

QUONOCHONTAUG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oral History

ROBERT HENRY

August 26, 2019

Interviewed by Paul Mathews

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Q: My name is Paul Mathews. Today is the 26th of August, 2019. We're at the Henry residence, which is 76 Ocean View Avenue. I am interviewing Rob Henry. Place a birth?

A: Hartford, Connecticut.

Q: Year of birth?

A: 1943.

Q: Who was the first person in your family to come to Quonnie?

A: My mother used to come to East Beach Quonochontaug as a child, and had a home there. She lived in Providence. They came for years. In 1938, the house was destroyed, except for the roof. They didn't bother to fix it, and somebody used the roof for a house over there, which I think is still there today. So, that's the introduction to the family. Both my mother and my father were at the University of Rhode Island. That was close by, and then they got interested. They started coming to Quonochontaug—I believe the first year was 1943 when my mother was pregnant with me. They stayed at the Seabreeze Inn. They stayed there for a few years. Then we rented one of the Fisher houses down on Surfside. We did that for a few years, and then in 1950 or '51 they built this house at 76 Ocean View Avenue. The builder was Brad Fisher, who was a major builder around here, along with a guy named Brightman. Brad built the best homes. The unique thing about him is he's a friendly guy, and I always remember that every time it came due for a bill, my father had to remind him to send him a bill to make sure the house got paid. The house was built then, and then about 52 years ago, my father's father decided to help out. He never had the money to actually build down here, but one of the things about this house is that we have two lots. He purchased the second lot in the early '60s for \$500. Then when he passed, the land went to my father, and then that's when my father put on the addition here. The attraction to this lot on Ocean View is the fact that it's got two lots. It's all one floor—the house. The rest is history. We've been here ever since.

Q: Have you added onto the house at all?

A: That's what I'm talking about. This is an addition. It's almost double the size.

Q: And you have a big rock pile in the back. That must have been a septic.

A: When the edict came down that you had to redo your—we had a cesspool, and we had to redo it. When the yard was dug up, all the rocks were there.

Q: What were your first memories here?

A: Maybe I was seven or eight years old. This is a cinder block foundation. I remember standing there and being impressed with all the rocks. At Central Beach, we have rocks everywhere. That was my first remembrance of that.

Q: Who are your parents?

A: Dick and Elaine Henry.

Q: How did they find out about Central Beach? You were renting at Seabreeze.

A: We rented at Seabreeze and down at Surfside. Other than that, I have no idea. Versus East Beach, where my mother was. I think they figured Central Beach was a little nicer and had a little more potential. That's about it. At that time, West Beach wasn't particularly a nice area as it is today. My remembrance of West Beach is purely because of the bowling alley there. My mother bowled on a regular basis. We came down after school, and we stayed here. My father would come down on Wednesday night and go back to work on Thursday morning and then come down on Friday and leave Monday morning. He was here four nights. But I remember my mother bowled, and then later on I bowled. The unique thing was that it had gotten damaged in the '38 Hurricane, so the alley had little curves to them. You had to figure out the way the alley went to try to bowl on it. But it was kind of junky down there, because it had been damaged and it hadn't really been built up.

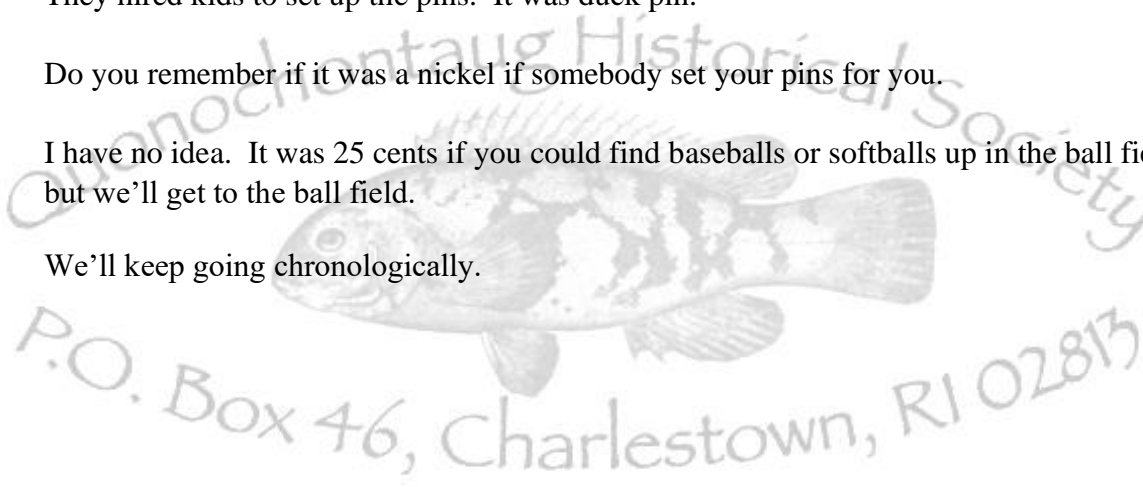
Q: Who set the pins?

A: They hired kids to set up the pins. It was duck pin.

Q: Do you remember if it was a nickel if somebody set your pins for you.

A: I have no idea. It was 25 cents if you could find baseballs or softballs up in the ball field, but we'll get to the ball field.

Q: We'll keep going chronologically.



A: When I was a teenager, there was quite a group of kids that hung out together. That kind of goes in spurts. Sometimes you'll see a group of kids together, and other times you won't. For summer jobs, I'd mow lawns and did that up until I started teaching tennis. That's an interesting fact of what was going on around here. We had a tennis court, which is up by the ball field. The ones down in back was a Ninigret—Seabreeze Avenue. That's a unique thing. Around here, I don't know all the street names. The courts were the only two courts available, and they were clay courts. For those that play tennis, the clay is kind of nice on your legs and all that. I got interested in tennis as a teenager. Then I started playing a little bit down here. The first person that taught up there was Bernham McCloud. The McCloud family was very friendly with my parents. Then he didn't want to do it anymore. He was five or six years older than I was. So, I took over teaching tennis. When I first started, I was at least sixteen. I built that up over five years to where I was on the court from 8:00 to 6:00 without a lunch break. There was that much interest. What was terrific is that we created a lot of interest in the game. I used to do a combination of private lessons and group lessons. The group was for the younger kids. I didn't want to take anybody before they were eight years old. Their concentration wasn't there. But there were a lot of kids that were sent there by their mothers, because it was a time that they could do something. I was like a babysitter, but I got paid a lot more money than a babysitter. It was a very effective program. My father, "Now you're going to be a senior. Maybe you should get a real job." I said, "I have a real job." I decided to stop teaching tennis, but an odd thing happened. I had done it for four years, and somebody among the hierarchy in the association determined that maybe if I was going to do this again, we should get a percentage of the money. That really hit me the wrong way, and my father, because I was providing a service to the community. I was only taking one of two courts. It wasn't like you couldn't play. I never taught on the weekends. Sometimes in clubs people complain that the pro is on there, and he's taking up all the court time. So, we didn't bother to get into with anybody, but we thought that was not a fair situation. They always had the annual tennis tournaments. Both my brother and I played tennis. We kid all the time, I beat him most of the time. Part of it's because he was two years younger than I was. At that age, it's a big difference if you're two-and-a-half years younger. That was the interesting thing about tennis. After the clay, they put a carpet that had sand in it. I never liked that surface. Then they put the hard court in. Then they built the ones down at Seabreeze. They have those and the ones over towards East Beach. You've got five courts here.

Q: Who were some of your students back in those days?

A: Everyone knows the Frost family. Linda Frost took lessons. The guys didn't. The Wileys were my early childhood friends. Peter Wiley. His wife, Jean, took lessons for a while. I can't think of anybody of significance.

Q: What tennis balls were popular back then? Was it Dunlop or Wilson?

A: A brand that was popular was Wright & Ditson. One fun thing about the tennis is that we had all this growth all the way around the courts. People would hit balls into the bushes. I became a master of finding balls. After we got married, for some reason I kept all these balls. I had hundreds of balls. You had to use balls all the time when you taught the game.

Q: Were you allergic to poison ivy back then?

A: Yes, I was. I don't think there was any poison ivy at that time. The biggest thing was I was outdoors all the time, so I wore that white cream on my nose. My nose peeled four or five times a year. That was before sunscreen.

Q: I played softball. I was with the little kids. And then the big kids, which you were at that time, would come on. You were talking about 25 cents a ball. You were the homerun guy.

A: Then cramped out style, because they put the fence up. Mr. Twinham was one of the organizers and umpire. He was the one that would let the kids go out in the bushes and get them and he'd give them a quarter. I think the baseball thing is interesting, because most people have no idea that that was not the original ball field. The original ball field was when you come down West Beach Road and you come through the pillars. Just to the left there was an open area that they set up to play baseball. They didn't do much to manicure it. There were rocks in the outfield. We played there in the early '50s. Just as they do today, they had a boy's team and they had the regular game. Then they moved up next to the tennis court. Then they came up with the whole concept of the old goats against the young men. The young man is all the way up to 30 years old, but once you got married, then you were considered an old goat. That was fun. There were always so many people in the stands. Today they don't have as many people. But we could field ten people. We always had two or three other guys, so if a lot of people didn't show up every week, we couldn't play a whole game. I was the short stop. As I got older, I got to second and first base. I had a streak. I think I played at least once a year for 55 years counting from when I was a little guy.

Q: So, you played as a young man, and you also played as an old goat.

A: Right.

Q: As a young man, what were the results like? Were more games won by the young men or the old goats?

A: It would vary from year to year. If I had to guess, the old goats won more games.

Q: When you became an old goat, did that continue?

A: Yes. I was fortunate to be a decent hitter. For a couple of years, we had a beach party on Saturday nights with a lot of beer drinking. We weren't feeling as well that next morning. It was a little tough, because my father was the umpire. He could watch closely at what I was doing. It was a lot of fun. It's been a great activity for the community.

Q: When you were a young man on the team, who were some of the other players?

A: Who was the fellow that was an attorney in Providence? He had eight kids. I'm trying to remember his name. He was a very good ball player. He was a big-time hockey player at Harvard. He was a good athlete. Two guys stand out from the older guys. Dan McClain, who played first base. Bill Wilson. Bill Wilson was the coach for quite a few years. He played. There were a lot of guys that could have played that wouldn't play, like Bob Frost, Jack Frost and Tyler Frost. They were too lazy. They just wouldn't get up and play baseball. Steve Long played.

Q: Was Danny McCloud a young man?

A: Dan McCloud played on the goats. He was a pitcher. He was a good pitcher. Dan played for years. I'm trying to think of anybody else.

Q: Was Ron out there?

A: Yes. My brother played. Tom Depatty was another guy. Paul Cousins played in the later years. There were a bunch of kids. It was a fun time.

Q: Did you spend much time on the beach?

A: A lot of time.

Q: There was a strip. I've seen some pictures, and some of them came from your family. There was you at the end, because Ron was a little younger. I think I remember Tom Frost being on the same set of towels with you. It looked like Ann Doyle was there.

A: Yes. Ann Schafer was part of that. There was Joy Caller. Sean McGuire from West Hartford. He didn't play baseball. Joy Caller's brother, Tommy Caller. There was a girl that I dated, Sue Born. She was a babysitter for some people. And then Ann's sister, Ruth, was there. She was my brother's age. Everybody would lie down there on the beach and socialize. Some of these stories are not necessarily chronological. We've always had this situation that you can't eat or drink on the beach. Everybody is still trying to make that stick today. I won't get into all the politics of it, but back in the day, they had a police committee. At that point, the people on the police committee were pretty hard. Everybody who did anything wrong—the three major ones I can remember are Soucy Sutherland, Johnnie Conrad and Henry Lockwood. Those guys wouldn't allow you to do anything. We thought they didn't like kids. Everybody was trying to look at how to beat the system. Everybody knew where the line of East Beach was. So, you'd go just past that, and you might have something to eat or drink or whatever. I don't mean alcohol. When we had our children come down here—at the time, we lived in Mystic, Connecticut, so we'd come over a lot—we wanted the kids to have something to eat—just a snack. At first, my parents would play it straight. Then we finally got them to come down to East Beach to stay with us so we could visit. We really weren't trying to break it, because my mother always had lunch, so we always came back and had lunch and then went back to the beach again. It's not like today where the kids stay on the beach the whole time.

Q: Tell me about the guys and gals you hung out with here? Maybe some times that you spent at the old dance hall and things that occurred after hours.

A: There wasn't a lot of beer drinking until we were eighteen. I went to Syracuse, and the drinking age was eighteen then. I thought maybe I should have a few beers before I go to Syracuse. We had beach parties every Saturday night down in front of Red Top. It wasn't the main beach. Everybody would be there. There was Peter Wiley. The Frost people. Jeff Long. Doug Monk. Steve Long. Jeff Long and Doug Monk were our runners that got the beer, because they were 21. There was Sue Lodge. Dave Lodge was a little older. Sue Lodge was in the group. I don't think Ann Schafer was at the beach parties. There was a gal who lived across the street here, Chris Dalia. Her family came every year. I dated her for a while. She was there. There were kids that really didn't participate in all the social stuff. Back in the late '50s, we would have a lot of house parties. Parents would allow the kids to come with all the rock and roll, all the 45s and so forth. We had one here out in the garage. It wasn't the fanciest thing, but it was cleaned up. I remember we had one at the Schafer's house and the Frost's house. The get togethers would be informal. Regular teenage snacks and sodas and stuff like that. Some people danced. I remember we had a party across the street. That's what we did socially as teenagers. Then when we got older into college age and so forth, when we got back here in the summers, we'd go over to Misquamicut, because you could go into all the bars over there. If you were older, you'd get a beer and slide if over. And there were always live bands over there. It was a lot of fun. We'd go over there on different nights.

Q: When you were on the beach here, did you always have a campfire going?

A: No. We used to have fireworks here on the 4th of July. Then they stopped that, because of all the rules. They decided then that they were going to have a bonfire. I had a hut that I built from wood that I had taken from houses that wasn't being used. I built a hut out there in the back yard with three floors, 4 feet each. I just kept adding rooms. My father built the first room. That was the only one that was well built. We built these rooms, and then I could get on the top and see the ocean. Finally, when I outgrew that, I think my mother was tired of looking at it. It was behind the bushes, but it was an eyesore. It supplied the whole bonfire one summer. They came and took all the wood from that. It wasn't that easy to find wood. So, that provided the wood for the bonfire. I don't know how many years they had bonfires after that.

Q: They were huge bonfires. I remember your treehouse. I used to wander over from next door. You were with the big kids, and I was trying to tag along with Ron, who was still a big kid for me. Do you remember the Davis boys?

A: Yes.

Q: They had a treehouse.

A: I was friendly with—I can't remember his first name. The two Davises were the same age as my brother and I. They were from Providence. They rented. They never owned.

Q: I believe they rented the Lodge house.

A: I think that was one of them. But they also rented a house on Surfside too on the other side of the road.

Q: Do you have any other remembrances of 4th of July with the fire engine and the parades?

A: Yes. You dressed up for the parade and stuff like that. They still do. None of that has really changed. We participated in that. And up at the ball field to get our awards. The socialization—my parents were always going to cocktail parties. I don't know if there are as many of those today as there were. I don't participate in it.

Q: There are quite a few.

A: The other thing that I did was I was the paperboy for the Westerly Sun. I rode my bike with a bag of papers. The Westerly Sun was owned by the Seventh Day Adventists. It was very unique, because it was an evening paper. I think it was the only evening paper on a Sunday in the country. There was no Saturday paper. It was ideal. When I was thirteen, fourteen and fifteen, I did it just before I drove. I didn't have to worry about Saturday night leaving the beach to go do the paper. They had a unique way of getting new subscribers. They said, "Leave the paper in the mailbox. If they take it, then do it again. After a couple of weeks, if they still keep taking it, get the address so we can bill." I delivered 110 or 115 papers in the evening. I got 2 cents a paper. They always gave me some extras. It was unique. I know one family. I bet they rented for ten years. They took the paper. I got their billing address, but they never paid their bill, because they said, "We never asked for it." They were right, but that wasn't right either. They should have said to stop it. If somebody said they didn't want the paper, I wouldn't keep leaving it.

Q: Back then, you could put in the mailbox?

A: Yes.

Q: You didn't have to put it on the front doorstep.

A: No. Nor did they have a separate box for the paper. But the Westerly Sun was a staple. My mother read that thing religiously every single day.

Q: There used to be a couple of stores. There was Babcock's.

A: That was called Brightman's back in the '50s and '60s. Then it was Babcock's for years. I'm not sure if there was any other owner besides them. Then they turned it into a Chinese restaurant.

Q: Crompton's came.

A: It was Compton's after Brightman. It was Brightman, then Crompton, then Babcock and then a Chinese restaurant. Then they knocked it down.

Q: Do you remember the East West Farm for milk and eggs?

A: Another unique thing here is that you had milk delivery. You had a baker. Then they had a couple of vegetable trucks with fresh vegetables. There were two of them. One guy had a red thing. Another guy's name was Sam. He was an Italian fellow. They'd come by with every fresh vegetable that you can think of, and fruits. We had milk, a baker with bread and the vegetable and fruit guys. Where I live in Cohasset, Massachusetts now, they still have a big farm that still does milk delivery. People order it.

Q: Do you remember the aftermath of any of the hurricanes or big storms here?

A: I remember Hurricane Carol. I was only eleven years old, but I remember that like it was two weeks ago. The scenario there was that it was in August. It was primetime summer. They knew it was a big storm, but there was no communication. They didn't track it. At that time, my father worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, and he was up in East Hartford. He saw the storm, and he decided to come down. He literally just made it down here before it, because he said that trees were falling down. So, we got here, and the water was already coming up the road. He thought we better get out of here, because we did not know whether the water would come up here or not. We drove around—my brother and I and him. He decided that we were going to leave. We were going to go up to Brad Fisher's house, which is way up there way high. We came back around. We thought it was going to be flooded out down here at the intersection of Ocean View and—what's that road?

Q: Ninigret.

A: Instead, we came around over here, and the water was all the way up covering Ocean View. My father locked us in the car to go get my mother. The car was shaking like crazy. He had to go through the water. Then we went up to Brad Fisher's. We watched the hurricane. The waves were breaking over the telephone wires—no exaggeration—into the pond. We watched one house at East Beach just flow away from its chimney. It was horrific. Imagine being eleven years old watching something like that. We found out that we were high enough, so even when the water came down to both intersections in front of, the water never reached here. That's why I never worry about it, because it's not going to be any worse than Hurricane Carol. After the hurricane passed and the sun came out, we were walking around. Down where the Blackwood—what's her name?

Q: Schwarze?

A: Pam Schwarze.

Q: The Varrs?

A: No. Her name was Sidney.

Q: Sheltise.

A: Yes. We looked in their garage, and the car was completely jammed and had gone in the other direction in the garage. They had a two-car garage. Some of the sights and some of the wreckage was unbelievable. Then when you go down Ninigret and you get into Surfside, the last house on the water, until you get further down, there was an older couple there that stayed through the hurricane and made it. They had a lot of damage. The Ronalson's house, which were Whitney Frost's parents—they have a house in Watch Hill, but they had a house Little Women, and they got extensive damage there. There was a lot of damage. It was horrific. I'll never forget it.

Q: I remember coming down here after that. A house was in the middle of the road on West Beach, and a lot of other damage.

A: My mother really had an understanding of the damage in East Beach in '38, because '38 was in September, and everyone was back in school. You at it afterwards and you say, "How could that happen?" We never would have seen it like that if we had stayed in the house.

Q: You had some funny stories of some exploits here.

A: One that you and I talked about might be worth telling. I mentioned before about the police committee. Henry Lockwood and his wife never had children. I don't think he really liked children. The funny thing about him is he had a winter home, and then his summer home was down here by the parking lot. We had this crazy idea one night—we had a big problem here with skunks. They were all over the place. So, one night Steve Long, Peter Wiley, Bob Frost and myself—we were in Steve Long's parents' car. It was a black and white Buick, which we subsequently named Skunk Mobile. We decided to hit the skunks and deposit them in certain places. I did not come up with this idea in terms of where we did it, but it doesn't matter, because I was an accessory to the crime. We got a skunk. I can still see Peter Wiley was out of the car with a newspaper in his hand, and a skunk on the newspaper. We decided that we would give it to Mr. Lockwood. We went down and we put the skunk on his flagpole and hoisted the skunk up feeling really good about ourselves doing this. No damage. We got up early the next morning, because we knew he always came out and put his flag up, because he put his flag up and down every day, like you're supposed to. We went down. We hid. He had already been out there and discovered what was going on. But when we first got there, he was standing there in his yellow slicker raincoat so that he could figure out what to do in getting the skunk down. We deposited one other one that same night too. We got two of them. That was at Mrs. Conrad's front doorstep. That's why Mark Alperine knocked the house down and built a new house. That was kind of funny. We would tell people these stories. We never did anything that was destructive. We really didn't. But one night, it was a summer night. This is back in the early '60s. We would come back here in the weekends and we'd say, "What fun game or trick are we going to do this weekend?" This was a really hot summer night. Nobody had air conditioning in their cars. We somehow took one of the telephone poles that was used for seating at the ball field. We took it and swung it across the road so you couldn't get past. Again, no big harm. You couldn't go there. You could back up and go down the other road. But we thought it was hysterical to listen to the comments, like, "What's going on here? Why is that here? Why is it blocked up?" That was it.

Q: As I recall, people were confused and would get out of the car and wonder, "What should we do? Should we turn around? Should me move the pole?"

A: They had to turn around, because they couldn't get through. We always tried to come up with something that we thought was very humorous.

Q: Then you went into a new phase. You got married and had kids. You've been down here 40 years since then.

A: Yes. My wife Pam and I have been married for 53 years and going down there all that time. We brought our kids. Our kids have always loved it here. My kids, Todd and Kiersten, every summer growing up they would split time—they would spend as much as six weeks down at Pam's parents', who lived on the Jersey shore, and then come down here to my parents' for three weeks. Todd and Kiersten loved the place. They just loved it. They had some friends down here. Todd played baseball when he was down here. Todd was a very, very good college baseball player. He hit more home runs than I did. My daughter doesn't have children, but my son has three. They live in California outside of San Francisco. They can go to beaches in Santa Barbara and things like that. There are two older boys, and the youngest is a girl. The boys delight in telling their parents—Todd, my son—that their favorite beach is Quonochontaug. They can't come every year, because they're in college. The oldest just graduated from Curry College in Massachusetts, so we had four great years with him locally. My second grandchild is in Washington. He's part of the big football program out there. He's their field goal kicker. It's going to be his second year, and the first game will be Saturday. So, that's been a fun run. But when you're in a top-fifteen program in the country, they own you. He started practice the first of August six days. He has Thursdays off. He hasn't been able to be here. That's how we've always had it. Ron has a similar situation with his kids. He's got an older daughter, Samantha, and his son Blake. They love it here too. We just feel very fortunate that my parents had the home, and we all liked it, because sometimes you read about families that either don't like the area or there is a big riff among the siblings between the brothers and sisters. It has always worked out well. I knew everybody—the neighbor. I knew everybody. Every year it just becomes less and less, because you've got such a turnover. To look at all the homes, you can almost count on one hand or maybe two hands any house that has not had a renovation or a complete knockdown.

Q: The map I have from 1955, there were two or maybe three homes overall on Neptune. Beyond that, it was no man's land. We don't know the names of the streets, because there was nothing back there, except for Brad Fisher and his workshop down on Bay Street.

A: The work shop is the road where Bob Frost built his first house. There was another guy who played baseball. The guy that was in the FBI or CIA. A good guy. He lived right next to Bob Frost. And then all up and down West Beach Road, there weren't any homes at all.

Q: Did you meet the Frosts back in the day? I know you were coming to Seabreeze. That's where the Frosts first came.

A: We didn't know them then. One night Tom and Sherry and my wife Pam and I, we went into the Seabreeze. It was closed down. It had been sitting there for years. We went in there, and we looked at the registration desk. It had the old books. First, we saw my parents registered there. Then we saw his parents. The building was empty. You could go into it. It was just sitting there. All the old beds were there and everything like that. But I didn't know the Frosts until I was a teenager. I'm not sure. Did they rent all that time? I don't know. They lived in New York. They rented all kinds of places. But when I first got to know them, they were starting where Randy Thornton's house is now, because that house was demolished. Randy built that house. They rented that house. That's when I first got to know Jack and Bob. Bob was closest to my age. I was younger than Jack. He was a couple of years older. I was aware of that house, because one of my good pals, Phil McGuire, from West Hartford, his parents rented that house for a few years.

Q: There was a time here when the roads were just oiled. Was that during your era? Or were they tarred over? There was a time when it was just oil on the dirt.

A: I don't remember that. I remember when they didn't have bumps. They weren't speed bumps. The bumps are worse than the speed bumps. I don't recall when that happened.

Q: You were here long before we had a water system when we all had individual wells.

A: We had wells. The first step when we had the water system is that the pipes weren't that deep, so they turned the water off every winter. So, if you did come down here, if you didn't have a well, you couldn't stay in your house. I have no idea what the years were, but I do remember when they finally had water for the summer. But because the pipes weren't deep enough in certain places, they shut it down.

Q: We used to shut our water down. They would turn it off manually at each house after a certain point. If you were an all-year-round resident, at some point you could stay on water.

A: That's right. I remember that. We never did it, because we never came down. In fact, because this is such a beachy area, we would come down once a year—I want to say February or March—my parents, because they wanted to see Brad and Betty Fisher. So, we'd come down for lunch. I remember riding around. It was almost depressing. There was nothing. You didn't have the beautiful homes and things like that. It was truly just a summer community. As much as we all loved it in the summer, we really wouldn't want to be here. When my father retired, he lived here full time. Of course, we'd come see them. It was still not a great time to come during the winter. To this day, once in a while my daughter will say, "Why don't we have Thanksgiving down at the beach?". To take everything down here to have Thanksgiving just didn't appeal to us.

Q: There are a lot more people coming here for holidays. Thanksgiving and Christmas, this place is full.

A: I think that's great. I'm just talking back in the day. The last 25 years it's different.

Q: You mentioned cocktail parties. I just remember my grandfather, Al Randall, and your family and Betty McCloud, Ann Schwartz and—

A: Dave Weitz?

Q: Yes. They would get together and walk around. There would be this moving cocktail party. They'd stop at somebody's house and have one. They'd all have their canes, and they'd be puttering around.

A: I'm not sure if my father was part of that, because I don't remember that at all. You mentioned Al Randall. Maybe he was a classic. He and Dick Moran would be up at every ball game watching the ball games.

Q: Those were the Camelot years.

A: Yes. You always had a decent group of people that would come to every softball game and yell out. The people that umpired were old timers. Bill Schafer umpired. In fact, his son was another baseball player. He played all the time. My father did it. Dan McCloud was an umpire. Just talking, this is disjointed, because I'm remembering other things. There was a group of regulars.

Q: If you know of anyone else we should interview—

A: I'm trying to think of names. My involvement with the different things I did, I was a social person. You get more involved with that, whereas some of the other guys would talk about either they haven't been here for a long time or they didn't participate in some of these things.

Q: We're going to get Ron and we're going to compare some notes.

A: As you can imagine, we were pretty much separate groups. I remember you, but you were younger that you just weren't part—I don't think that's bad. You're just so different from thirteen to seventeen and nine to fourteen or whatever. It's just so much different. You're growing up in different ways. Now the difference between 70 and 75—what's the difference, right?