

Interviewers: Margot Hunt and Jim Hollinger
Interviewees: Alice Kaul [Eddie Kaul is her husband]

Transcriber: David MacKinnon

This interview is with Alice Kaul: on July 19, 2013 on Richardson Street

MARGOT HUNT: Good Morning this is July 19, 2013 and Jim Hollinger and I, Margot Hunt, are in this extraordinarily wonderful house with Eddie and Alice Kaul. And we're going to have a little time with Alice this morning. And feel free to interrupt anybody who wants to chime in.

I want to ask you Alice, where you were born. Were you born here on Chincoteague?

ALICE KAUL: Right here on the island over on East Side.

MARGOT HUNT: And what was your maiden...

ALICE KAUL: December the 7th 1937 the worst winter on record.

MARGOT HUNT: Really! What happened?

ALICE KAUL: It was just so cold and everything so frozen. Back in that day most people here worked on the water. They were watermen. And they would go down what they called, 'Down the Bay' for two weeks in the winter and one week in the summer because of the heat. Leaving the seafood, you know, with that heat. So daddy was gone when I was born. And Mom run out of wood to keep the house warm, so she just burned what she could find. That's just the way it was back in...

MARGOT HUNT: You were born at home then.

ALICE KAUL: At home.

MARGOT HUNT: Did anybody help her?

ALICE KAUL: Oh, we had a family doctor. He went around delivering babies, and midwives.

MARGOT HUNT: You were on the East Side. Where on the East Side, where was it, on Willow Street you said?

ALICE KAUL: No, no, on East Side.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh, on East Side Drive.

ALICE KAUL: I was born on the East Side.

MARGOT HUNT: On East Side Drive?

ALICE KAUL: Um. It was—Michael McGee lives in the same spot now if you're familiar with that name. He does carvings. In that same spot is where I was born and grew up.

MARGOT HUNT: So have you lived here most of your life?

ALICE KAUL: For my entire life.

MARGOT HUNT: So did you go to the Chincoteague School on Church Street?

ALICE KAUL: Yes, uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: I bet you were sad to see that go.

ALICE KAUL: No, I hated school.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh. [both laugh]

ALICE KAUL: No, I wasn't sad at all.

MARGOT HUNT: You're an artist, aren't you? You are an artist, I know you are. I have seen this fabulous collection. [Kaul laughs]

EDDIE KAUL: She's known as a 'children take care of us' and a cook.

MARGOT HUNT: And an artist. She's a beautiful artist I believe.

ALICE KAUL: Back then when I was at school, basically the teachers were from the island. So everybody knew or thought they knew everybody else's business. It wasn't always an easy thing, especially if you had any skeletons in the closet. [Hunt laughs] You know they liked to drag them out.

MARGOT HUNT: Did you have any skeletons in your closet?

ALICE KAUL: Not me. I was good. But my granddaddy wasn't. The Clark family is notorious for lots of things. A matter of fact my cousin, Walter, was a legend in his own time on this island. He's the one who shot the game warden.

MARGOT HUNT: I don't know about that. Tell about that.

ALICE KAUL: Oh that was something else. The men, like I said, the men here had always worked the water and always done their own, If what they needed was deer. They'd go out and shoot it. And bring home, clean it, and that was for the family to use to eat. Nothing was wasted back in that time. I'll guarantee it, nothing was wasted. And he had just returned from the—Iwo Jima. You know, back in that day when you went in the military and you had about five to six weeks of training, you were taught to kill. That's what you were taught to do. As soon as that period was over, you shipped out. So he'd just returned from Iwo Jima and naturally he went over there to look for an animal, deer. And the game warden for about two weeks harassed him everywhere he went, every move he made. He harassed him trying to get something that he could get on to him. So he was hiding behind a tree and his war reflexes was of course to shoot. You know, when you just come back from the wars, and back then it was a big time thing. And that's what he did, he shot. Evidently he didn't shoot to kill him because he had an outstanding war record. And he was an excellent marksman. So he didn't shoot to kill him. But he did shoot him. But he never did like him after that. [everyone laughs]

MARGOT HUNT: So are there Clark relatives here on this island...

ALICE KAUL: We have a few left. We have a few left on here.

MARGOT HUNT: Is Tommy Clark a relative of yours?

ALICE KAUL: Yes.

MARGOT HUNT: He's a good waterman...

ALICE KAUL: Pretty much all the Clarks are related in some form or another. But you know they used to always get in trouble for crabbing ducks and this kind of thing. You know, it was really, it was just something all the time.

MARGOT HUNT: Why?

ALICE KAUL: When my first child was born in Nassawadox, when I was returning home Walt was in the old jail that was in Accomack. But he wasn't in the jail; he was sittin' out on the step. So that was our first stop—was the jail to get him.[Hunt laughs]

MARGOT HUNT: What a background.

ALICE KAUL: It was really something back there for a while back in them days.

MARGOT HUNT: Have you traced your family history back, you know, how far back you all go?

ALICE KAUL: Not too much so, no.

MARGOT HUNT: And you must have been on the shore for a long time, your family.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah.

MARGOT HUNT: It'd be interesting to find...

ALICE KAUL: Walt used to say, 'We were horse thieves from New Jersey.' [laughter] And that could have well been.

EDDIE KAUL?: They probably sailed from Scotland to Chincoteague.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, we're Scottish, so I mean, they probably might have been some bearing. That they, you know—across the street, Mimi Savin, has got this thing going, she's got it over in the museum as well about this foundling young boy. You heard the stories?

MARGOT HUNT: Are you talking about James Alone?

ALICE KAUL: That's just not true?

MARGOT HUNT: Really?

ALICE KAUL: That is not true. And I told her that, told her that it's not true.

MARGOT HUNT: Now we're talking about the foundling little boy who was...

ALICE KAUL: Like twelve maybe years old? Because I've heard my father say many, many, many times. My grandfather found that boy and brought him home and they raised him to be a grown man. That story she's tellin is just not true. And I told her that. But she keeps right on tellin it.

MARGOT HUNT: Well that is—there's going to be a play about it I think even pretty soon. So that family is not connected with yours at all?

ALICE KAUL: No. Now my grandfather, our great-grandfather Comfort; her name was Comfort. She come from over on that side of that family some kind of way. I'm not quite sure just how it was all that. But I know that part of the story's just not true. It really needs to properly be investigated. She has no documentation. She has no nothing.

MARGOT HUNT: Hum. Now who...

JIM HOLLINGER: So it wasn't a water foundling, the child found from the harbor wreck, as they say.

ALICE KAUL: Actually they don't know where the boy come from. Have no idea where he come from.

MARGOT HUNT: Wasn't he a very small boy.

ALICE KAUL: About twelve years old.

JIM HOLLINGER: Twelve, yeah, that's not a baby.

ALICE KAUL: No, he was about twelve years old.

MARGOT HUNT: And the descendents of that boy, now...

JIM HOLLINGER: Were really Ernestine's [Holston] family, the Longs?

MARGOT HUNT: Are we talking about the same clan?

ALICE KAUL: Yes.

MARGOT HUNT: Ernestine's family claim they are descendents of this child?

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: And that's not true

ALICE KAUL: She has no documentation so ever. And I know what my family members have told me down through the years. And I have told her that. As a matter fact if my daughter can find the tape. She has a tape by Walt, the one I was just speaking of. He's put all that down on tape.

MARGOT HUNT: Well we would love to know about that. That's important.

JIM HOLLINGER: He would have recorded that at Walt's—Clark?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah.

MARGOT HUNT: Walter Clark.

JIM HOLLINGER: Let's look into that Margot.

MARGOT HUNT: Yeah, we will.

ALICE KAUL: She has that tape some place if she can just find it.

JIM HOLLINGER: Well okay why don't we get into, back into your life, because that's what the interesting part is. You know your days on Willow Street and your...

ALICE KAUL: No, East Side Drive.

JIM HOLLINGER: Well, East Side Drive.

MARGOT HUNT: Was your community around a church in those days?

ALICE KAUL: Basically your whole life is.

MARGOT HUNT: And what's church is that?

ALICE KAUL: Well the Union Baptist.

MARGOT HUNT: Union Baptist, uh huh. And your life really, your social life and everything circulated around the church as it mostly does now.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah. Well it was a different world, a different time, a different generation. Now there was nothing really entertaining to do. You know, the beach had never started, had never opened yet. And you went to school. You went to church. You come home. Each section of the island was basically divided. You didn't go outside of your sector.

MARGOT HUNT: Now what was that? Why didn't you?

ALICE KAUL: I don't know. I don't know why, but that's the way it was. Each part of the island had its own little section and had its own little grocery store. There was at one time there must have been at least 25 grocery stores on it; little small stores. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: And what was your part of the island called on the East Side?

ALICE KAUL: Dodge City.

MARGOT HUNT: Dodge City. And you had a church; you had your own church on that part?

ALICE KAUL: No, we went to the one on Church Street.

MARGOT HUNT: The big one, the big church, the Baptist Church?

ALICE KAUL: We also an annex of that down on Willow Street—was Beulah. It got burned. You went Sunday school and service in the morning. And then you went down there in the afternoon. And then you come home and eat, and then you got ready and went back to church again that night. That's the only time you got socialize with anybody. You didn't get to go out of your neighborhood.

MARGOT HUNT: And the watermen were on the water all week.

ALICE KAUL: All week.

MARGOT HUNT: Seven or six or seven days—six says a week I guess.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: And you were at school.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: And when you weren't at school what did you do? What did you do in the summer?

ALICE KAUL: Well now a lot of times in the summer in my particular case, I left the island. My grand parents lived up in Bishopville down around Saint Martin's Neck. They had a farm up there. And I would go up and stay with them.

MARGOT HUNT: Why did you do that?

ALICE KAUL: Oh, because I loved them. And they were so good to us.

MARGOT HUNT: And what did you do up there?

ALICE KAUL: We worked on the farm and just piddled around doing what ever we wanted. There was no pressure of any kind put on us. They just let us be ourselves.

MARGOT HUNT: Was the farm near the water?

ALICE KAUL: No.

MARGOT HUNT: So you actually did farm work.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah.

MARGOT HUNT: You raised hay and...

ALICE KAUL: What little, what little—I mean I was very young what little, you know, that I was capable of doin'. You weren't forced to work. If you wanted to it was okay, if not, you know then, they didn't put pressure on you.

MARGOT HUNT: Did you have a garden there?

ALICE KAUL: Oh yes, uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Did you work in the garden?

ALICE KAUL: Not too much, no.

MARGOT HUNT: Because you were too small.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Then as you got older what did you do in the summers? You were in high school then.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah. In the summertime—see it's not like what I said already. It's not, it was not like it is now. There was no summertime jobs. So we just kinda hung around home and did what ever we could, you know, back at the house. House work and what have you.

MARGOT HUNT: And you didn't have a library then.

ALICE KAUL: No.

MARGOT HUNT: So you didn't have books very much.

ALICE KAUL: No, no. Only thing is if you could get something at school. Some of the teachers were very generous and they would allow me to bring home like a half a dozen books so you could have them to read, you know, over the summer months. And some of them were kinda not so generous.

MARGOT HUNT: Yeah. So you weren't...

ALICE KAUL: Some were down right mean.

MARGOT HUNT: Well that's why you didn't like school.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, only. And Clive Green was an old crab, an old crab. [laughter] Miss Byrd.

MARGOT HUNT: Miss Byrd. B Y R D?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh dear. Why was she an old crab?

ALICE KAUL: I think she was a spinster and she just didn't know what rape was about. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: So after you finished high school.

ALICE KAUL: But you couldn't say anything back then. And you know, you didn't say anything. I can remember, you know, a girl who always had real long hair and it was always naturally curly. And mom would always makin' long finger curls. But she didn't dare move when she was workin' on you because that would be considered disrespectful. If you did, you'd get it with the comb on the side of the face. So you had to be perfectly still while she was workin' and then when I'd get back outside I'd shake my head as hard as I could and shake it all out.

[laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: When did you get interested in dolls? Was it after high school or during that time?

ALICE KAUL: Probably after. I've always loved, I've always loved dolls.

MARGOT HUNT: What did you do after high school? Did you go to work someplace?

ALICE KAUL: After high school I got married. That's when we moved over to Tick Town.

MARGOT HUNT: Where in Tick Town did you live?

ALICE KAUL: Just like the middle of Willow Street. There was a street just about in the middle there.

EDDIE KAUL: The highest spot...

MARGOT HUNT: You had no flooding.

ALICE KAUL: Oh no, no. That is the highest point on Chincoteague Island.

MARGOT HUNT: Is that right?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah. When we had the '62 storm, we didn't get water.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh, my gosh, I didn't know that.

EDDIE KAUL: The cemetery there. It's near the cemetery. It's a high spot.

ALICE KAUL: No. It's up toward the Church Street something where we were from the cemetery.

MARGOT HUNT: So did you know Nancy Conklin's family up here?

ALICE KAUL: Yup. Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Because they were all living in there in that area, weren't they?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: And there was a black church up there?

ALICE KAUL: Oh yeah.

MARGOT HUNT: Tell about that. Tell about your black neighborhood up there, what you remember.

ALICE KAUL: Well see at one point in time it was about—even before my—even me. The entire area was black. That's all that lived there. And then of course had their own church, and they had—and they didn't have a school here. They had to go to the main land to go to school.

EDDIE KAUL: They all had jobs...

ALICE KAUL: They weren't allowed to go to school here.

MARGOT HUNT: So they went by boat.

ALICE KAUL: No, oh we had the bridge.

MARGOT HUNT: The bridge to the mainland.

ALICE KAUL: The bridge, that bridge was built then. The other bridge was the one that's still existing. They worked on building that the year that Mom was carrying me, which was '37. I think it was completed in '38. And that's how long it's been there.

MARGOT HUNT: So the black children all had to go...

ALICE KAUL: They all had to go to the mainland to go to school.

MARGOT HUNT: Did they have the census here, I mean did they work here? Did they have neighborhood stores?

ALICE KAUL: It was that many of them. The Russell Hotel hired maybe three from different families. And the one—oh she was huge—Buehl, Bob Buehl's wife. She taught school over on the mainland. And he worked at the ABC store. And then up on Taylor Street it was a family, couple of families of them.

MARGOT HUNT: But they weren't doing things like oyster shucking.

ALICE KAUL: Well he was in the military, the guy was, he lost his arm up to the elbow. It just had a little nubbie below his elbow. And he worked for Bill Birch. And he could take a can of paint and hang it on that little nubbie and work all day long. Paint all day long.

MARGOT HUNT: Really!

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: Oh my gosh.

ALICE KAUL: They were different. And then the [?] lived down there. And he worked like a—I'm not sure who he was employed by. But I do know that he did a lot of hauling sand. I'm not sure who he was employed by. But I do know he did a lot of hauling sand, you know, for fill.

MARGOT HUNT: I think Shirley Crippen is a Brinney Do you know Charlie who lives on the mainland in Wattsville?

ALICE KAUL: The name sounds very familiar.

MARGOT HUNT: He works on computers. He could teach you how to use a computer.

[laughter]

ALICE KAUL: I'm too old.

MARGOT HUNT: He taught me.

ALICE KAUL: I'm too old.

MARGOT HUNT: So after you moved to Willow Street did you begin to interested in collecting dolls or making dolls or...

ALICE KAUL: Well see I started my family and I had two girls. So naturally, you know, everybody like that likes dolls. So I had them to dress, you know, and buy, fix clothes and dolls are, plus having school. My house was always a watering hole for children, always.

MARGOT HUNT: Isn't that nice.

ALICE KAUL: And I liked it that way. And they would come in, you know, I've got a doll here that you've got to dress for me. [laughter] And then when it come time for the prom I need a prom gown fixed, repaired or made outright. So all these things I did because I was able to do them. And I was glad, really glad to do 'um.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh, that's wonderful.

ALICE KAUL: Some of the children, they just—the circumstances surrounding their life, they just could not do it. They couldn't do it, you know, the families couldn't do it. And they wouldn't have had it.

[Undecipherable talking]

ALICE KAUL: Oh yeah we did mom always—my grandmother that we just spoke of, she made a lot of our clothes. And she made underwear out of feed, white feed bags. Mom would take a feedbags, you know, all feedbags have a print that's on it. And she would hang them out on the clothesline. And the dew, heavy dews at night would come and make 'em damp. And that would help erase that dye that was in there printed with the design. And then eventually they all turned out white.

MARGOT HUNT: Were they scratchy?

ALICE KAUL: Oh yes, yeah. You see, that's what you had and that's all. You don't know it. You don't know that they're uncomfortable because that's all you know. We were discussin' that yesterday, Eddie and I, about the heat. You know back then nobody had air. Few people even had a fan. The grocery store over on the East Side, Harry Powers grocery store, he had a ceiling fan and that's all there was. Church didn't have any fans, except, you know, the ones that you get from the funeral home. [laughter] So it was a hard time. Life was hard but you didn't know it because that's all you knew. Now looking back you think, 'How did I ever survive it.' But at the time you goin' through it—when you're young and child on up it's nothin' much that bothers you. It's really little bothers you when you're young. Then's you get older I think everything bothers you. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: Well it seems as though it was a generous time to—people took care of each other. I mean you served for all those people. And you really got interested in dolls. You have a

beautiful doll collection here, extraordinary. And some of them are German and some you painted yourself and made yourself. Tell about that.

ALICE KAUL: I used to have my own kiln. And I didn't have much...

MARGOT HUNT: How did you learn to make these, you tell me. How did you learn to use the kiln?

ALICE KAUL: Well, trial and error, actually.

MARGOT HUNT: You taught yourself?

ALICE KAUL: You get a book, you know. I do a lot with a book now. Can't do much with a computer. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: You still read.

ALICE KAUL: But, you know, you can read and get instructions and see how you do things. It really not that much involved. You just have to use a certain way that you put in, you know, for what ever you're firin', what ever temperature you want it to rise up to. And that way, you know, you just try it. 'Well does this work?' If not then I'll have to try it another way.

MARGOT HUNT: Where did you get clay? Did you get a certain kind of clay to make those?

ALICE KAUL: Well, basically I bought a batch from Miss Taylor when she was in this—down at the bridge. But you could buy it. Anybody could do that, you know, that was working with ceramics. It's a little bit finer, the clay that you use for porcelain. A little bit more complicated to fire it also.

MARGOT HUNT: Were most of your dolls made of porcelain. Your dolls faces made of porcelain?

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Because certainly the ones you got from Germany were.

ALICE KAUL: Oh yes.

MARGOT HUNT: And the ones you made were. And you've made all the clothes for all the dolls that you have here.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Did you sell them ever; did you ever sell the dolls?

ALICE KAUL: Yes. I used to have a little place, a little shop that I set up. Then we'd go to doll shows and, well not especially a doll show, a craft show. And always sold, always. I took orders and..

MARGOT HUNT: And where was your little—did you have a little shop?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, right there in the back of the house.

MARGOT HUNT: In Willow Street?

EDDIE KAUL: There was a sign out on the garage outside,

MARGOT HUNT: What does it say. Willow Street Dolls? [laughter]

EDDIE KAUL: What does it say?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, I think it just has Alice's Dollhouse.

MARGOT HUNT: Alice's Dollhouse, oh! How many dolls did you have in those...

EDDIE KAUL: Everything hanging up that you could see.

ALICE KAUL: Oh dozens.

MARGOT HUNT: How many dolls do you think you have right now in this house?

ALICE KAUL: Oh I don't know.

MARGOT HUNT: Roughly.

ALICE KAUL: I don't know.

EDDIE KAUL: Just say about 45 to 50.

ALICE KAUL: 'Cause I was just tellin' Ed that we had kinda doll room in there. I think we counted about 20 in our bedroom. [laughter] So the dolls is really branchin' out. [laughter] I don't think it's a room in the house we don't have a doll.

MARGOT HUNT: What will happen to these dolls? Do you know?

ALICE KAUL: You mean when we go? Oh we have grandchildren, great grandchildren. You'll not let it get away from them.

MARGOT HUNT: That's good. I bet they won't. You also have a fine collection of bears.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, they love them too. [laughter] Yeah they'll not let them get away. The great—we have two granddaughters. The one is—she went to school in East Carolina. And she met her husband there and they got married. They made their home down there. She has three children. The other one is the assistant principal at the high school. She don't have any children.

MARGOT HUNT: Here?

ALICE KAUL: Un huh. She's being groomed to take the position over Chris Holland. This town's goin' to be [unintelligible] before too long. He's not real healthy. But anyways...

MARGOT HUNT: What is her name?

ALICE KAUL: Karen, Karen Taylor.

MARGOT HUNT: Karen Taylor. I just wondered if I've met her.

ALICE KAUL: She's got red hair, long red hair.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh yeah. I think I do know who she is. Pretty. Well they're interested in all of this. Plenty of people interested in it I'm sure.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, they—not it'll not get away from them.

MARGOT HUNT: That's good. I think that's fine.

ALICE KAUL: The then when April comes home, brings the babies. One of them there behind the couch in that little stroller; she knows we put that there for her. So she had—we had to hide it there when she comes 'cause I don't want her to break it.

MARGOT HUNT: I was wondering if you had any that were off limits for children.

ALICE KAUL: Well anything that we have is porcelain is off limits. Now you can't break porcelain easily. It might, you think of it bein' fragile product, but it's really not. As long as you don't get the two things together. That way one is got the same amount of force the other one has. You can break those through your hands quickly like that. Otherwise they last forever.

MARGOT HUNT: I had one and her face survived but not her fingers. Fingers didn't survive.

ALICE KAUL: Were they porcelain or?

MARGOT HUNT: Yeah, they were porcelain. It was an old doll, old German doll.

ALICE KAUL: That's unusual. She's gone now?

MARGOT HUNT: Yeah. I don't know where she...

ALICE KAUL: Because you probably couldn't, well, get her fixed if you had her.

MARGOT HUNT: Do you still paint dolls and make clothes for them and stuff?

ALICE KAUL: I had been up until just not that long ago, you know, I've been make dolls. I wasn't long ago I made one for Charlotte Carpenter. I dressed her. One of the old fashioned Southern Belle dolls.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh, so you're still sewing happily?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh that's wonderful, wonderful. You talked a little bit about the Depression Era and it was poor here, wasn't it?

ALICE KAUL: Well I don't really remember that much because we were comin' out of the Depression right when I was born. WWII is what brought us, you know, as you know, that's what

brought us up. I can remember all the stamps when you went to the store. You had to have stamps, ration stamps.

MARGOT HUNT: Sure.

ALICE KAUL: And I remember mom had, used to have books of them when we'd go to the store. But the depression itself I don't remember. Rough, it was really rough. I guess we were a little better off here than some because at that time seafood was in abundance. You know, you could go out and maybe just set a little small net to get fish. And while that was settin' you could go and catch enough clams to last you two or three days to eat. I mean and the ducks and everything. And white tail buck until the game warden thing. James Williams was the main one that worked. And he knew if you had a big family you needed to feed. And he was very lenient, very helpful. A lot of people didn't give him a whole lot of credit for that, but he did. And then sometimes he'd say, 'Don't come out today because Buck's goin' to be with me.' [laughter] They've got a big write-up about that over at the on the beach at the Bateman Center.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh really. I'll look for that.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh. They've got a big write-up about Buck's gettin' shot.

EDDIE KAUL: Oh Buck, he was a ranger.

MARGOT HUNT: Warden.

EDDIE KAUL: Warden.

MARGOT HUNT: Have you— you've been to the new museum?

EDDIE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Old museum, made in it. What do you think of it?

ALICE KAUL: It's not bad at all.

MARGOT HUNT: It's an improvement I think.

ALICE KAUL: Yes. Yes, anything had to be an improvement. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: That's the truth. Are you fishing now? Are you fishing?

ALICE KAUL: No. The last time I went fishing was out here in the back yard. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: Walk into your canal?

ALICE KAUL: And I got a big crab on my line.

MARGOT HUNT: When was this?

ALICE KAUL: And don't you know my line was so bad shape it broken off, my fish went.

[laughter] But I got him back on the second time and it did it again. [laughter] And I still didn't get my line replaced.

MARGOT HUNT: Is there somebody in this room who should have been seeing to that?

ALICE KAUL: They should have been takin' care of it. So Bill thought—well he was across the street at the time. We chided him over that. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: Well isn't that amazing. Was that very long ago to get a trout out of this...

ALICE KAUL: No, it wasn't but back three years, three or four years.

EDDIE KAUL: Four years ago.

ALICE KAUL: It was a good sign that I could get him up.

EDDIE KAUL: And there's flounder, you know, and there's spots, perch and porgie and—she caught a 17 inch [unintelligible] fish. Right out of Tom's Cove. We got snappers. Now we get, seem to get [unintelligible] fish.

ALICE KAUL: Jennie told us we can't eat that.

MARGOT HUNT: But a bluefish. I'd give my right arm for a bluefish.

ALICE KAUL: Really?

MARGOT HUNT: Uh huh.

ALICE KAUL: Now the only place you can find them in the ocean.

MARGOT HUNT: I know, they used to be and now they're really hard to find. You can't find them.

ALICE KAUL: There's not much goin' on now for any kind of fish. You know what they've done, the tourists have come and caught 'em up. And they'll finish it.

MARGOT HUNT: Well it certainly is. The Island is very full right now. Are you going to go to pony penning?

ALICE KAUL: Yep. You bet. Oh yeah. [laughter]

MARGOT HUNT: And carnival?

ALICE KAUL: It's like goin' to New York City. I think every person should go one time.

[laughter] And that's the way with Pony Penning. I used to love it. I used to love it. I would go out there. It never opened until seven [pm] But I'd go out and sit there by five and wait for it to open. [laughter] And now we've not been in what, four, five years.

EDDIE KAUL: We used to work the carnival a lot.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah. I'd rather work there. I'd rather be working than just walking.

MARGOT HUNT: What were you doing there?

ALICE KAUL: I worked in the Lady's stand. The Lady's Auxiliary stand.

MARGOT HUNT: Uh huh, in the fire company.

ALICE KAUL: You see back in the day you knew everybody. In them days when you tried to meet and sit and talk for a minute. Now you don't know anybody. You don't know anybody out there. You can walk around half the night and not see one person you know.

MARGOT HUNT: Huge crowds too.

ALICE KAUL: Un huh. Everything is changed. Everything is different.

MARGOT HUNT: Yeah. You think it's a happier time?

ALICE KAUL: No. No.

MARGOT HUNT: Not a happier time.

ALICE KAUL: No. No, 'cause growing up you felt safe and secure. My mother never owned keys to our house. You never had to worry about locking your doors. Everything you just went out, closed your doors and that was it. You didn't worry about it.

MARGOT HUNT: Did you have a car in your family?

ALICE KAUL: No.

MARGOT HUNT: You didn't need a car or you didn't have one because you had a boat.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: Your family had a boat? And it was a secure time. You felt very secure as a child.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, 'cause you could go just like a lone child or a couple, three of you. Could walk from where I lived, like I said over on East Side, from there all the way over to town which for a kid, that's a long walk. And you know, you never had to worry about being bothered.

Nobody bothers you ever if it was day, in the middle of the day, or even after dark.

MARGOT HUNT: Did you walk to school?

ALICE KAUL: No, no. The bus come around.

MARGOT HUNT: You had a bus even then?

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh.

MARGOT HUNT: And it took you to the elementary school, Church Street.

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh. And it made, the bus never made stops like it does now. It had just different points that it stopped. It was—when it left the school it went down Church Street to the

Piney Island turn that stopped an picked up everybody that lived up on Piney Island come down. It didn't go up there to pick 'um up. So it was up to you to get down there. And then it went on around down to our store and there was another stop. And then it stopped down at the Pony Pines and that crowd come out. That was the only...

MARGOT HUNT: So you went to the Pony Pines stop?

ALICE KAUL: No, I went to Harry Powers store. That was closer to where I lived.

MARGOT HUNT: I see.

ALICE KAUL: That was the only favoritism that was shown. And that's because Miss Agnes would go to school and throw a fit if they didn't do what she told them. [laughter] She was somethin' else.

MARGOT HUNT: And what was her—what did she do?

ALICE KAUL: They runned the—her and her husband Don Mumford, they runned the Pony Pines.

MARGOT HUNT: I see.

ALICE KAUL: At that time that was the only beer joint on the Island. It was the Pony Pines was there and beside of that was another building that they called the casino. And that lasted for—I was very young when that burned. And that was the end of that. That was no more.

MARGOT HUNT: And then the Pony Pines died, burned didn't it?

ALICE KAUL: I'm not positive. Whether it burned or was it torn down.

MARGOT HUNT: I'm not positive now either. We used to go an dance there in the early days of my coming here.

EDDIE KAUL: I don't think it burned down.

ALICE KAUL: Well see they had a bowling alley was on the end and they turned that into a kitchen. That's probably what you remember was the kitchen.

MARGOT HUNT: Yeah, that's right.

ALICE KAUL: And then you could go in the other part, you know, if you wanted to dance or just sit, whatever.

MARGOT HUNT: Actually we need another Pony Pines. It was a great place.

ALICE KAUL: I don't know why, I don't know why they—it seems like maybe toward that end...

MARGOT HUNT: I think you're probably right. And it's still vacant that land...

ALICE KAUL: They had a big sign up there almost like a billboard type sign. You know, it's goin' to be open at such and such a date. But it never materialized ever. I really don't know what become of that.

MARGOT HUNT: I don't remember.

JIM HOLLINGER: As an agenda area, you might be interested in Alice's story about how she and got together.

MARGOT HUNT: Lets tell.

JIM HOLLINGER: And how they got together because Eddie was from...

MARGOT HUNT: Wait, don't tell. You tell, you tell. [to Alice] [laughter]

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, we really had both been married the same length of time only to different people. And both of them died. They caught cancer, both of them, and died. And then when we come—Eddie moved down here. Maybe he had been here a year or maybe a little less. I used to go walking along the beach all of the time. I used to do a lot of walking until I got ginned up.

MARGOT HUNT: You got what? [laughter]

ALICE KAUL: I got ginned up. Now my legs just won't carry that. Anyway, Eddie used to walk a lot over there too, but anyways, it was so unusual for somebody from New York City and me here, you know, that we were able to really start a relationship.

MARGOT HUNT: Well how did you actually meet, on the beach?

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, we were walking and I...

MARGOT HUNT: Did he pick you up kinda of?

ALICE KAUL: Well I think I mighta picked him up. [laughter] Yeah, I think that the way it went. And then he was on Ocean Boulevard. When I found that out, then I would ride past there, see, and see what was goin' on there. So I think I kinda was the one that did the pursuin'.

MARGOT HUNT: And what was going on there?

ALICE KAUL: He was out there measurin' his cactus.[laughter] He had a great big cactus garden. He was out measuring that. And he had another garden, vegetable garden in the back yard.

MARGOT HUNT: Now did you have this place then, or did you get this place together?

ALICE KAUL: No, we got this place together. No, his house was on Ocean Boulevard and mine was down on Willow Street.

MARGOT HUNT: You were still living on Willow Street. So you got a place together.

ALICE KAUL: So we got this together.

MARGOT HUNT: That's nice.

ALICE KAUL: We had about five, six house goin' at one time.

MARGOT HUNT: Really.

ALICE KAUL: Yeah, he had his place in New York still and he had the one on Ocean Boulevard. Then I had two houses down on Willow Street. And then we had this one in progress.

MARGOT HUNT: And did you have your doll shop then?

ALICE KAUL: No, no.

MARGOT HUNT: You had gone out of business. You retired from that.

EDDIE KAUL: We got in some pigs.

MARGOT HUNT: You what?

EDDIE KAUL: Hogs.

ALICE KAUL: Oh yeah, we used to raise hogs too down on Willow Street. Hundreds of 'em.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh, oh. And how did everybody feel about that.

ALICE KAUL: Well it was kinda was a strong smell there in the summer. There is no mistAlice Kaulin' it.

MARGOT HUNT: I can imagine that. [laughs]

ALICE KAUL: But we managed it for quite a few years.

MARGOT HUNT: And so you sold hogs?

ALICE KAUL: Uh huh. The last ones we took to market up in Delaware was 24 cents a pound.

MARGOT HUNT: Now that doesn't mean anything to me, so how much...

ALICE KAUL: Getting zero money for what you have done.

MARGOT HUNT: Wonder what they are now?

ALICE KAUL: I don't know but that was the end of that. Just there's no way, I'm not goin' to do all that, because I had even filled up a laundry tub. You know the galvanized laundry tubs. I'd even filled that with water and hauled that and given every one suckers a bath before we took 'em to market. [laughter] And we still...

MARGOT HUNT: They were beautiful. And very clean.

ALICE KAUL : And very nice smellin'.

MARGOT HUNT: They didn't smell at all.

ALICE KAUL: And they still didn't give but 24 cents.

MARGOT HUNT: Oh Lord, I'm sorry. Oh golly.

ALICE KAUL: But we always had some kind of bunch of animals around. The kids were, they were 4-H. They had to milk goats. And they're a pain. Milk goats are. They are.

MARGOT HUNT: Uh huh, I know. Yeah, everywhere, yes.

ALICE KAUL: Then we had horse and we used to raise at least one to two cows over here to eat. And we took that to the slaughter house and had that run.

MARGOT HUNT: You must have had a lot of land on Willow Street.

ALICE KAUL: Well we had enough, but we were always tryin' to look after 'em and preserve food for the comin' year. 'Cause you had to look out for—you never knew when you opened the door how many people you were goin' to feed. Especially when children were goin' to school.

MARGOT HUNT: And their friends would come in. And they wouldn't have had any food.

ALICE KAUL: No. "Miss Alice, I've missed the bus." I said, "You've missed nothing, you just come down here to worry me to death." [laughter] "Well you got to take me home." And some of them would be over in Horntown all round.

MARGOT HUNT: You were wonderfully hospitable.

ALICE KAUL: Well I tried to be were the young folks was concerned. Some of them had nothin'. And that's terrible.

MARGOT HUNT: It is.

ALICE KAUL: And that's a terrible thing.

MARGOT HUNT: Well we've kept you long enough. It's been a wonderful, wonderful visit with you. Thank you very much.

ALICE KAUL: You know you're certainly welcome.

MARGOT HUNT: We enjoyed your house and your hospitality. Thank you.