard Station was built – when he drew – one of the carpenters – when he drove his nail, he tossed his hammer and then left. And in the last years that hook has gone out, well in about I guess 1885 or something there was no hook.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: There was no Tom's Cove.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Idn't that something.

Roy Jones: Because you can go down that pony trail and it makes a loop on the east side of that hook – uh- if you go out to the edge of Tom's Cove where that watch house is.

Anne Whealton: Right. Elvie's family used to live there, yeah.

Roy Jones: There – there's the remains of a ship.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Now see, at that time the ocean brooked right in.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Where that watch house is now. Where that wreck is.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And the – and the wreck she – she came ashore in 1901.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And the – the crew from the Assateague Life Saving Station went and got the people off that. Took – then the beach kept makin' up and the wreck covered up.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And it's been less – well I guess it's been sixty – seventy – I guess sixty-five years ago it was just a little bit of that wreck out of the beach.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And in the last sixty-five years the beach has eroded away and now the wreck is out on the flat and people clam around it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, how about that.

Roy Jones: And I've got a – I was tellin' Paul Snead about it and he went over there one day and he got a piece of that ship's timber.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And he made me a little – well you could use it for a jewelry box.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And I was tellin' Popcycle Lewis about it and I says I don't know what kind of wood it is and he says I imagine it was – I believe he said Honduras Mahogany.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: It wasn't Philippine Mahogany because Philippine Mahogany is soft.

Anne Whealton: Right.



Roy Jones: But this was a hard mahogany.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And that they could use it makin' ship timbers and stuff like that. And today, of course, it's been I guess two or three years since I was there – I wonder if that – if the wreck is still out on that flat or whether the – whether it sanded up or what.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But that ship was named the Mary Standish.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And she came ashore in 1901. See that was over a hundred years ago. But at that time there was no hook.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And – well when the hook formed, then Tom's Cove formed. And it was one time – like I said – the best oyster plantin' ground. It was one of the best natural harbors. I heard an old feller – oh that's been I guess fifty years or more ago, said it was after a gale of wind, said that Tom's Cove was full of sailing ships. Said and it was one schooner there, said it was – Roy, it was the prettiest thing that I've ever seen in my life sittin' in the water.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So then when they – when the gales gets by, when the storm goes by, then the ships goes on out in the ocean and whatever way they're goin' they go.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And – well the most of 'em was – was goin' north.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And he said I want – I want to go out – he was on a two-masted schooner.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Said I want to go out when the rest of the fleet goes - I want to see that boat sail. Said he has never seen nothin' sittin' in water as pretty as that schooner.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And he said when all of the fleet got on out in the ocean – said everything left that pretty boat. Says that boat just would not sail. He says I don't know why.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Roy Jones: Everything left it.

Anne Whealton: That is somethin'. That is somethin'.

Roy Jones: See – and you take 'round the Island here they used to have sailboat races. They were sloops you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: A schooner is – most of 'em that was around here were two-masters.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Some were three-masters. Uh – but the boats that were around here – they were sloops and they only had one mast.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: A sloop has one mast. It has a main sail atop. And one or two jibs.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And that's the way the people used to go down the bay.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Before they started puttin' motors in boats you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Do you remember the boat that was up here by the oyster museum? Do you remember that boat that was there?

Anne Whealton: No.

Roy Jones: It was the "R. F. M. Bunting."

Anne Whealton: No, I don't remember that.

Roy Jones: It's not been too many years, you should know that.

Anne Whealton: I know, I don't remember it though.

Roy Jones: Well she was once a sloop.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Ms. Olga Birch over here that's got the Birchwood Motel.

Anne Whealton: I know Ms. Olga, yeah.

Roy Jones: Her Father owned that boat. She came from Long Island. She was a Long Island sloop.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And Doug Jester, that was Donald Jester's father.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: He told me that he went down the bay when she was a sailboat.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: See – the sailboats, their cabin wasn't over no more than two feet from the deck, you know, two feet tall, so that the boom – they called it jibing the boom – when the winds changed or they – they wanted to go direct – the boom had to swing over the cabin.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So that's what it was – just about two feet from the deck.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: And he said they were goin' down Sloop Channel one time and Ms. Olga Birches' Daddy, he was – well he would be steering in the boat. And here came another sloop goin' down the same way and Mr. Bunting says, "I'll put it on him goin' down this channel." That he would outrun him, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Well, the boat that Mr. Bunting said was going to outrun was called the Dive Inn.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh!

Roy Jones: Now, I don't know whether you're familiar with it or not, but the Dive Inn didn't have a cut water. Her bow – her bottom came right on up and come out the water.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And she was wide and she was flat. And Doug said the old Dive Inn went by the boat that he and Mr. Bunting was on like it – Mr. Bunting's boat was tied. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: Said that thing slid – slid right along.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: Because the way she was. Now goin' against the wind or when the weather got real bad . . .

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: The boat that Mr. Bunting was in, she was – she was a better bad weather boat, you know, when the weather got tough or you were goin' into the wind.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But the other boat, goin' with the wind, was better.

Anne Whealton: Was better. How about that.

Roy Jones: It's just the way they were made. And the – the old Dive Inn used to stay tied up right across from the carnival ground. I remember her.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And I know the boat that – see when the gasoline engines come out, they took the little sailboat cabin off and put a regular down the bay boat, you know, with a forward pilot house and forward pilot house and after cabin.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And I've sailed, well Mr. Burton – Bill Birch – gave her to the oyster museum and well she didn't stay there too long before she went to pieces and they were afraid somebody would, you know, get up on deck and the deck fall through 'cause when you pull a boat outta water and pull her out on land, they don't last no time.

Anne Whealton: No, I know.

Roy Jones: What happens, the fresh water gets in 'em. Salt water won't rot, fresh water will.

Anne Whealton: Fresh water will. All right. I'm gonna take you back to Assateague again. I wanna – this was interesting, but I'm gonna take you back – your hobbies. Don't you carve boats? And don't you draw really well? Where did you pick up all of that?

Roy Jones: I – Well, I started makin' some little model ships 'bout maybe twenty years ago.

Anne Whealton: Twenty years ago. Okay. So you didn't learn that when you were on Assateague?

Roy Jones: Oh, no! Huh-uh. The boats I made I made out – well I did make one or two out of – out of wood - but they were just for sailing. I – I made a little sailboat one time and put a mast and a sail on it, a rudder on it, and I could sail it across the channel. I would – go in a little boat.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And I'd go right along in my little sailboat. And that little boat would sail clear a crossed the channel.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And I'd get over there and turn her around and she'd sail back. I mean that's how I passed away my time.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: 'Course up on the hills, sliding down the board. And then Mr. Bill Scott, he had a big patch of citrons. Now I don't whether you know what a citron is or not. But a citron looks just like – you've seen these big round watermelons in the store?

Anne Whealton: Oh, yes, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: All right. A citron looks like a round watermelon.

Anne Whealton: Citron. They talk about that in Israel. Citrons – they used them for some of the dedications at the feasts and things, citrons.

Roy Jones: I don't know.

Anne Whealton: C-i-t-r-o-n? Yeah, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh. All right.

Anne Whealton: I have heard of them.

Roy Jones: We would take them on the northeast side of the lighthouse there was this real tall hill.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And on the nor' west side of it there was no vegetation at all. It was just plain white sand.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And we would take those citrons up on top the hill and roll 'em down.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Well, after two or three times it made like a little path, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And we would see which citron would go the farthest. Now those citrons were heavy takin' up the hill, but when you got up there and let 'em go – I've done that, so that is how the people that were on the there – that's how they did.

Anne Whealton: Good.

Roy Jones: And I used to play – Mr. Collins, one of the lighthouse keepers, he had three daughters.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: The two youngest ones, they used to come down where we lived and we'd play hopscotch, hide and go seek, and at nights make a little bonfire.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. That's so neat.

Roy Jones: So – and there was only one radio on Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And that was Mr. Collins, the lighthouse keeper's.

Anne Whealton: You had your chores to do too every day too, right?

Roy Jones: Well . . .

Anne Whealton: Did you have chores to do?

Roy Jones: Well – I didn't have any grass to cut because the yard was sand.

Anne Whealton: That made it easy. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: Didn't have to cut any grass.

Anne Whealton: That's a good thing. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: But I had – but – I cut the wood.

Anne Whealton: You cut the wood, okay.

Roy Jones: I had to cut the wood.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Now how about your Father, did you help him with anything or no?

Roy Jones: I – Well, I wasn't – I used to go down Tom's Cove clamming with him and I was so small I could only carry a gallon of clams.

Anne Whealton: Okay, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: I remember going.

Anne Whealton: That's good.

Roy Jones: That's when – I remember, the fish factories, they were in operation and when the wind was to the south, the smoke from their smokestacks down there, wind was southerly, it would bring that – and I've seen that blue smoke just hang right around those pine trees, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And you could smell it. It didn't have a very good odor.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: When the wind was south. Just like when you are going down the County and the wind is nor' west, from those chicken plants, that didn't smell that bad.

Anne Whealton: Yeah. Okay.

Roy Jones: But you could smell it. You could detect it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Now – what were – what was discipline like then? What was the relationship between children and parents, what were like the morals and the values? How did children treat their elders, what was that like?

Roy Jones: When the parents said something, that was it. And if we disobeyed, we got a switch.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: I mean not somethin' that would break a bone, but somethin' that would sting – and about one or two - as we would call 'em - one or two switchins' and you were corrected.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: So it was no real problem.

Anne Whealton: Good. Now was there much crime, I never did ask you – was there crime or anything like that?

Roy Jones: No, no crime on there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And I don't know whether we even locked the doors at night or not.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: I don't know whether my Grandfather ever locked his house or not.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Roy Jones: So – it was – well things in general were different then and it is now.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Now did the men, I know on Chincoteague, Elvie used to tell me stories about the men used to get together at night at the little stores, all the men would get together and congregate, and all the women would kind a congregate, do quilts or canning or different things.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: Was there that type of thing over on Assateague where the men would get together and congregate and tell stories or . . .?

Roy Jones: No. 'Bout the only congregating the men would do is when they went down to Tom's Cove and if you wait until the tide got low enough to do what you're gonna do, they – they would talk.



Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And sometimes the women would have like a – some - some of the women would say well I got to piece a quilt – and after she got the pieces I've got to go ahead and quilt it, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they – they would gather together like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Now I remember when we moved off of Assateague, the fillin' stations and the little country stores, the men would go out there nights.

Anne Whealton: Right. That's what Elvie used to tell me about, yeah, and they would tell lots a stories.

Roy Jones: Yeah. Do you remember when – before the store that Dave Beebe had originally, when it was there?

Anne Whealton: Yes, I do remember that.

Roy Jones: Right. I've been out 'ere nights when you couldn't hardly get in there for men.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But you know, ever one of those men are gone.

Anne Whealton: Huh!

Roy Jones: They've all passed away.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: So the – the Island yeah, and the fillin' stations, there was a – where the Shore Stop is?

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Men used to go there nights. Then it was one right off from Clarke Street.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: People used to go there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They were the two fillin' stations.

Anne Whealton: So it seemed like each little neighborhood had their own little store didn't they?

Roy Jones: Yeah, see – back then there was very few cars.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And ever where on this Island there was a store within easy walkin' distance of wherever you lived.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And Mr. David Melvin used to keep a store right down here and down on the corner was where Calvin Bradley's is.

Anne Whealton: I've heard a bunch of stories about Calvin, yeah.

Roy Jones: Then right out on Main Street, Archie Andrews had a store.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Then on up the street Dave Beebe had a store.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And on up the street farther, where J&B is now?

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Naomi Jester, her husband had a store.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And then you keep goin' right on up. There was Ace Coney had a store.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Then when you got in town there were two or three stores.

Anne Whealton: I remember Rosalie talks about Betty Ellis, she had one up the neck right?

Roy Jones: Up the creek. Betty had – that is where Mr. Cal Twilley had a store.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Then on up the neck Howard Merritt had a store. Over here Harry Tarr had a store.

Anne Whealton: Over here is where, Eastside?

Roy Jones: Up above Pony Pines.

Anne Whealton: Okay, on Eastside.

Roy Jones: Harry Tarr had a store.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Well, the people over in Birchtown, they came over to this little store here.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And then the ones up above Birchtown, would go to Harry Tarr's store.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Then – then the next one was (pause) Old Church Street, Ms. Flossie Twilley kept a store.

Anne Whealton: Right, okay, I remember her.

Roy Jones: And then up Pension Street, Howard Bristol had a store.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Then when you went up Deep Hole, Edgar Dickerson had a store.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Roy Jones: So there were stores within easy – and then – like I say – right off Clarke Street there was two or three stores there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And a little huddle.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And then up the neck – after you left where Mr. Cal Twilley’s store was up the creek – the houses were hardly none until you got up the neck and there was like another little village.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And that’s where Howard Merritts- so I guess it was fourteen or fifteen different stores.

Anne Whealton: Idn’t that something. Now when did that all pass away? When did that . . .

Roy Jones: When the – when the bigger stores come in – come in here.

Anne Whealton: When was that do you remember like as far as date wise?

Roy Jones: Uh – I don’t know the exact date. But it was . . .

Anne Whealton: 1960’s or?

Roy Jones: I’ll say twenty years ago they started petering out.

Anne Whealton: 1980’s?

Roy Jones: They – the – yeah, somethin’ like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: The little stores couldn’t compete. Because when Dave Birch was keepin’ that little store there, he said “Roy” – I think at that time it was called the Colonial Store.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Roy Jones: He says, “I can go to the Colonial Store and buy groceries just as reasonable as I can order ‘em from the salesman.” He says, “Now how can I compete with that?”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, right.

Roy Jones: So the little stores – oh, and in Ticktown there was Les Harner. Now Ticktown is Willow Street.

Anne Whealton: Right. I remember, right.

Roy Jones: And then later on Stewart Satchel had a – remember when?

Anne Whealton: Yeah, I remember that, it was in the brick building on Willow Street, yeah.

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, I do remember that, yeah.

Roy Jones: All right. So they . . .

Anne Whealton: They started like phasing out maybe in the 70's, a little bit at a time?

Roy Jones: Well, I'll say maybe in the early 80's.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Because I remember some of 'em, but I don't remember as many.

Roy Jones: See – they couldn't compete.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: It was like the – the – it's just like they want to bring a K-Mart down around Exmore somewhere.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Not a K-Mart.

Anne Whealton: Wal-Mart.

Roy Jones: Wal-Mart.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they say well that'll drive the little – the little stores out. Because they can't compete.

Anne Whealton: Right. Idn't that somethin'.

Roy Jones: But – and I know in town there was, right on the corner of Main and Cleveland Streets, right along aside Bill's Restaurant.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: Popcycle Lewis' mother and father had an ice cream parlor.

Anne Whealton: I've heard of that, yeah, Rosalie talks about that, yes, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Yeah. All right.

Anne Whealton: That was open on Sunday. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: Yeah. And then - and then on the other side of the street there was a man – there was a place called the Greasy Spoon.

Anne Whealton: Sounds delicious. (Laughing)

Roy Jones: John – John Piner operated that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And people would hang out there.

Anne Whealton: And Gallagher's downtown.

Roy Jones: And on the other side of the mouth of Cleveland Street, right where that little park is now that's got some benches?

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Lucille – I mean Louise Johnson had a ice cream parlor and lunch counter there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then up above the street Odell – where the – used to be the old Powell's Theater?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Odell Birch had a little sandwich shop there. So the young people had places to go.

Anne Whealton: To congregate.

Roy Jones: Now there is no place for 'em to go.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And then – but at the same time there wasn't many automobiles and people couldn't go no where like they do today.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And when I was growin' up if I got to Pocomoke.

Anne Whealton: That was a big thing?

Roy Jones: That was a big trip!

Anne Whealton: That was a big trip.

Roy Jones: And if you got to Ocean City once a year, my that was the utmost!!!

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Roy Jones: I know one time – I was - the intermediate department at Sunday School, I was about sixteen years old . . .

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Harvey Mears, that's Denny Mears' father.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: He had – he had a truck – the sides were boarded up. But didn't have a top on it. And we put two long – I think two long benches in that – back of that truck – and he carried our Sunday School class to Ocean City.

Anne Whealton: I've heard – okay.

Roy Jones: And I – I don't know what – I think he charged thirty-five cents a piece.

Anne Whealton: Oh my. Did you go up Route 12 or did you go – was Route 12 in existence then? Fleming Road?

Roy Jones: I imagine that's the route we took.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Too bad it wadn't open on the beach.

Roy Jones: Huh?

Anne Whealton: Too bad it wasn't open on the beach and you could a gone straight up.

Roy Jones: No, you couldn't a 'cause they wouldn't let ya go.

Anne Whealton: I know, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And you take the white hills, it's just - I guess a quarter of a mile past the lighthouse.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: I can remember when you're off the east side in the afternoon the white hills looked like a snow cladded mountain.

Anne Whealton: Idn't that somethin'.

Roy Jones: The sand was pure white.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And – and in the afternoon the sun would shine on it. And now the trees have growed up.

Anne Whealton: And you can't see?

Roy Jones: You can't see it.

Anne Whealton: How about that.

Roy Jones: But that trip to Ocean City cost us thirty-five cents. But – I mean people had a good time in a good clean way.

Anne Whealton: Oh, it was wonderful because people were together though.

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: People were more – I know Rosalie and I have talked a lot too about neighborhoods and she was telling me that in her neighborhood if her neighbor's front door wasn't open, then she knew her neighbor was sick. They didn't have telephones, they went back and forth.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: And so they would go over and bring 'em a meal or just go check on 'em to see if there was anything they could do. Or if only one person in the car – person in the neighborhood had a car – that one person would take you to the doctors or you know. I mean everybody sort of helped each other out. They were more - they were closer in the neighborhoods.

Roy Jones: Well, that's the way it was when we lived on Assateague.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Roy Jones: Uh –



Unknown: One thing only.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, everything in common.

Roy Jones: And just like on here – it was another – oh, right on the corner as you go off the Island, Mr. Jessie Watson and Earl Watson they had on one side the store was – well, they had an ice cream parlor. And they had these round – round marble-top tables.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And the little chairs had like a wire back you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, those little bistro chairs I call ‘em.

Roy Jones: And on that – that’s where the young people – and I’ve seen that place packed with young people.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And on the other side is where the older people hung out. They would talk about how many oysters they had planted or how many they had tonged, or how many fish the linters had brought in in those pound boats and all that.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they had this big potbellied stove that burned coal. And the men – the older people sat on that side, the younger people on the other.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Roy Jones: So the younger people had somewhere to go and if we got to go to the movies once or twicet a month, that was . . .

Anne Whealton: That was a big thing?

Roy Jones: That was a big thing.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Roy Jones: Go to the movies and come out and get you some ice cream or a sandwich.

Anne Whealton: That’s a big date. That’s a good time.

Roy Jones: And I've heard Peggy Carpenter say that - she lived right close to Mechanic's Cemetery.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And she said the girls from Birchtown, they would come along, and as they went along, they would pick up another girl, you know. Until they got to town for to go to the movies they had a group.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. That's neat. I wanna go back to Assateague for a second, I know I'm all over the place - I have to come back to - what was it like when someone passed away? Did you - what did they do as far as?

Roy Jones: Nobody passed away. What time I lived on there nobody died.

Anne Whealton: Nobody passed away? So - what if - maybe before you were there, what did they do, did they have like?

Roy Jones: (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Roy Jones: Look . . .

Anne Whealton: Because I know funeral homes is kind of a modern thing.

Roy Jones: You know when you go across the bridge, across Assateague Channel?

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And immediately when you get on Assateague?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Right up on that side - on your left-hand side going over, there is the cemetery.

Anne Whealton: Right, Elvie's people are buried there too.

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Roy Jones: Now my - my . . .

Anne Whealton: Jones . . .

Roy Jones: My Grandmother on my Daddy's side is buried there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. I've been back there.

Roy Jones: My Great-Grandfather and Great-Grandmother are buried there. It was several people buried there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: There is only three or four regular tombstones.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: But I can – in the last fifty years, even the land where the cemetery is, has changed.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: And it was – well it was just like a big knoll.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: You know, shaped like a bowl turned upside down. And they had these – that the markers were not granite, the markers were made of either locust or cedar.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And they came up like this and then they had the round part to the top.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: And their initials and they . . .

Anne Whealton: They were made of locust or cedar, what's locust?

Roy Jones: A locust is – is a tree that lived – well, they'd stay there forever.

Anne Whealton: And it's called a locust?

Roy Jones: Locust, yeah.

Anne Whealton: Oh really?

Roy Jones: Yeah, locust tree.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Does it have a flower that grows on it sometimes?

Roy Jones: Yeah! And they smell good.

Anne Whealton: Yeah!

Roy Jones: Uh . . .

Anne Whealton: And you call that a locust tree?

Roy Jones: Locust. And most of the graves had what we called sea shells, conch shells.

Anne Whealton: Conch shells, right.

Roy Jones: All around it. All of that is gone. And it had a picket fence around it.

Anne Whealton: I remember, yelp.

Roy Jones: And - and

Anne Whealton: Is there an iron fence around it still? I thought I had seen – I remembered an iron fence around one of the graves, no?

Roy Jones: I think all it is – it's some . . .

Anne Whealton: Gone now?

Roy Jones: I don't know whether their marble or somethin' like that markers.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Roy Jones: With holes through it, and it's – I think got wire through it now.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Okay.

Roy Jones: Now I don't know if – my Daddy said that his Mother was buried under a big oak tree.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: But see I don't know what oak tree it is.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: 'Cause ever thing is gone. And - and there was some boulders up to the cemetery. Now the only - there is no natural boulders on Assateague 'cause Assateague's nothin' but sand.

Anne Whealton: Right, right.

Roy Jones: The only place the boulders come from - they come - when a sailing ship was wrecked . . .

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And they had these boulders for ballast.

Anne Whealton: Right, oh wow.

Roy Jones: You know what ballast is?

Anne Whealton: Right, sure.

Roy Jones: All right. So that's the only place - but all of that is gone - I don't know whether people took it for just souvenirs or what, but all of the wooden markers?

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: They're all gone. All the boulders are gone. All the sea shells are gone, but those three or four regular tombstones, they're still there.

Anne Whealton: Right. Well, I just want to ask you a few more questions, we're almost out. How old were you when you came to the Lord?

Roy Jones: Fifteen.

Anne Whealton: Fifteen. Okay. And I - one thing I did notice in talking to the older people that in their conversations, they used a lot of scripture. I've heard people talk and say, oh I can remember my Mom said . . .

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: And that was part of the conversation and the language was a lot of scripture?

Roy Jones: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: It was part of them.

Roy Jones: Uh-huh, part of their language.

Anne Whealton: That was part of their language. And I just think that's very interesting because they were living by the Word and I think the people here, there is a kindness, there's a gentleness, there's a love here. There's a neighborliness, people looking out for each other and loving each other, that is still present. But I see in the older people that even in the language they spoke using the Word and I think that has had – that had a great affect spiritually on this area because they lived according to the Word.

Roy Jones: Another – another thing, it's a picture there in the vestibule at Union Baptist Church that was taken away back there – I guess in the 50's.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And it was on a Mother's Day.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And that church is packed – I mean ever pew is packed and all the way around that wall standin' up.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Were people. But I'm sayin' ninety percent of the people that's in that picture are gone.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. And they were there for Mother's Day.

Roy Jones: They were there . . .

Anne Whealton: And they were honoring their Mothers. And Mothers really had a big part in bringing up the children in that day.

Roy Jones: See – I've said this before – we are only about twenty percent Chincoteaguers.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: And – its just like down there where Eulah lives.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Some nights there is only one light in ten houses.

Anne Whealton: Right, I used to live down there right by where Eulah lives.

Roy Jones: So we don't have . . .

Anne Whealton: The neighbors any more, they're gone.

Roy Jones: We don't have Chincoteague any more.

Anne Whealton: Huh-uh.

Roy Jones: The – the – of course nobody can help it, but I'll say sixty years ago, ninety percent of the people on this Island got his livin' outta the water. The inland water and the ocean.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Today it isn't nine percent.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Roy Jones: Very few people get their livin' outta water today. Simply because the water industry is just goin' down, goin' down, goin' down. Just like I said in Tom's Cove, I remember when there were thousands upon thousands of bushels of oysters.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Roy Jones: None today!

Anne Whealton: I've done a lot of thinkin' on that too, thinkin' that where so many people are comin' and buying up the houses here and nobody lives here, what kind of town will it become one day, you know, once the people who are the residents move on or pass away, will we have that many people, you know, or will it just be a summer town where people come for the summertime?

Roy Jones: That's what it's gonna be.

Anne Whealton: That's what I see. I've noticed the same thing in our neighborhood there's not many . . .

Roy Jones: It's – it's gonna be a resort town.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, idn't that somethin'. Idn't that somethin' how time changes and waives of civilization come through . . .

Roy Jones: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: And waives of civilization pass on.

Roy Jones: Like I said – Donnie Thornton – the one that's got the campground up Deep Hole.

Anne Whealton: Donnie Ray, uh-huh.

Roy Jones: Pine Grove. One day he said, "Roy" . . .

END OF TAPE!