

ANNE LUMLEY DAVIS
May 8, 2006

Interviewer: Anne Whealton
Interviewee: Anne Lumley Davis
Transcribed By: Shirley Fauber
Library Number: 06-02-045

=====

Tape, Side A (1st Side):

Anne Whealton: Good morning. My name is Anne Whealton and I am here with Anne Lumley Davis at her beautiful home at 3600 Main Street on Chincoteague Island and I am here to interview Anne for the Chincoteague Island Library Oral History Project. And I have been looking forward to this interview because I know it is going to be wonderful.

Anne Whealton: Good morning Anne.

Anne Davis: Good morning Anne.

Anne Whealton: How are you today?

Anne Davis: I am fine.

Anne Whealton: Good. I thank you first of all for even allowing me to do this for the Oral History Project.

Anne Davis: It's a pleasure.

Anne Whealton: Thank you Anne. I am going to start out by asking you Anne where and when you were born.

Anne Davis: Well, you are gonna be surprised at this because you think I'm a Chincoteaguer. But I'm a Philadelphian. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Wooo!.

Anne Davis: No, my parents lived in Philadelphia for thirteen years. My Dad worked for Philadelphia Electric. And I was born in Philadelphia in the Woman's Medical College Hospital in East Falls. And shortly after I was born - about a year and a half or so - my Father lost his job because it was in the middle of the depression. It was - I was born on May 26, 1931. And Dad and Mother decided they would move back to Chincoteague. So they did. And here they brought me and I've stayed ever since. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: So you - the depression, when was the beginning of the depression, 1928 – 1929?

Anne Davis: Well, yeah, 19 – I was born in '31, so . . .

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: He was able to get through about three or four years, but then he was layed off like thousands of others were.

Anne Whealton: Wow, that must have been a rough time?

Anne Davis: Rough time.

Anne Whealton: Yes. Now your Dad was a Chincoteaguer?

Anne Davis: No, my Mother.

Anne Whealton: Your Mother was a Chincoteaguer?

Anne Davis: My Mother was a Bunting and my Grandfather – my Great-Grandfather Bunting started the William C. Bunting Oyster Business.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And when my Great-Grandfather died it was left to his son, William, and then when he died it was left to his son, my uncle Bill Bunting.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And my Mother was one of five children.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And my Grandfather, I guess I'll tell you – make it a little spicy here.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, give me lots of stories.

Anne Davis: Okay. Well, my Grandfather he was quite a character. A very honest man, a wonderful business man. But he liked women and he liked his bottle.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he had girlfriends on the side. So when my Mother was only two years old he left home and went with the lady that used to sew for my Grandmother.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She lived down the street here and so at nights when it would get dark in the winter rather quickly, she would tell my Grandfather, she said, “Will you walk Mary home, it’s too dark for her to be out.” Well, he kind a liked Ms. Mary and so one day he just didn’t come back.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And – now he provided for his family, I will say that. ‘Course back in those days he provided her with her meats and vegetables, barrels of potatoes and things like that. And she raised chickens, they all had chicken yards back in those days. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he provided with meat and, of course, all the seafood she wanted. And he gave her Five Dollars a week.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: That’s . . .

Anne Whealton: Now when – what year was this?

Anne Davis: We are talking about 1897.

Anne Whealton: Okay, 1897.

Anne Davis: Because my Mother always said she was only two years old.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And he later bought the – the D. J. Whealton House up on the corner of Church and Main Street.

Anne Whealton: Right, okay.

Anne Davis: Which has been torn down.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I think he gave Twenty-two Thousand Dollars for it. And I think Mr. Whealton made the remark that he would never pay for it. So my Grandfather, he says, "I'll pay for it and everybody will know it when it's paid for."

Anne Whealton: Oh my.

Anne Davis: So I think it was Twenty-two Thousand Dollars, I believe that's what my Mother said.

Anne Whealton: Wow. And what was so neat about . . .

Anne Davis: So the day . . .

Anne Whealton: What was so neat about that house? Can you describe that house?

Anne Davis: Oh my! It was a big Victorian house, it had twenty-two rooms, had marble fireplaces and a beautiful staircase, real wide stairs, and they were walnut or mahogany.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: A real dark wood. And it was a gorgeous home. It's a shame it was ever torn down.

Anne Whealton: Because it was Elvie's people, my husband's people, that owned it.

Anne Davis: Oh yes.

Anne Whealton: Now you're the first person who I have heard say anything about the inside. So anything you can remember about the inside.

Anne Davis: Yes. Well, when – see it was left – it was left – her lifetime, his wife. It was left to her her lifetime.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And she lived until 1951 I believe.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And when she died it reverted back to the five children. Well, all of them had their own homes and they just didn't want the house.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So it was sold to Mr. Kellam. He was the gas man – or oil man – on the Shore here.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And he bought it for Fifteen Thousand Dollars.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: And each child got Three Thousand Dollars a piece. But that was a shame.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: Because it had a brick stable in the back and I've heard my Mother say that years ago my Grandfather would come down in his horse and buggy and it was a black stallion he had and she said it was a beautiful horse and he would come down and he would call my Grandmother out to the fence to talk to her.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: You didn't come in to the door, but he always called her.

Anne Whealton: Your Grandfather?

Anne Davis: If he had something to discuss.

Anne Whealton: Your Grandfather owned it, your Grandmother lived there, and your Grandfather lived some place else, and he just . . .

Anne Davis: See the house over here, right beside me, was their home.

Anne Whealton: Right, okay.

Anne Davis: And when he left her see, she was in this house.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: And his new wife and he were in the house uptown.

Anne Whealton: Oh, okay. His new. All right, so . . .

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: They went and moved on . . .

Anne Davis: Oh yeah!

Anne Whealton: They moved uptown. (Laughing)

Anne Davis: Yeah, they went uptown.

Anne Whealton: Okay, I got it.

Anne Davis: And left my Grandmother down the marsh here.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Which is what we call this section of the Island.

Anne Whealton: Okay, good.

Anne Davis: So anyway, but the kids they all – they all did well. I always say that. Even though they didn't have their Father's love and . . .

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But I've always heard my Mother say that he was – he was really good to 'em. I mean whenever he saw 'em in town, you know, and all he would always give 'em money, you know, things like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So he never really forsook them, he – he was there to back them.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So, let's see, what else would you like me to say?

Anne Whealton: All right, what was life growing up here as a child?

Anne Davis: Oh my!

Anne Whealton: What was it like for you, tell me about your childhood days.

Anne Davis: Well, I was – I was an only child, of course, that Mother and Dad had. So I was always lookin' for somebody to play with, you know. And so it was a little girl down the street, her name was Minerva, and I was crazy about Minerva. And she was a tomboy and a roughneck as she could be. I never could go barefooted and Minerva had the toughest feet, she would come up here and she could walk in the shells and all, and me, I was kind a tip-toeing along, you know.

Anne Whealton: You were a tenderfoot?

Anne Davis: But – oh yea, I was a tenderfoot.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: But anyway, and then in the spring when the boys would get – have their marbles out here – we used to have an old store across the street here.

Anne Whealton: Okay, what was the name of that store, do you remember?

Anne Davis: No, because it was empty most of my lifetime, you know.

Anne Whealton: Who was it run by, do you remember?

Anne Davis: Well, at one time Willie Bunting down the street here had it. And – but it was mostly empty. It did have some apartment in the back and that would be rented to people.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And so – I know it was a Coast Guard family, names were Aloe, and that's the first place they lived when they come to Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: Oh, Louise Aloe?

Anne Davis: Mrs. Aloe.

Anne Whealton: Louise Aloe?

Anne Davis: Yes.

Anne Whealton: Oh, I know – used to know . . .

Anne Davis: And her family.

Anne Whealton: Louise and Priscilla.

Anne Davis: Well see Priscilla was – is one of my dearest friends.

Anne Whealton: Sure, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And then they built the house over here on Bunting Road.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But they lived over there. But I would get out in the spring of the year when they would have marbles and Mom would buy me a – I would get my marbles on a Saturday and I would get a bag, I only think they cost a nickel or a dime.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: For a bag of marbles. Prettiest kind. And I would get out there and play marbles with the boys and lose every marble I had. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: But anyway. We had good times when we were little. In the summertime we'd sit on – out on the front steps or go next door and sit on that front porch and we would tell ghost stories and play games, hide and seek, and tag, and all like that at night, you know.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And we always had good times. And then when I got older, when I was in high school now, I – we formed a bobbie sock club. The girls – my girlfriends.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: JoSue Leonard and Joan Jester. Nancy Conklin.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And all of us, we had a bobbie sock club. And we wore our Father's white shirts and we had dungarees and bobby socks and - what do you call them black and white shoes?

Anne Whealton: Pat – loafers?

Anne Davis: Saddle Oxfords.

Anne Whealton: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Saddle shoes, yeah.

Anne Davis: And so – and every Friday night we'd meet and most the times we would have sleepover on Friday nights.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: We would go from one house to the other. And we were very close. Very close. And that was one of the things. And in school we had a dramatic club. And I was in that. We had the Tri-High Y.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I was in that. We had (Laughing) . . .

Anne Whealton: You were in everything weren't you?

Anne Davis: We had – we had a lot of things going at that time.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And we had a lot of things in town to do too.

Anne Whealton: Now what was town like in those days?

Anne Davis: Well, we had a bowling alley in town.

Anne Whealton: A bowling alley, where?

Anne Davis: Yeah, across – right across from – well the buildings have all been torn down there, but it was right across where the medical center is.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Along in there.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And the medical center is located on the corner of . . .

Anne Davis: And Mr. John Corner had a little restaurant . . .

Anne Whealton: Okay, of 175 and Main Street, okay.

Anne Davis: Well, it wadn't on the corner there because Ms. Jenny Johnson at one time had a – she had a pub or a tavern there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And then this was – then it was the barber shop and this sat along side the barber shop. And – but anyway it wasn't a big bowling alley, but, of course, now Pony Pines had bowling alleys. Of course, we couldn't go there (laughing). We were just kids you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But – and then down at the American Legion – had just opened – they had just opened practically when I was in high school. It was a garage at one time.

Anne Whealton: Okay, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Bill Leonard's' Garage.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And so – and after school they had a juke box and they would let all the kids come there and we could dance and we could get Cokes. It was closed, you know, no beer or anything like that sold then.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: In fact, I don't even think they had an alcohol license at that time. I'm almost sure they didn't. But anyway we would go there. We could dance, we could jitterbug and (laughing).
...

Anne Whealton: That's fantastic. So there was a lot for the kids to do?

Anne Davis: Yeah. And a lot of times we had – we had our proms there too.

Anne Whealton: Oh really?

Anne Davis: Yeah. We had – I know two of the proms I went to were held there.

Anne Whealton: Okay. They were held at the bowling alley?

Anne Davis: The Legion Hall.

Anne Whealton: Oh, the Legion Hall, okay.

Anne Davis: So – and we had a place in town called – Louise Johnson had a restaurant there. Right on the corner where that little park is now.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: It was – it was . . .

Anne Whealton: Right next to the t-shirt shop and . . .

Anne Davis: Well, no. It's right on the corner. Right where the park is. Not the big park we got now but the little corner park.

Anne Whealton: Right. Meatland's there.

Anne Davis: Right beside . . .

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Anne Davis: Yeah, right beside the t-shirt.

Anne Whealton: The t-shirt shop.

Anne Davis: Right.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, right.

Anne Davis: And all of us kids we always congregated after school there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: We would go down there and have ice cream or whatever we wanted, Coke.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And we would always meet there before we went to the movies.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: At one time we had three movies on here. We had the Powell Theater.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Where the little mini-mall is now.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: Then we had what they called the New Theater and that was built – it was built in the '40's. But it seemed like – I don't really know what happened to it but it was torn down.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And it wasn't old, it wasn't an old building when it was torn down, but I don't know whether – I don't whether the '62 flood got it or – I don't know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Because I just can't remember.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: But we had three movies.

Anne Whealton: And you had the Roxie too right?

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Well, it was called the Island Theater then.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So we had movies all the time going on, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Somethin' different.

Anne Whealton: Right, because you didn't have the beach, right?

Anne Davis: Didn't have a beach.

Anne Whealton: The only thing that was on the Island . . .

Anne Davis: The only way we could get to the beach was like my cousin, Olga, and Bill, they would take us over to the beach, maybe on a Sunday afternoon, we'd go over.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Take our dinner or somethin'.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But that would be the only way we'd go 'cause we didn't have a boat. My Father never did have a boat. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Because he had come from New Mexico – they didn't have boats where he was. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) How did your Father and your Mother meet anyway?

Anne Davis: Okay, they met in World War I. My Father was in the Navy.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And he was stationed at Norfolk. And the Coast Guard Station on Assateague, they did not have any radio men.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So – like somehow the Government furnished four Navy men and my Daddy happened to be one of ‘em.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And they came up here. They stayed at the Coast Guard Station.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And my Mother – it was a birthday party being given for a friend of hers. And she was dating one of these Coast Guard – I mean Navy fellows. And so he brought my Father ashore with him, you know, when he came.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So they all came down to the birthday party, it was down here at my Mother’s – I mean my Grandmother’s next door here.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And my Mother at that time was going with a man by the name of Mr. John Beebe and he was crazy about my Mother. And I found out later, I think my Mother was – broke a lot a hearts.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Was she real cheerful like you and fun?

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She had – she – I don’t look like my Mother. I look like my Father, but she had the most beautiful blue eyes and I used to say, “Mom, why didn’t you give me them blue eyes instead . . .?”

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: And she said, “Well Anne, I couldn’t help that.”

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: But she – her eyes were big as quarters, oh golly they were pretty. Well, anyway, they all came to the party. And when ten o’clock come my Grandmother would throw everybody out of the house.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: You couldn’t – you didn’t stay no longer than ten o’clock over there. Well Mom’s boyfriend, Mr. John, he was over. It come ten o’clock, he said, “Hazel, you better get them sailors out of this house.” He says, “Ms. Hattie is gonna be down here.” So he left. (Laughing) And my Father must of stayed a little longer. But then I think later she did holler from upstairs and tell ‘em to get out.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: (Laughing) It was past their time. So that’s how they met. And my Mother said that she invited him for Sunday dinner the following Sunday. So anyway, my Grandmother was fixin’ the dinner and she was a fussin’ and she says, “Hazel, you don’t know a thing about that fellar, where he comes from or anything about him.” She says, “And you invited him and he’s not even showed up.” Said, “He’s late.” Well, my Father was standin’ outside the door listening to all of this and of all things they had, she had the usual Chincoteague Sunday dinner . . .

Anne Whealton: Chicken and dumplings?

Anne Davis: Chicken and dumplings. Chicken and dumplings and she had turnip greens.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Well, my Father had never seen a dumpling before in his life and he’s never seen a turnip green.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And wouldn’t you know (laughing), when they passed the turnip greens around he asked Mother what it was and she said their turnip greens. So he took out a little spoonful and put on his place and wouldn’t you know that right there on the top of those turnip greens was a little worm.

Anne Whealton: Oh my lands. (Laughing)

Anne Davis: It was in the spring of the year and the turnip, you know, you can easily get the worms.

Anne Whealton: Oh sure.

Anne Davis: Well, my Grandmother almost had a fit. So Daddy says, "Hazel, what is this?" Well, Momma said when she saw that worm (laughing) she says, "That's a worm." He said a what? Mom said she said, "It's a worm." Oh my Lord. So he never had another turnip green.

Anne Whealton: Oh my goodness. I bet he liked the chicken and dumplings then?

Anne Davis: He wadn't struck on – he never was – did like chicken.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He was a westerner. And he liked – he liked his beef.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He liked lamb and he liked pork. He liked turkey, but he didn't like chicken. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: And that was another thing, Mother tried to get like chili, you know, we didn't make that much on here.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: No, we didn't at all.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Not in them days. But she would get it in the can for him.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And she could also get tamales, you know, in the can.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So they were the only two things that he got from like – southwestern.

Anne Whealton: Southwestern, right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: You know, cookin'.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But we would have that for him especially. And I had a great Father. He was so smart. He was – they were thirty-six when I was born.

Anne Whealton: Right, okay.

Anne Davis: So when I got in high school I had one book that conquered me. I hated math with a passion. That is geometry and algebra.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: Those. I never went no further in geometry and didn't have calculus. God knows what I would a done.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: But Anne, my Father would sit here nights and he'd listen at me, I would be sittin' up here to the – this dining room table has always been my office. Back then it's where I did all of my homework and all.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I would be fussin'. I was workin' on problems that I couldn't get it. I have seen him - used to lay on the couch right here under these two windows.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he would listen to me and finally he would get up, he couldn't stand it no longer. He said, "Anne, let me have your book." Well he'd take that book and he had not seen a problem in about twenty years.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: He hadn't seen an algebra problem.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. He could remember?

Anne Davis: Anne, he sat there worked that problem out and he'd look at me and he says, "Algebra's pretty Anne." I said, "Pretty?" He said, "Yes, it's finding the unknown." He says, "Now I want you to sit here" and he says, "you take this book and go word by word." And he says, "you can get that." And he would, you know, he would try to show me, you know. Well, I would work on it and work on it and finally I would get it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But he wouldn't tell me. But he could work them, those problems just like it had been yesterday.

Anne Whealton: Oh, that's so neat.

Anne Davis: So somebody like him, they really got it when they got it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he was an excellent student 'cause he had all A's when he was in school.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: We got a – I've got one of his report cards upstairs, if I could find it.

Anne Whealton: That is so neat.

Anne Davis: But I said it was a shame – a brain like he had to be wasted because he would have made a wonderful engineer.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, that's what he – yeah.

Anne Davis: He really would of.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Now did he work at the base or what did he do when you came here?

Anne Davis: No. No, when they came back to Chincoteague he didn't do a thing like he was – you know he was an electrician.

Anne Whealton: Oh, okay.

Anne Davis: He was another Elvie.

Anne Whealton: I didn't know that.

Anne Davis: He was an electrician in the mines.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And so – and he worked in Philadelphia on the generators, the big generators.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So when he came here . . .

Anne Davis: When he come here he didn't know what he was gonna do.

Anne Whealton: Right, because his talents weren't good for here.

Anne Davis: He tried – he tried to go out to the Cove with my Uncle Bill, Uncle Bill said he would give him a job.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: Dad says, "I don't think I can do that."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Well, he didn't. He would bring in – bring up the oysters with the tongs, you know, and he'd have maybe one oyster.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: All the rest of the men would have – and . . .

Anne Whealton: I know how he feels. (Laughing)

Anne Davis: So but he said . . .

Anne Whealton: So what did he do?

Anne Davis: They lived over next door at the other house over here.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And we had company from Philadelphia, he come down. And they didn't have nothin'. Mom had made – they had – blackberries had come out you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She had been and picked blackberries and made a blackberry cobbler. That's blackberries with dumplins', you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: She'd roll out her dumplin's.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And boil the blackberries and all.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: They were good.

Anne Whealton: I heard blackberries were good.

Anne Davis: And so that's what the company and that's what we were havin' for our lunch. And a knock came to the door it was Gus Palmyr. Gus had the Chincoteague Bakery. He was a German baker.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And . . .

Anne Whealton: Do you remember anything about the bakery after the storm?

Anne Davis: Oh yeah!

Anne Whealton: Oh good, 'cause I haven't been able to find anybody about that either.

Anne Davis: Yeah. Oh that would drive you crazy to go over 'cause the smell would aahhh!!

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: You know me. But my – he asked my Father if he could drive a truck. And he said, "Yes, I can drive a truck." He said, "Well you've got a job if you want it." He says, he says, "Now this would be down the county."

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So Daddy started drivin' the bread truck.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: He got Fifteen Dollars a week.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: He would leave home here about four-thirty/five o'clock. He would get home about five o'clock in the afternoon.

Anne Whealton: Wow, that's a long day.

Anne Davis: He had – he had routes up in Maryland, some of ‘em were up there. Some of ‘em were down the county.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He used to go over to Saxis and all those back roads, used to be little stores ever where.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Well, on here we had about twenty at one time.

Anne Whealton: I know, you had ‘em in each neighborhood.

Anne Davis: We had - yeah.

Anne Whealton: Each little part.

Anne Davis: Neighborhood stores.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. So what was the bakery like while I got you on the bakery?

Anne Davis: The bakery was pretty big. It was over where Joshua has his shop.

Anne Whealton: Okay, so it was on Willow Street.

Anne Davis: But that was the house part, where Josh is.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: The house was – set in the front – and you walked right through the back door into this big room, you know. And the ovens – you could see the ovens if you looked close, you could see these places up in the bricks in the back there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: It was only about one or two, they were the ovens.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And they’re still there, that brick and stuff is still there?

Anne Davis: Yeah, the brick is still there.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Anne Davis: But it’s only – I think that one wall.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: I think.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But anyway . . .

Anne Whealton: So was it a big operation then?

Anne Davis: Oh yeah! They had five or six trucks on the road.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Nancy – Nancy Conklin’s father drove a truck.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: They had a fellar by the name of Cheesy Bell, he was another truck driver.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Let me see, my Daddy, and golly I can’t think Anne. But it was a big business. And their bread was delicious! And back in those days a lot of the other bakeries, like Firehoppers and those, they would have holes in their bread, you know. But they had – it was really tight, you know, their bread.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And not any holes.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And it was called “Sweet Daisey.” “Sweet Daisey Bread.”

Anne Whealton: How about that! What was the – what was it made of?

Anne Davis: In fact, huh?

Anne Whealton: Do you remember - was it made just like regular bread otherwise though?

Anne Davis: Yeah, they made a raisin brad.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: I don't – I don't remember a whole wheat bread though. It was mostly just white and raisin.

Anne Whealton: Did they have like . . .

Anne Davis: And they – they had cakes.

Anne Whealton: That's what I was gonna ask you – cakes.

Anne Davis: And I could see how – they used to take a piece of the wax, it was like wax paper, in fact, I've – we've got a roll – it's still out in the garage . . .

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: That a chemical got spilled on it. And Daddy brought it home, made him a roller to put it on on the side of the garage.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he used to use that for to wrap his paint brushes in or anything you wanted, you know.

Anne Whealton: Oh, good. Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I've still got it out there. And that's fifty years old.

Anne Whealton: How about that. Oh my!

Anne Davis: It's – it falls to pieces now.

Anne Whealton: So was Gus Palmyr was he from around here?

Anne Davis: No, he was from Germany.

Anne Whealton: He was from Germany.

Anne Davis. And he married Nancy Conklin's aunt.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Aunt.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he gave nearly about everybody in the family a job.

Anne Whealton: Wow, wasn't that sweet.

Anne Davis: Nancy's Father and her uncles and all. Some of 'em baked.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Some of 'em drove the truck.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: They all had different jobs, you know. But he was very good to 'em.

Anne Whealton: And he sold cakes and sweet rolls too?

Anne Davis: He sold cakes, pies, and everything, sweet rolls – what you get at an ordinary bakery.

Anne Whealton: Wow. How about that.

Anne Davis: Yeah, he – they could decorate cakes.

Anne Whealton: How much was a loaf of bread then?

Anne Davis: It was about five or six cents wadn't it, something like that.

Anne Whealton: Five or six cents.

Anne Davis: I don't think it was much more than that.

Anne Whealton: How about that, wow!

Anne Davis: I know it wadn't over ten cents.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. I bet it smelled so good.

Anne Davis: It would drive you nuts in there. And what – I used to go up there, you know, with Daddy at nights sometimes he'd go up at night and do somethin' and after Gus got killed, he was killed in a truck accident. And . . .

Anne Whealton: On the mainland or around here?

Anne Davis: No, it was up in Delaware. He was takin' – he was takin' lumber or somethin' up there. I don't know whether he had sold it, they had torn down the casino which was on side of the Island where Pony Pines is, right beside . . .

Anne Whealton: There was a casino there?

Anne Davis: Well, they called it the casino.

Anne Whealton: But it wasn't a casino?

Anne Davis: But it was just a dance place and they had – they had bowling alleys too.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: It wasn't there very long.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And he sold it, the wood, timber, from it. And he was takin' that up to Delaware and he ran behind a truck hauling logs and he was crushed to death.

Anne Whealton: Oh my.

Anne Davis: He was the nicest man.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He went through a lot during World War II because see he was German and he had come here and people – well sometimes people on here could be very ignorant and it's a shame.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Because he was just as good American as anybody here. 'Cause that's why he had left over there.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: To get out of the persecutions and all that they were going through.

Anne Whealton: Wow. So was he Jewish then or no?

Anne Davis: No. No, he wasn't Jewish.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: But he really went through it because they would mark swastikas on the trucks and all.

Anne Whealton: Awe, that's a shame.

Anne Davis: Things like that, it's a shame.

Anne Whealton: That is a shame.

Anne Davis: But I would go up there, they used to have – they had the bread down when it was risin', you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I used to say it looked like coffins – it looked like troths that the animals would drink out of you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: That's the shape of 'em you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And – oh the smell of that yeast and all, it would drive you nuts.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: And when they were bakin' the cinnamon buns, oh my!

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: That cinnamon and raisins and all you could smell.

Anne Whealton: I love that smell.

Anne Davis: Yeah, it is.

Anne Whealton: Good. Now what happened to you after you went through high school. I also know that you were a big singer.

Anne Davis: Oh my.

Anne Whealton: And you play the piano too. How did you . . .

Anne Davis: Well, honey I started takin' lessons Fifty Cents a piece. Fifty cents a week. I – my first lesson – my first teacher was Ms. Marian Bowden. And she lived in the last house down the Island.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Where Betty Mullins lives now.

Anne Whealton: Okay, I know where that is, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I used to get on my bicycle on a Saturday mornin' with my music book and my Fifty Cents and down the road I'd go.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. How old were you when you started?

Anne Davis: I wadn't very old, seven or eight. And my Mother used to – I didn't have a piano, but finally Mom – we went to Salisbury one day. Now this was in – during the War.

Anne Whealton: Okay. World War II, right?

Anne Davis: Well, no, this – no, it was before World War II.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: I was about seven or eight, so I was born in '31. It was about 1938 I'd say or '39.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So we went to Salisbury and we went to Tommy Young's. That was - he sold pianos.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And they really – it must have been hard times for him too because he really wanted to get rid of these pianos. And Mother was lookin' at this little piano that – you see over here. And she said, "How much is that piano?" And it was around Three Hundred Dollars. So she says – he said, "Mrs. Lumley would you like that piano?" She says, "Oh no." She says, "I just wanted to find out how much they were."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So we came home and on Monday mornin' the piano truck drove up to the front of the house. And the man came to the door and Mother says, "You've got a piano on there?" And he says, "Yeah." She says, "I didn't order no piano." She said, "We were just lookin' at 'em."

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He said, “Mr. Young wanted me to bring this here.” And he said he would talk to you about the price. So Mother says, “Well, I don’t have a phone.” So he said, “Well, would you be willin’ to pay Two-fifty for the piano?” Mother says, “No, I can’t go that much.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So he went down to the store and called the company from down there. And he came back and he says, “Mr. Young said you could have it the piano for Two-twenty-five.” Mother says, “I can’t buy the piano.” So he says, he said, “Well is it, do you have a price that you could pay you think?” (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Pick your price.

Anne Davis: So she says, she says, “Maybe Two Hundred, I could swing that.” So he goes down to the store and he comes back and he says, “You’ve got the piano.”

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: So I got my piano and I still got it.

Anne Whealton: What a blessing.

Anne Davis: So anyway.

Anne Whealton: Well I know you sang in the choir too didn’t you . . .

Anne Davis: Yeah, and when I was in first grade – when I was in first grade I was singin’ all the time.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: And they – I was Martha Ray one time. And my teacher made me an orange suit. I can see that suit now. Like a regular suit. And it had a wide belt, now orange, can you picture that orange color?

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: And me, I was always chubby see.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I was chubby then. And she – this teacher took one of her evening gowns she had had in college, it was brown, I can see that – ugliest dress. But anyway, I thought it was beautiful. She made me a long dress out of one of her formals.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I was – we were always in play – somethin’ goin’ on at school all the time. And I got up on stage when I was Martha Ray and they told me I had to keep my mouth open you know, ‘cause she had a big mouth.

Anne Whealton: I remember. I remember.

Anne Davis: And I was singing, (actually singing) “Momma, oh Momma, that man is here again, that moon is here”

(END OF TAPE SIDE 1, SIDE A)

Anne Whealton: Okay, I’m here with Ms. Anne Davis, and we are on the second half of our interview. Anne you were saying that you were dressed up like Martha Ray and you sang a song for me.

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Now you said there was another song that everyone asked you to sing.

Anne Davis: Yelp. That was “The Old Apple Tree and the Orchard.”

Anne Whealton: Okay. How does that go?

Anne Davis: (Singing)

“There’s an old apple tree in the orchard, lives in my memory, ‘cause it reminds me of my Pappy who was handsome, young and happy when he planted the old apple tree.”

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: (Singing)

“Then one day Pappy took Winter Norton out on a jamboree, and when he brought her home at sunup brother Norton raised his gun up and he chased Pappy up in the tree.”

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: And it's a cute story you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: It goes on and on. Well, anyway . . .

Anne Whealton: What's the next part, I want to hear it.

Anne Davis: Let's see, I can't think. Let's see. (singing)

“Say goodbye, say goodbye, say goodbye to the old apple tree, if my Pappy had a known it he'd a never had grown it, 'cause he died on the old apple tree.”

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: Somethin' about (Singing)

“They put the apples in a basket, chopped the tree down for a casket, and now poor Pappy's gone with the tree.”

Anne Davis: But anyway, Anne, when I had my fiftieth high school reunion.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I never did have the music to the song. And the woman died that had the music and I never could get it from her husband. I asked him two or three times. He said it was in the attic.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And then he told me the story that it was – with - when the storm the water got it. And I – neither one was true. But anyway, I got this – I got my sheet music from somewhere out in Iowa.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: In the country magazine that they have.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: They have a page – can you help me. And it's – they ask for music, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And anything.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh, right.

Anne Davis: So I put it in there. Well, Anne, I even got a tape player from a guy in Texas and he sang it to me (Laughing) and played his guitar. I call it Tex.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: Well, I got so tickled I got the nicest letters from people and they knew what I was talkin' about.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But this woman sent me the music. I was tickled to death to get that sheet music!

Anne Whealton: Oh, that is so neat.

Anne Davis: Yeah. So Jack Hill and I sang it at our fiftieth class reunion.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: We sang it together. And we had a real close class. My goodness.

Anne Whealton: You must have had a fantastic class.

Anne Davis: We were in first grade together all through school. And I guess it was about thirty-five of us that started out.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But when we graduated we had twenty-two.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: And of the twenty-two we had - got I think sixteen left.

Anne Whealton: That's still good. That's very good.

Anne Davis: Yeah. We are due for another reunion in 2008, so.

Anne Whealton: Now tell me about, what happened after high school, what - where did you go and what did you do?

Anne Davis: Oh. Well, I went away - I went away to Goldie Beecum College.

Anne Whealton: _____ went there.

Anne Davis: It wasn't Goldie Beecum then.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: It was Goldie College and Beecum College.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. Thalia went there too.

Anne Davis: Yeah. And I went to Goldie.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I went to Goldie, it was on the corner of Ninth and Tatenal Streets.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Now Beecum had a regular school building. And I used to ride back and forth to school with a fellow in Pocomoke by the name of A. D. Merrill.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: We had the best times.

Anne Whealton: Merrill-Walters – yeah.

Anne Davis: Well, yeah, his father had a grocery store over there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: They're all in that family, Merrills and all.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I had a great time in school. I could write a book on going away to college. 'Cause our house-mother, they didn't check her out to good. 'Cause her mother had been a house-mother for 'em, so they figured well Bertie was as good – nice a woman as her mother.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But Bertie wasn't.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Bertie had all these boyfriends. She had some in Baltimore, she had – and we had one that was – he was an Italian fella’ and he had a gas station and Ester Merritt, she was Ester Cutler. Anyway, we were – in school together up there.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And we were good friends, Ester and her sister, Louise.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: We dated together and all. But anyway, we were in school up there together. Well Ester and I turned out to be the house-mother. We hadn’t been there two weeks before Bertie started goin’ out on these dates.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She had the nicest husband. He was – worked for the B&O Railroad. And he would go to Baltimore every night, work all night.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And then come back in the mornin’ early. She would have these boyfriends, and Al for one, the Italian guy with the gas station, he had a beautiful big Cadillac convertible car.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he would come around, pick her up, and off they’d go. She’d get home, I don’t know, in the early mornin’ hours. One night – one night she went with this old man that she knew in Baltimore and came back on the same train that her husband came back on. And the only reason how she got home before Pat, she took a cab and hid around the concrete pillars in the – in the railroad station.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And when she saw him get on the bus, she grabs a cab and gets there.

Anne Whealton: My lands.

Anne Davis: So – all we had a time. Well, the school started an investigation.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But I never did get called in. They called me but I had left school and on my way home. So I never did get to testify.

Anne Whealton: Did you go home every weekend?

Anne Davis: Every weekend I come home. And . . .

Anne Whealton: And you went with somebody else, so you didn't drive?

Anne Davis: Yeah. No.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Wow.

Anne Davis: We came home – well sometimes we would come on the bus.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And that cost Two Dollars – it was under Two-fifty to come from Wilmington to Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: 'Course your gas back in them days was like . . .

Anne Whealton: Was a lot cheaper.

Anne Davis: Like five – five gallons for a dollar.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Anne Davis: And, yeah, I came weekends.

Anne Whealton: So did you get your degree in what two years?

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Okay. And what – when you came home what did you do with that?

Anne Davis: Now I didn't get a degree, I got – I just got me a diploma for secretarial so I could get me a job over at the base. That's what I wanted to do.

Anne Whealton: And the base was here?

Anne Davis: See, I had taken an academic course in school.

Anne Whealton: Right, right, like most . . .

Anne Davis: The only one in my class took that. And so I went over there and got me a job.

Anne Whealton: So when did the base – had the base been here for a while?

Anne Davis: And I stayed there. Oh yeah, the base came here during the War.

Anne Whealton: During World War II?

Anne Davis: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And this was 1950 when I went to work over there.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So they haven't been here that long?

Anne Davis: No.

Anne Whealton: All right. And so you went over there.

Anne Davis: And I worked over there until I retired in 1987.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: When the base closed I never will forget that day. I was – I was one of the last ones that left that base because I wrote the last letter for the personnel department. We were all low in supplies, that's why everybody wound up that was left, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And when I came back for the flag ceremony, well that's somethin' let me tell you about that. We were standin' – it was a big crowd of us standin' on the left-hand side of the walkway going into the administration building.

Anne Whealton: Okay, now you said the base, what part of the base, who were you working for?

Anne Davis: This was the Naval Base.

Anne Whealton: The Naval Base.

Anne Davis: Yeah. And the Captain, the day the Captain came out and the Marines went over and they took the flag down.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: They folded the flag up and presented it to the Captain. And he in turn gave it to Mr. Kreger, he was the Director of NASA.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: They were standin' like on the right-hand side of the walkway. Well, it never hit me 'til just then. I didn't have a job. Just – just never struck me, you know. And when I saw them – that flag - it reminded me of what they say judgment day is gonna be like. That the sheeps gonna be on the right-hand and the goats is gonna be on the left. And when I looked at us I thought to myself, oh my, we are a goat! I busted right out cryin'.

Anne Whealton: Oh.

Anne Davis: And Barbara Hudson, bless her heart, one of the dearest people I ever worked for, she said, “ Anne what are you doin' cryin'.” And all of a sudden she broke down and cried.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: (Laughing) We had the whole side cryin'.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: Oh me. But I went back through the office to get my things and this, one of the fellows that worked in personnel, he was strugglin' with typing this letter, the final report on where different ones went, you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: And I said, “Do you need some help?” And he said, “I wished you would Anne.” So I sat down there and typed that. And I kept a copy of it.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Just to have, just to say it was the last letter they ever wrote.

Anne Whealton: Awe, that is so neat. That's sad times.

Anne Davis: Yeah, it was.

Anne Whealton: Now were you ever married in your life?

Anne Davis: Oh yeah! I had – I had married. My first husband was in the Marines. And I met him over at the base.

Anne Whealton: What was his name?

Anne Davis: Bill Carter.

Anne Whealton: Bill Carter.

Anne Davis: That is my - daughter's husband – or father.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And she was Bonnie Sue Carter, Bonnie was.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And she donates - gives all of her books to the library.

Anne Whealton: Right, I remember – I remember that.

Anne Davis: Bonnie Carter Stump.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Well that's – that's Bonnie. That's my daughter.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And so anyway, yeah we were married and it was a terrible marriage. I – I guess maybe I should a never got married because – but all my friends were gettin' married and I thought I had to get married too.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Well, we got married on May the 4th, 1951, in June I was pregnant. So I had Bonnie the following, March the 1st she was born.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He got orders for Korea and by the first of April he had left and gone to the West Coast. But I – he had been very abusive to me.

Anne Whealton: Oh.

Anne Davis: He would smack me and make me sit in a chair like a child. Mother fixed this apartment up for us up in town.

Anne Whealton: Awe, that's sweet.

Anne Davis: And I used to be right across the street from Virginia Jeffries and all and I was always good friends with Virginia.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She went to our church. And I just looked up to her, she was somebody special.

Anne Whealton: So was that the apartment building that is still there now?

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Right on the right side as you're going north?

Anne Davis: Yeah, uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Where the – the Pearl – Ocean Pearl.

Anne Whealton: Above – Ocean Pearl, right.

Anne Davis: Virginia lived on one side and her Mother lived in the other apartment.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So there are two apartments up there?

Anne Davis: And I would go over to Virginia's – Bill Carter would lay on the couch, I thought he was asleep and so I'd go down the stairs and go over to Virginia's. I'd get over there and Wesley would say, "Anne, Bill Carters up there to the window." He would be up to the window smokin' – smoke comin' out the window. I said, "Oh, my Lord." I said, "He don't want me to cover over here for some reason." So I'd go home. He'd want to know where I'd been. I said, "I was at Virginia's." He said, "I don't want you over there." And I said, "Virginia – we've always been good friends." "You're not goin' over there." And he said, "Sit in that chair." And he would sit me in the chair and then he'd take and tell me to take my glasses off and then he'd smack me in the face.

Anne Whealton: Oh my!

Anne Davis: And I'd do it. Let him hit me. So anyway, this went on and on and see I was pregnant too at the time.

Anne Whealton: Oh, wow.

Anne Davis: So, anyway, to tell you the truth when he got transferred I was near about glad in a way, it was a relief for me.

Anne Whealton: Sure.

Anne Davis: In a way. I hated to say that, but . . .

Anne Whealton: I know.

Anne Davis: And he made out okay. He went over to Korea and he got back the next year in August.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he was transferred down to Buford, South Carolina.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, I now where that is.

Anne Davis: Paris Island.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: And so we went down there and we first went to his Mother's. We got a new car, went to his Mother's and while we were there he turned on me there and they saw how he was.

Anne Whealton: What was goin' on, right.

Anne Davis: He was gonna blow my brains out, all over some change that I had taken off the dresser to get Bonnie's milk down at this little country store.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So anyway, his sister, she said, "Anne, don't go with him. When you go home, stay home."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Let him go to Paris Island.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But I didn't. I went with him and it got just worse all the time. So it happened after Christmas, the first part of January I came home and I never went back.

Anne Whealton: Good.

Anne Davis: 'Cause he had kicked me and I was bruised, my leg was bruised from my knee up to my thigh.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: One time over – 'cause I yelled at Bonnie. (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: So you and Bonnie came back to the Island then?

Anne Davis: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And we never went back. Come back by taxi.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: It was A Hundred and Fifty-nine Dollars from Buford, South Carolina, to Chincoteague.

Anne Whealton: Um.

Anne Davis: And then my Father give him a Ten Dollar tip!

Anne Whealton: Oh my!

Anne Davis: So, but I never went back.

Anne Whealton: So then what happened, so you kept workin' at the base then?

Anne Davis: Yeah. Now I got my job back to the base.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: 'Cause see I had given it up.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: And I got back to work and I worked - well, I worked from then until it closed.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: 'Til '59.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So then it was four of us that went up to Dover and worked. It was Keith Andrews.

Anne Whealton: Oh yeah, I remember him.

Anne Davis: Keith, and Raymond Merritt.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And this old maid over at Pocomoke, Chris Ellis.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: The four of us drove – road to Dover.

Anne Whealton: Every day?

Anne Davis: No. No, we got rooms.

Anne Whealton: Rooms.

Anne Davis: I had – got rooms with these two old maid sisters and they were lovely. Lovely girls, my lands.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing) Uh-huh. Good people.

Anne Davis: I thought they were so sweet. One was a wonderful Christian person.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Mary. Mary – Scottin.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And they were from a nice family, Dover family. And Keith and Raymond lived down the street from me. Now they got their meals where they stayed.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But we didn't have meals with Mary and Sara. They'd have me for dinner once in a while.

Anne Davis: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And Chris stayed somewhere else.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: But we'd have to go out and eat nights, you know.

Anne Whealton: And now, so what happened after that? So then you – did you get married again?

Anne Davis: Oh yeah.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: But I waited eighteen years to get married again.

Anne Whealton: Okay. So you waited a while.

Anne Davis: I had my Mother. I had, of course, Bonnie and my Daddy and my Mother. My Mother was down for five years. My Father, he was down about a year. I mean – I can't say he was really down, but . . .

Anne Whealton: When you say he was down what happened to him?

Anne Davis: He – he lost his mind.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: I think today it would be Alzheimer's.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: But they referred to it as hardening of the arteries.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: But I don't see a blessed bit a difference.

Anne Whealton: Dementia?

Anne Davis: I don't see any difference.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: Oh my, it was terrible.

Anne Whealton: That is such a heartbreak.

Anne Davis: Well, he was bedfast for the last three months or so and I had to diaper him. Now that was what – the hardest thing I think I ever had to do was when you put diapers on your Father.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, but it gave you compassion for other people who are going through it.

Anne Davis: I learned a lot from that.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I really did.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I learned a lot from that.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh. I kind of figured that.

Anne Davis: I wouldn't trade it 'cause they were wonderful to me.

Anne Whealton: Right. It kind of sprung up that compassion in you that you have now because I know you were . . .

Anne Davis: Yeah, I work with hospice and at the hospital.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, that's what I thought.

Anne Davis: And I think that's where I got it. I grew up – I really grew up. I really – it took me, I would say, in my thirty's, I finally grew up.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: You know, I was – still a lot of kid in me.

Anne Whealton: Sure, I understand. (Laughing)

Anne Davis: But I knew what responsibility was then.

Anne Whealton: Sure. And your Mom got down too?

Anne Davis: My Mother see couldn't walk.

Anne Whealton: Oh, she couldn't walk?

Anne Davis: She lost use of her legs. They were like rubber.

Anne Whealton: From what?

Anne Davis: She – well between arthritis and Parkinson's.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And the diabetes is what killed her.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: So anyway, we had – we went to church every Sunday. It was – one of the men who went to church was Mr. Nick Nichols.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He was – he was married to one of the Windner ladies.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Bruce. And they lived right near the church and he could see me when I got out of the car Sunday mornings gettin' Mother out and puttin' her in her wheelchair, you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She was heavy. She's like me, she was large. But I learned to tackle her, I mean, I knew how to get a hold of her.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: And put her in the chair.

Anne Whealton: Right, without using your back?

Anne Davis: Yeah, I used my legs.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: And then I had varicose veins.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But anyway, we would go to church every Sunday. And we went to church . . .

Anne Whealton: Where did you go to church at?

Anne Davis: Oh, Methodist.

Anne Whealton: Yeah?

Anne Davis: Yeah. I been there all my life.

Anne Whealton: Right, at the Methodist Church, Christ United Methodist Church on Church Street?

Anne Davis: Uh-huh.

Anne Whealton: All right.

Anne Davis: And so my Mother was a wonderful Christian. They didn't come no better than Mom.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And she – anyway . . .

Anne Whealton: How old were you when you came to the Lord or did you always go your whole life?

Anne Davis: I was – I was young. I would say around ten or eleven, something like that.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: You know I spoke of that . . .

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: In my speech that I gave.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, do you want to tell that little story for the tape too if you don't mind?

Anne Davis: Have I got time to tell that? Anyway, we used to have two-week revivals at our church back then.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: We used to get these singers and we'd have this – guest speakers you know.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: But I remember so well this singer that we had, he was a preacher over at New Church.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: His name was Preacher Webb. And he could sing, oh golly he had the most beautiful voice! And he sang “The Holy City,” that was one of his favorites.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He would sing that and the rafters in the church would just rattle seemed like. Man, he was powerful! And we – our preacher at that time was Reverend Oyster. He was a little tiny man and his wife, they were real short, and so – such a sweet little couple.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he was so – he was such a saintly little man. And he used to tell the story about the little engine that could you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he would mention that several times in the three or four years he was here. In illustrating his sermons, you know. And he always sang – his favorite hymn was “In the Highways and Hedges I’ll Be Somewhere Working for my Lord.” And he did that clear up until he died.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: But it was in one of these two-week revivals that we had that I went down that church aisle and went to the altar, gave my heart to God.

Anne Whealton: Awe, that’s so sweet.

Anne Davis: And – but I can’t hardly say, when you get teenagers and you get away to school and all, you do a lot of things, you know, you shouldn’t.

Anne Whealton: Right, right.

Anne Davis: But I never was real bad though. I never did drink in my life.

Anne Whealton: Um-hum.

Anne Davis: But I always had good friends. Always had a lot a friends.

Anne Whealton: That means a lot, that means a lot.

Anne Davis: Some of them were drinkin' friends, but they used to say to me . . .

Anne Whealton: (Inaudible) Which is not a problem.

Anne Davis: They used to say, "Anne, how do you stand us?" And I'd say, "You're not botherin' me." (Laughing) I says, "I don't need it." I says "I have a good time without it."

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: But anyway.

Anne Whealton: Now back to Nick Nichols.

Anne Davis: Awe, Mr. Nick – Nick said one mornin' he said he felt – he said he didn't want to go to church for nothin' said but he looked at me – looked out the window and he saw me strugglin' with Mom gettin' her in her wheelchair and he got dressed right away and come to church. (Laughing) He said I couldn't stay home and you makin' that effort to get to church.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So.

Anne Whealton: Now how about your second husband and where did you meet him?

Anne Davis: Well, when my Mother died, she died, my Father died in 1969. He was sixty-four years old.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: No, no, he died, wait a minute, I got that in reverse. He was sixty-nine years old and he died in 1964.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: They were born 1895.

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Anne Davis: And so anyway, when my Mother died, she died in 1972, in February.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I was workin' at the base at that time. I was with NASA. And the phone rang one day and I hadn't been datin' in quite – two or three years.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I was busy, you know, and the phone rang and it was this voice, Vic had a beautiful speakin' voice.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he also sang. He had a beautiful base voice.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he says, "Anne." And I says, "Yes." He said, "This is Vic Davis over in calibration." I said, "Yes." I said, "You're Bruce's brother?" I had seen him you know. And he was real quiet and shy.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: The complete opposite of me.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing!) Well, you always need a good listener.

Anne Davis: So anyway, he said, "I was wondering, are you gonna be busy Friday night?" And I thought to myself, oh God, here somebody got a job for me.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: And so I says, "Well, I always get my hair done on Friday nights when I get home from work." He said, "Well, what time do you get home?" I said, "It's usually around seven by the time I get finished." "Oh" he says, "That would be fine." He said, "I would like to take you out to dinner." I said, "Oh." And he says, "I know a nice Chinese restaurant up near Ocean City called the Golden Dragon."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he says, "Could I come over and take you?" I said, "Well, that would be real nice." He said, "Do you like Chinese food?" I said, "Yes, I do." So we went out. And he was an old bachelor, fifty-two now!

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I'm forty-one.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I hadn't dated in all these years – I mean dated, but it had been eighteen years since I was married.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So – well honey, we hit it right off! I mean it was no like fallin' deeply in love or anything like that, but we just hit it off. Very compatible.

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: He – we talked and he liked music and he liked – well he liked classical musical and all. And his people, his Father lead the choirs in the churches he was in.

Anne Whealton: Wow.

Anne Davis: And the whole family was musical.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So anyway, he invited me – wanted to know if I liked classical music and I said yes, I said I like any kind of music. (Laughing) And he said, "Well, my sister and I have community concert tickets," And he said, "We're having a concert next Friday up at UMES."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He said, "The Vienna Boys Choir" will be there.

Anne Whealton: Wow!

Anne Davis: And he said, "I was wondering if you would like to go because Anna I can't go." His sister was named Anna.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So we went to that. Well – but let me tell you this, I got so tickled. When we were havin' dinner that night, I looked over at Vic and the perspiration just broke right out on his head. He was bald-headed.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he took his handkerchief and he was wiping his head (Laughing). And he says, he says, "When I eat" he says, "a lot of times" he says, "I'll break out in perspiration." I said, "Well, that's okay." And he says, "Anne I want to tell you something." He says, "I don't

believe I've ever enjoyed myself more than I have tonight." Well when he said that I felt like cryin'. I thought to myself, gee whiz.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: I made him that happy, just going (Laughing). . . bless his heart (Laughing).

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: So from then on honey and I had me a ring by – that was March, first of March, and he gave me my diamond in May and we were married in September.

Anne Whealton: How about it. That's amazing.

Anne Davis: And when he got married - people in Pocomoke, they nearly fell out.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: (Laughing) Because they – 'cause . . .

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And when they – they'd say – people that knew him they says I just can't believe Anne that you gonna marry Vic. They said he's so quiet and all.

Anne Whealton: But that's a good match.

Anne Davis: But we made – we had a really good marriage

Anne Whealton: Absolutely. That's good. Now how long were you all married for?

Anne Davis: About eight and a half years.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: I wasn't intended to be married very long 'cause none of my marriages lasted very long.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And then . . .

Anne Whealton: So he passed away then?

Anne Davis: Yeah.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: And – he died up in Pennsylvania. We were up to my son-in-laws - in-laws.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And his – his – not his in-laws, his Mother and Dad's.

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: Up in Pennsylvania.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: We were gettin' ready to come home. We'd been up there for – over George Washington's birthday weekend.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he fell dead in the - comin' out of the bathroom.

Anne Whealton: Heart? Awe.

Anne Davis: So that was a shock, golly. So then about six years later I – my first boss I ever had, Bill Gillespie.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: That – he was – he was a civil engineer and he was with the Navy. He came here with the Navy, which I didn't know him then. But I went to work over at Public Works when the Navy was there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I worked for him. I was his secretary. And he was so good to me. I looked at him and his wife, he had the sweetest wife, everybody loved her.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And so he – he'd give me all kinds of advice you know. 'Cause at that time Bill Carter was treatin' me terrible and one day I broke down and cried.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he wanted to know, “Anne, what’s wrong with you?” And I told him, I says, “Bill Carter beat me last night.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So he says, “Come out here.” So he took me out in back of the building and talked to me, you know. And he says, “Look, you shouldn’t have to go through that.” And he says, “Now I know Don Souflas.” That was the – he was a Greek, his commanding officer, the Marine Corp. officer over there.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He says, “And I’ll go have a talk with him.” I says, “Oh my goodness Mr. Gillespie, don’t do that.” I said, “Cause I’ll really will get it.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But anyway, he was like a father-figure to me and all. And then, of course, he was my boss.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he lost his wife. She died, that was in ’87, yeah. And so about three or four weeks – three weeks later or so – I was out cuttin’ grass in the backyard.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: Hot as blazes! And I looked up and I saw this gray-haired man comin’. I thought now who in the world is that. Well, it was Bill. He said, “Anne, for goodness sakes cut that motor off and get in the house.” He says, “Hot as it is you’ll have a stroke.” Well, anyway he come over to ask me if I would do a favor for him, write a letter.

Anne Whealton: Un-hum.

Anne Davis: To the paper, you know, and thankin’ people for bein’ so nice to him when Trevie was sick and at the time of her death. And I said I will be glad to.

Anne Whealton: Um.

Anne Davis: So I did that and took it over to him and left it. He wadn’t home when I took it over and so he wanted to do somethin’ for me for doin’ it. He wanted to take me out to dinner.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So we went out to dinner. Well, I talked about Bill, I mean about Vic, and he talked about Trevie. And we just talked all night long about the two of 'em.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: And I was tellin' him, I says, "Bill," I says, "you've got to be careful this day and time 'cause women are terrible." I says, "They'll call you up" and I says, "they'll chase after you and all." 'Cause I said, "They don't care."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I said, "any more."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I said, "They don't let the man talk them." He said, "Well, I've not been rushed yet." (Laughing)

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: (Laughing) I says, "You just wait." Well honey, he started callin' me and wantin' me to go to dinner and all. And I told Bonnie, I says, "Trevie's not been dead that long Bonnie." I says, "People 'ill think I'm terrible."

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I says – and she says, "But Mom he acts like he's so lonesome." She said, "When he talked to me." Bonnie came down and stayed a few days with me and he called one day when she was here.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And he talked and talked with her. I said well – I said, "Well Bill always was a nice person and I think the world of him." I said, "We've been friends." And my Lord, Trevie, I loved her to death. So anyway, well we started goin' out to eat and all. Well the next thing you know he wanted to get married. And I says, "No, we're not gettin' married." I says, "You're gonna have to wait." I says – I said, "You don't realize it but you're still in a grieving process."

Anne Whealton: Right.

Anne Davis: I says – really believe it – really – really – (whistle) realize it, but I said you are.

Anne Whealton: Right, uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So anyway, I tried to give him away one time.

Anne Whealton: (Laughing)

Anne Davis: (Laughing) I had – I said to him, I says, “Bill,” I says, “I want you to meet this friend of mine.” I says, “She’s livin’ up here with her sister.” And I says, “She’s from North Carolina.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: I says, “She’s even got a nice little southern voice not quite as sweet as Trevie’s.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: But she is nice. He says, “Anne, I don’t mean no harm by this,” but he says, “I want to do my own choosing and picking.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: So – I told Bonnie that and she says, “Well Mom, I really think Mr. Gillespie thinks the world of you.”

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: She said. Well, it turned out that way and we were so happy. We were married . . .

Anne Whealton: How neat.

Anne Davis: We were married the – in June of 1988.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And Anne we went ever where. We – we did a lot a traveling in that time and so happy.

Anne Whealton: Isn’t that so neat.

Anne Davis: We - we used to play Rook with our Rook Club, the Hollands and all over at New Church.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And we did that on Friday nights you know. And we were always meetin’ different ones up at the restaurant you know.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And I was really happy, really happy! And I thought to myself I can't believe this.

Anne Whealton: That is wonderful.

Anne Davis: And yet he was so much older than me.

Anne Whealton: So.

Anne Davis: He was eighteen years older than I.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Anne Davis: You wouldn't a known it though.

Anne Whealton: Yeah.

Anne Davis: I didn't see no difference.

Anne Whealton: Yeah, yeah.

Anne Davis: So – and I was so happy! And in December he started gettin' sick, had this bad cold. (Come in, that's Brent).

Anne Whealton: Okay.

Anne Davis: And he had – he got pneumonia, more or less.

Anne Whealton: And when was that, what year?

Anne Davis: That was in '88. And by Christmas he was gettin' over it, he was doin' pretty good.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: And then first part of the year, it was the 11th of January.

Anne Whealton: Uh-huh.

Anne Davis: He – he took – he had been down and had a barium enema down at the hospital.

Anne Whealton: Um.

Anne Davis: And they had found a polyp in his colon.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: And it turned out it was malignant.

Anne Whealton: Awe.

Anne Davis: And we went down and they did this barium enema and we came home and he started hemorrhaging.

Anne Whealton: Um-hum.

Anne Davis: They did a biopsy and he never got out of the hospital. We had to rush him to the hospital and he lived from the 11th until the 2nd.

Anne Whealton: So how long were you married then?

Anne Davis: Well, only about eight months.

Anne Whealton: Awe, but they were a good eight months.

Anne Davis: Yeah, very happy.

Anne Whealton: You knew him your whole – most of your life.

Anne Davis: Yeah, yeah, I had known him about thirty-five years.

Anne Whealton: That's good. Well, that's all been very interesting. I'm coming to the end of the tape. I'll have to come back again because I feel like I've only touched it. Because I – weren't you on town council and everything?

Anne Davis: Oh yeah.

Anne Whealton: Okay. Well there are so many days of Chincoteague I still haven't covered yet, so I just thank you so much, this has been very interesting, very fun, very good. Thank you so much!

Anne Davis: You are welcome.

Anne Whealton: All right.

END OF TAPE.