

**HOWARD QUILLEN:
December 4, 2012**

Interviewers: Margaret Papadopoulos, Lollie Willis, David Johnson
Interviewees: Harold Quillen [Shirley Quillen is his wife]

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This interview is with Harold Quillen: on December 4, 2012 at Richardson Landing.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Chincoteague is a unique island with great natural beauty and people with strong character. We would like to learn more about your life here on Chincoteague. Were you born on Chincoteague?

HAROLD QUILLEN: No ma'am.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Where were you born?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Philadelphia.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: In Philadelphia?

HAROLD QUILLEN: My father's from here and my mother's from Philadelphia. And my father got killed when I was about four year's old—going to work. And I come down from there; down here to my aunt who raised me 20 years.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: When were you born?

HAROLD QUILLEN: 1927, May 7th.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you go to school here on Chincoteague?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yes ma'am.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Where was your school?

HAROLD QUILLEN: The school was located right down there on Church Street. The first one I went too was the wooden school, which had the big bell into it. That's gone. Well the first was the first grade. It was a little wood building on the side of the brick building. The first graders went there. If you advanced there, you went to the wood building. And you'd go there up to four years. Then you'd go to the brick building. Then you'd go there and on to the upper grades, and then you'd go to high school. Went to high school—it was four years in those days.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And you lived right here in this area? [Richardson's Landing area]

HAROLD QUILLEN: Right here.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And how did you get to school?

HAROLD QUILLEN: They had one bus. He covered the whole island. I had to walk. I lived up here, down to Howard Merritt's store. Zelda's place. You probably know where it's at. That's where—the bus took everybody up there. That went on for several years. Then a little later on it got so that they could come up to the turntable [north end of Main Street] to pick us up. The next door neighbor, they had two children. They'd pick up the three of us there.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Do you remember your teacher's name?

HAROLD QUILLEN: My first teacher. I guess I knew her. Hickman, Miss Hickman. Thomas Phillips, he was the principal and a teacher. I had Nelson Jester. He was temp principal and a teacher. He was Nelson's father. Christine Conklin—she was typing, shorthand teacher. Beulah Powell.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: How many students were in your class.

HAROLD QUILLEN: I think when we graduated from—we had two graduations. From seventh to go to high school. Then high school we had a graduation. I think it was 30 something in seventh grade. But when we graduated out of high school it wasn't that 30 something. It was only four boys. Six boys, all them stayed but two. Now only two living. And the girls were all gone pretty well too.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: After school and in summers, did you do a lot of activities with friends at school around here.

HAROLD QUILLEN: At school not right here. When school'd quit, that's it. You were glad to get home. [laughter] Now see we never had no basketball in them days. Football like they got now. The basketball court was two posts stickin' up there with the clay bottom and sides. That's what you played on. And we did have a baseball team. And they would go from Onancock. They had one in Temperanceville, Accomac, Chincoteague. All of these schools had a team. And then once a year we would go to—have a meet—whole county would have a meet at the county fair. All schools would compete. Running, jumping, broad jumping and all that stuff, you know. I think we had a record. Four in our class went, me, Newman Merritt, Newman Daisey and Googin Mears. We were all in high school weighing 85 pounds. [laughter] Eighty-five pound class. Four of us. I say that's a record.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: In the summer what type of activities did you do?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Mostly—if you weren't clamming or working, where swimming out there in the water.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Right around here?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Most of the time we'd go down on that side.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: On the bay side [Chincoteague Bay]

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah, there's an awful lot of sand over there and also a lot of mud over here. Always been that way. And we'd go clamming. Just as soon as we got old enough for a rake [clamming rake] We'd go make our spendin' change. Then we had a guy over there that would take us in a boat. Takes us up to the Maryland line. He'd tow us. We had a boat of our own. He'd tow us for 10 cents. Take us up and takes us back. And we'd spend the night sometimes. We had no cabin. We'd sleep under a canvas. No stove. You got to take what you had to eat. You had cantaloupes, ginger snaps and all that stuff, for that one day.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you do any hunting?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Hunting? Oh my lord yes. When I got older I did, yes. As soon as I could hold up a gun.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: There have been a lot of deer around here in the last few years.

HAROLD QUILLEN: There was no deer here at all.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: None when you were growing up?

HAROLD QUILLEN: None at all. My first year I saw them jump over this fence here while I was livin' inside this house here. First deer I saw. And I was in those woods all my life. Never saw a deer. There are more on the beach. Not over here.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: In the last few years we've had a lot of deer here. I remember that you have an apple tree. It had a lot of deer coming to it.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah. Apple trees, peach trees.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: I've also heard a story about how you sort of got rid of the deer. Can you tell me that? [laughter]

HAROLD QUILLEN: Well, I baited them. Well you didn't have to bait them because they liked the apples. So I took a screen out of the window there and as soon as it got dark I sit back there and wait for him. By and by he come by here, come there. I shot him. I got him. My wife says, "My God Harold look at my curtains. Powder burns all over my curtains. No more of your shooting." [laughter] I killed one at the apple tree over there too—killed a twelve point buck. Right around that tree's gone too. The City tore trees up too.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: I know that in the Oyster Museum there are a couple of tusks. What are they and where did you get them?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Well see, when I—in later years, when I was married, I owned a fish dock before I owned the Chincoteague Inn. I owned a fish dock. Draggers brought them [tusks] in.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: What were they, tusks?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah, walrus, yeah. They're probably 2,000 years old. I sent one to the Smithsonian Institute—the one over here [gestures], I had two of them. I just wanted to find out the age and all. I knew what they were.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: When did you get involved with the Chincoteague Inn?

HAROLD QUILLEN: I wasn't doing too well raising chickens. They started on their downside. I started working down with this man who owned it. He's packing fish. And I worked there probably a year and he come to me one day and said, "Harold, he says, you're a pretty steady worker and pretty level-headed". He said "I'd like to sell you half of this business and I want to give my son the other half. I can't work it. I want to get out; gettin' old." I said, "It's all right with me." We started. It didn't last too long. The son didn't work. Weren't no good. He didn't appreciate it. So he says, "I don't know." He says "You want to buy it yourself?" I said, "I don't think I could handle it." So I went and got Roland Harden. He's dead now. I said, "Roland do you want to go into business and we'll buy this place?" I says, "He'll finance some and the bank will finance some and we'll start out." And that's what we did.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: When was that?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Oh gosh, I don't know. It's so many years ago. I guess in '57. I don't know, really.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: When the Ash Wednesday storm came through, what did that do to the Chincoteague Inn and to you personally?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Well it didn't hurt the Inn. A lot of water got into it, you know. The water went clear up to the cash register. The cash register was on the bar. I was home.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you have any problem at your home?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah. We had to—they had to come and evacuate us. They got one of them Army Ducks and come and picked my wife and two children up. They were standing there and watched the cars float right by us. I had a little Nash Rambler I just bought. From a little Rambler place in town, when they had a place here in town. I looked at it going right down the road. [laughs]

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Where did you meet your wife?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Downtown here. She's from Clark Street.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And you've lived here for your entire married life?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Maybe about 65 years. [He and Shirley have been married to each other 65 years]

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And children and grandchildren?

HAROLD QUILLEN: I've got grandchildren, great grandchildren, great, great grandchildren. I've got two daughters myself. Beverly's got Valerie and she's got two. The other's over there

too, across the Bay, Jennifer, She's got—she's married. She married a guy in the Coast Guard. And my other daughter, she lives in Delaware, Laurel, Delaware. She's got—she had two children. Two girls. One of them has got—had four children. Three boys and a girl. It's a sad story about that. She's on dope. Always been all her life. And my daughter had to take the four children and raised them plus her. She wouldn't let her go. But I would have. What she's been through with her. It just won't get no better. From that one another daughter. She had two daughters. The other daughter had a son and a daughter. And then she had children, so that makes great, great grandchildren.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: But some of them do live here on the island with you.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Who?

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Some of your daughters, Beverly.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Beverly's lived here all the time and two daughters. She married a guy from Chincoteague. And they left here—he got a job in DuPont. A good job. And they moved out and went to Delaware and they never did come back. He worked up there 30 some years. When they come downsize he was the first one to go. He was a supervisor, made good money. And they went debt head over their heels. He wouldn't quit. He would not quit. They downgraded him. Downgraded him about right to the bottom. So him and six or seven more of them got together and sued DuPont. Laid them off and hired somebody in his place for less money. It went on for about three years. And all of them dropped out but two. Steve hung right with them and he got it. Couldn't get a lawyer in Delaware. A lawyer wouldn't touch DuPont. [undecipherable]

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: You said that you had started with chickens. When did you do that and when...

HAROLD QUILLEN: I got chickens before I married her. I was raising chickens during the end of the war [WWII]. I could have had the chance to go into the service or be a farmer, you know. So I took that and started raising chickens. Of course the war was about over at that time. And I raised chickens for 14 years. I think I told you before, I had 14,000 chickens out here in this field here. Did I tell you that?

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: No.

HAROLD QUILLEN: See that pole sticking out there? That's where I separated houses. That's where electric went in. It's still out there.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: So when that started going down, that's when you started with the Chincoteague Inn?

HAROLD QUILLEN: When you first got into it you could make some money. But later on when chickens got so cheap and so many diseases—so Shirley says, "Harold you've got to get some money." We took to taken eggs down to the store, trading them off for meat saying, "You got something to eat for an egg." [laughter] I owed \$180 some dollar grocery bill down at the store. And that's a lot of money in them days. They said, "Well Harold I know you'll pay it when you get it." I said, "Well, I will," and I did.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: I would like to ask you about your life with your family here on Chincoteague. Was there anything your whole family liked to do together?

HAROLD QUILLEN: My family, well we had barbeques and stuff like that, you know. And we have been off on a couple of trips up in Pennsylvania with the family. That's about it.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you have any specific chores that your mother wanted you to do?

HAROLD QUILLEN: My Aunt. [Harold lived with his aunt, not his mother] No, not really. There weren't no trash to empty in them days. They'd take it and push it in the glade [marsh]. [laughs]

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: You said something about going for eggs.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Always had chickens, see. See, we lived over at woods there in Smuggler's Cove [east of Richardson's Landing on Chincoteague Bay]—it's all changed now; part of Wildcat. And we had goats, chickens, geese, ducks, cows. Had a whole farm.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you have electricity and refrigeration and everything?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Not when we first got married. When we first got married Elton Merritt had built a house. A little bungalow way down on the marsh. He had to watch his clams. He was planting clams on there, that side there. When that '33 storm come it washed it up on the high land. That's where it stayed. So then that's where the chicken house was built on that land. Another chicken house down that way. Ten thousand chickens there. Let's see, after that, mind's gone blank.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: When did you have the 14,000 across the...

HAROLD QUILLEN: I had it for several years.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And that was after you had moved from the Smuggler's Cove area?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah. I was living down there on Main Street, second house down there—that house there before we built this one. That's where I was living then.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: The food that you ate when you were growing up. You had your animals. What about vegetables and dairy products?

HAROLD QUILLEN: We had a nice garden. My aunt would do up string beans. And she would do lima beans, tomatoes. And we'd dig up potatoes and put them under the house to keep them cool. And that's what we eat, most all of the time. And well, everybody up here had hogs. Hog killing was a great big thing. Everyone in our neighborhood had hogs. At a special time they'd go to you house one day kill your hogs, the men would come to dress the meat, and make sausage and stuff. Men get drunk. [laughs] You have to get up at three o'clock in the morning and build a fire under this big pot to get the water boiling. Then they had a barrel and dug a hole last and slanted it down like that [gesturing] Then you poured the water in that, Then when they shot the pig they had to put him in that; push him up and down, scald him. Then they had scrapers to scrape the hide off of him—the hair. We never was hungry. We had plenty to eat, plenty to eat. Everybody up here had plenty to eat, but nobody had no money, but they had plenty to eat. We had our own hams. We had a little smoke house. Smoked hams. And there was sausage. We'd hang them right up there. Anything you wanted to eat—bacon. And we had our own chickens, ducks, turkeys. We had two, three turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Never had many of them, but you always had three or four. Scobie ducks. Don't see many of them anymore.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you have any special traditions for Thanksgiving or Christmas?

HAROLD QUILLEN: We always went to somebody's, with the family to eat. My aunt, when I was close, she'd have it at her house. Me and Shirley and the two children, you know, for Thanksgiving and Christmas. And as she got older, then we took it over. We'd have Thanksgiving here and my daughter does took either one. I've been cooking turkeys for I think the last 20 years. I always got the turkey. I done it again this year. I said, "Well it's the first year I didn't have to pay for the turkey; at least I got to cook it." [laughter] And I do oysters. I fry the oysters. I got oysters there [pointing], opened them yesterday, getting ready for Christmas. I

freeze them. The man caught 'em yesterday. I'm going to bread them up and put them in the freezer. So I told Bev, "We got oysters for Christmas." He said, "Where'd you all get them for Thanksgiving, tides were so high." People couldn't get out to work About two weeks ago tides were all over the land. I did finally find a pint.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Chincoteague is known for its pony penning. Were you involved in that at all?

HAROLD QUILLEN: No. I'd just go down to watch it is all. My aunt used to go down there. She worked with the Ladies Auxiliary. She go down and cook. They served a big dinner there, pony penning day. That big building outside there. Chicken and dumplings for to raise money. But I never did eat there. One day I'd play with slot machines and stuff like that. [laughs] We just went down there and play whatever they had.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Where were the slot machines?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Sitting right out. [undecipherable] slot machines every time. I used to go there and play, pennies, nickels, dimes. Where the theater is now where the mall is. There was a theater there then. Several sides there were two buildings. One of them was—sold peanuts and tutti frutti, Cadwell tutti frutti and stuff like that. Then he had a little partition—he had three slot machines there. We'd go to play slot machines there.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Chincoteague has really changed over the years.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Good golly day. You'll think—I look around here. See there wasn't a house up out this way nowhere. We were the last house up there where I was living' last house up. See when I first come here the road stopped down there at my uncle's. We had a shell road there and no water for about a year or so before we got it up. We had a pump. We had a pump and house for washing. We done our washing. We had a pump outdoors for hogs and chickens and a rain barrel for drinking. It'd just come off the roof, you know. She had a cheese cloth over top that to keep it, you know, to keep stuff from falling in. Pick the cheese cloth up, hit it like that. Whoever's [undecipherable] clump of skeeters. [laughter]

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Quite a different life.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah. Everyone's happy.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: That's wonderful.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Like I said, nobody had no money but everyone just poor and rich, we were never hungry, none of us.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: What do you see for Chincoteague in the future?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Good Lord. It's changed so much in the last 50 years. I don't know what's going to happen over at this beach. Biggest problem I think. If that goes, Chincoteague's in a bad shape. So I don't know what's going to happen with it.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Your grandchildren who are growing up here. Your grandchildren who are now growing up on Chincoteague.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Valerie and her brother are growing up in Chincoteague.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And their children? What did you have when you were growing up here in a very simple way? What, is there anything that you had growing up that you see that your great grandchildren will not have that you would like them to be able to experience?

HAROLD QUILLEN: I'll tell you one thing they don't have. When I was growing up, and Christmas come—if you didn't get a snow sleigh or ice skates you had nothing. That's right. Now they don't know what it is. Ice skates or snow sleighs; there's none. I've seen people skate right around the island.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Very different now.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Oh the ice. Sometimes it would be a week or two the channels were frozen solid. Nobody could move. In fact one time the ice took Queen Sound Bridge out, part of it. We had chickens at that time. We had barrels to get feed from one side to the other in a boat. Ice packed up against it. It wasn't this new bridge. It was the other old bridge. It busted the middle right out of it.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you go to the main land frequently growing up?

HAROLD QUILLEN: No. Once in a while if you got to Pocomoke you were lucky.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: And how did you get there?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Hitch hiked unless you knew somebody was going. [laughs] Weren't many cars. When I was growing up there weren't many cars here. If you're asking if my wife and I had no car growing up, no. We had a job getting to town. Had to walk. When I was courting Shirley, every night I walked to Clark Street and back.. Sure I walked there every night. Up there and back every night. I didn't have no car then. You know on this island—we call this 'Up the Neck'. There's four or five different sections. And they all talk different They got different accents. Of course it's changed some now. At that time never. Deep Hole talked different than we did. Eastern side did same way and down the marsh all talked different. And you'd never see them people very seldom because they never got time, they never were here. We had one, two, three; six stores between here and town. And now there's none. There's two up here, two to the creek, two what you'd call Madcalf where she [Shirley] come from—Clark Street, there's two stores right there.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you do—since you're in Up the Neck—did you do things with the people from Deep Hole?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Yeah, we'd go play baseball there. We'd walk across the ridge. Yep, we always enjoyed it in summertime.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: What a different life. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing...

HAROLD QUILLEN: There was a ball field up there where Donald Leonard's son lives. There was a ball field there when I was growing up. I remember the men playing there. I didn't play there because I was small. I remember the big apple tree there in that field. I used to go up there all the time and pick blackberries up that way, wild, and I'd sell them for five cents a quart. That makes spending money. You don't see blackberries anymore up there. I think they've gone.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Spending money for what?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Slot machines. Once in a while get a movie, yeah. And you'd get gum down right there across from the movie where Norris Young had a place where you could get three of the Goodbars for ten cents. That would take care of ya. On Saturday night me and my brother, he's dead now, we had ten cents and we'd get a bag of peanuts for a nickel in the shell and High Rock cola. It's a big bag. That was another nickel. Shell them peanuts and drop 'em down in the drink and pick 'em like that. Ten cents a day. That was our Saturday entertainment. [laughter]

[interruption when relatives came in the house]

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: So the people you grew up with and played with here, are they still around?

HAROLD QUILLEN: No. Only got one, Newman, Merritt. The one I played mostly with, Raymond Merritt. He died.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: I want to thank you so much for speaking to us today

HAROLD QUILLEN: Is that all you want?

MARGERET PAPADOPOULOS: We can stay here to hear story after story. If you have a good story let us know.

DAVID JOHNSON: I was wondering; you did the chicken farming, you did the Chincoteague Inn. What other kinds of work did you do in Chincoteague over the years?

HAROLD QUILLEN: You name it I've done it. I've done what's called Down the Bay. Got in the boats down there for a week getting oysters and clams. Most times oysters. Stay a week in a boat. Dredge oysters in the bay. Clams. Shucking oysters up there in [undecipherable] fishing. Mainly, I've done a little bit of everything. I had to keep things going.

DAVID JOHNSON: So you were a waterman?

HAROLD QUILLEN: That type of thing, yeah, right. Fooled around the water a lot. That's true/ It's like I say chickens was getting bad, so I had to get some extra money. I worked for Dr. Shelly over there a long time. He give me a dollar, a dollar an hour. Some people over there they got hired doing tile work. He said, "Harold you can do that. I'll fire them [laughter] Tile laid there. He says "You did it." I watched him do it.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Did you ever cook at the Chincoteague Inn?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Sure did. I was the—when we took it over—see, there wasn't no restaurant there when we first took it over there. All you could get there was some beer and sandwich—the old man had it. And you could only get beer at certain times. If the light wasn't on you couldn't disturb him. Couldn't get a beer. It went out at three. Oh, he's a bird. He tickled me one night, one day, we were sitting there—Sunday—This fishing boy—he was taking them to a party. He hated them. He had a car. Everybody said, "Here they come, hide." He was banging on the door. He couldn't get in. "Hide, lock the door." He was a mess.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: You have many, many fun stories. Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure.

Second Recording

HAROLD QUILLEN: I had an old Model A Ford. All I had on was a windshield. Boards. Called it buckboards. When I first got married. We'd go up and down the road. We'd go out dancing.

DAVID JOHNSON: There was that car dealer you mentioned. The Nash right here downtown. Was that the only car dealer in Chincoteague?

HAROLD QUILLEN: I think so. The new car, I remember. He sold Nash Ramblers. In fact I bought one smaller from him. [Nash Metropolitan]

DAVID JOHNSON: There were a lot of businesses in those days that disappeared over the years.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Oh yeah. I remember there were three theaters here. Three bowling alleys. You don't see that stuff anymore.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Many changes, many, many. The Island is changing, but there are many good things. Chincoteague always has its beauty. Has its lovely people.

HAROLD QUILLEN: We like it here. Go anywhere; we're glad to get back.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Thank you very much.

HAROLD QUILLEN: I worked at the base a little while. I worked for a contract guy. when I first got out of school. Virginia engineering company. I remember that. Put me in the woods. Out there they had a sawmill in the woods. They were sawing the trees right there. Taking them and cleaning them up. Planing them so fast. Putting up the building, green like that, barracks, for the

sailors, they had no place to sleep. I said. “Good Lord the man’s, he slept with his head in I don’t know what.” That stuff was heavy as I don’t know what. We’d lift the big boards up.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: Where was that?

HAROLD QUILLEN: Right down the base over there. There wasn’t nothing there like now. Four or five airplanes. But that’s just about it.

DAVID JOHNSON: When the naval air station was being put together.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Right, that was the first of it. I worked on the barracks and bachelors, BOQs. I was at that time—I got into the carpenter shop. The manger, in charge wanted me to stay there. The Army was goin’ to get me anyway, the Armed Service, but they didn’t get me. But I was prepared for it.

DAVID JOHNSON: That was interesting about World War II. You know the museum is going to do an exhibit about the history of Chincoteague.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Well let me tell you something. Tell you some of mine. During that time they had a watch house right in front of the Zelda’s store. I got into working for that. I was a junior air raid warden. Go out nights when they take the blackouts. That sort of thing when they put the lights out. And then in the daytime you climb up this tower. They were maybe 40-50 feet on pilings and had a house on top of it with a telephone in it. Airplane pictures on the wall. If you seen an airplane you had to call in and tell them what kind of plane you saw. I never had to call in because I never saw no planes. There weren’t any around. But that’s what it was for.

DAVID JOHNSON: You mentioned that you had a choice of going into the military or being a farmer. We’re talking like 1944.

HAROLD QUILLEN: I graduated in ‘44. I guess it was maybe in ‘45.

DAVID JOHNSON: So that was an option that was available to young men...

HAROLD QUILLEN: Some people, yeah.

DAVID JOHNSON: I see. And you could be a farmer here and—uh huh.

HAROLD QUILLEN: Raising chickens classified as farming.

MARGARET PAPADOPOULOS: That’s it. Very good. Thank you again.