

# QUONOHONTAUG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Oral History

# CORNY BROWN POMEROY

Date: ?

Interviewed by Anne Schaefer Doyle

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Q: You started out about when you purchased your home in 1932.

A: We didn't purchase that. We just rented it. We came here in 1932 when I was four years old. Neptune. We rented a cottage names Neptune, which was to the left from the path going down to the beaches where the old stone steps were.

Q: You said that a lot of people had come down from the New Rochelle area, and that's how your parents came to be.

A: Actually, they came because they had their honeymoon at Weekapaug.

Q: They honeymooned there?

A: Yes.

Q: I heard from a lot of people that that was a very nice place. Did they ever come to the casino down by the breachway?

A: No.

Q: So, it was just the Weekapaug Inn that brought them here?

A: Yes. We were so happy to be at the beach here. My parents were afraid of polio at that time in the cities, and so that's why they wanted to have a safe place for us to swim and be away from that kind of risk. We were never allowed to swim in New Rochelle. We loved it, of course. We were right on the beach. We'd step out our front door and we would there. The freedom was wonderful.

Q: How many years did you rent that one until you purchased the other house?

A: Three years. We built out house—this house in 1935. It was built by [inaudible 02:40] Taylor, who was a great builder.

Q: And you said you bought the land and had the house built for—

A: Five thousand dollars.

Q: That's amazing. You mentioned some activities that you liked to do when you were a child here.

A: We went crabbing. We put on plays. We did a lot of walking.

Q: To Blue Shutters?

A: To Blue Shutters after we were a little older. I don't think we did that on our own.

Q: And you mentioned some people that you walked with.

A: Yes. Martha Sewel, who lived next door. She was just about my age.

Q: Any boys in the group?

A: My brother, Ken. And Haddy, my sister.

Q: How much older are they, or younger? What was the age difference between you kids?

A: Ken is two-and-a-half years difference, I think. He is the oldest. My sister, who passed away, was three-and-a-half years younger.

Q: Who were the kids that they played with?

A: Barry Sanders, Chick Waterman.

Q: What about Jimmy Bristow?

A: I don't remember him. Sam Evans. We used to walk to Blue Shutters.

Q: For the picnics?

A: Not just for the picnics. We went to get candy. There was a barge that was on the beach on top of the beach and some of the rocks right in front of where Brook's house is now. It was just a mass of splinters, so we were told not to go no that. But sometimes we did, and I remember getting a bad splinter. My Uncle Harris—

Q: Who had another house on the water?

A: ...who had another house on the water, put me on a couch face down and he pulled out all those splinters for me. We could go as far as the big rock. That was sort of a boundary.

Q: And then down to East Beach and South Rock?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember having any perimeters in terms of going to the right?

A: I think we probably didn't go further than the diving rocks at that time. Vendors came through to deliver vegetables and milk. I like the bakery truck that came through.

Q: Do you remember who the baker was?

A: No, I don't.

Q: Where did you mom go for meats and things like that?

A: I think she went to Westerly, but I can't tell you the name of the store. There certainly weren't supermarkets. It was a grocery store, I think. We walked to the bowling alley. We were old enough to do that. I used to swing with my friend, Martha Sewel. She had them in her back yard. We went crabbing. We put on plays in the cellar. There was a lot of dressing up and putting on plays. We walked to the pump, which was located across from the Waterman cottage.

Q: What did you do when you walked to the pump?

A: That was to get water.

Q: Did you do that every day?

A: Yes. Somebody would.

Q: Was the bathroom there then?

A: No. There was the Saunders family that lived next door here in the Evans' cottage. They were very nice. Because there were no houses behind that area, we used to call Mr. Saunders Woodchuck Saunders, because he would go out on his back porch and shoot woodchucks. He would suddenly be on the back porch, and we'd hear a bang. My family never seemed to think that was a problem.

Q: Did you go to the little pond back here?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you do any boating?

A: We didn't have a boat.

Q: And none of the kids that you played with had boats?

A: No.

Q: And you would walk to the casino?

A: Yes. When we were teenagers. I was especially fond of Martha Sewel's Auntie Sayer, is her last name.

Q: Did she live with her?

A: She lived with them. She was a very nice auntie. She had been educated. She was lovely to us as children.

Q: Would they come down and spend the summers as well?

A: Yes.

Q: Because so many of the families would come down for the entire summer, but the dads would take the train in, like your dad did for work, would all the families go to the beach for the day and you would come back for lunch?

A: We always had lunch at home, unless we had a picnic. We used to take suppers down to East Beach beyond Blue Shutters.

Q: By the breachway?

A: Yes. Right. Not as far as the Breachway. That's where we used to go and have picnics.

Q: What about during the war? Did you continue to come down during the war?

A: Yes, we did. There was a blackout. We had blackout shades. No one was permitted to walk on the beach at night.

Q: After dusk, or at a certain time?

A: I think it was after dusk. Yes. The soldiers patrolled.

Q: When the soldiers were patrolling, my mother used to say that she had girls up in the top part of [inaudible 12:00], because you could see down to the beach and you could watch the soldiers walking the beach. So, what did you do in the house during the blackout time?

A: Played cards, Monopoly, read. Just entertained.

Q: Did you have activities during the day running around on the beach? What happened during the day?

A: I don't remember that there was any problem, other than there may have been some soldiers. But not the way they were at night, I don't think. There were a lot of planes taking off from Charlestown at that time.

Q: Do you remember plane crashes or doing a lot of training and things like that?

A: I don't.

Q: Do you remember the selling of the—

A: Yes. Absolutely. That happened maybe once or twice a year. Summer. I don't know. Not all the time. It was so exciting to see how the fishermen had those large nets and then pulled them, and the fish were just in abundance. We all sat on the beach and watched. It was a very exciting experience. We had a few fireworks on 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Every family had their own little supply. I don't know where my parents got them from.

Q: When did the parades start?

A: Not when I was growing up. It happened when our children—your generation. We used to make forts. We didn't have bikes. We didn't go anywhere very often. We didn't go to Westerly as small children. We just were home. The big rock. During the '38 Hurricane, our house was one of the few houses that stood here. The water had gone around to the back of our house into where our driveway was in the back. Our house had been built up in the front a little bit, so when the houses floated, they got stuck. Instead of going through our house, they got stuck out here. The water went around the house. We had broken windows and we had water in the center. There is a mark. We measured it today, and it was 6-feet, six-and-a-quarter inches. We were about an inch from it getting to the first floor. We could have had a lot of damage.

Q: Were you here during the '54 Hurricane as well?

A: No.

Q: But somebody was, because they recorded the high-water mark on that post as well, right?

A: My mother.

Q: Your mother was here?

A: That's right.

Q: How did you meet Stew? Did you meet him down here?

A: Yes. As a child. He was older.

Q: What year did you come?

A: '36. I didn't have a relationship. We didn't play together at that age. But we certainly became great friends over the years. A beach romance eventually. We've been together now for 48 years.

Q: Did you go to the drive-in?

A: [inaudible 18:09].

A: It's a wonderful place to bring up children. Then we had our grandchildren.

Q: When did Hester and [inaudible 18:35] buy the house up on whatever road that is?

A: '54. We got this house in '55.

A: I had forgotten that date.

Q: Now it's Stew's turn.

A: We started coming here in 1936.

Q: How did your family come to—

A: My mother's sister rented the Buckwith cottage—your family's cottage. And they invited us down—my family down for ten days.

Q: Where did she grow up—your mother's sister?

A: Bristol, Connecticut. My mother and her sister were very close. They invited us down, and my mother and father accepted and we came down.

Q: Who was Grandpa Wait, who used to live in Bennet's house across from Dr. [inaudible 20:24]?

A: They built that house. We spent that week here. We enjoyed it. We liked it. In the spring, my father got in touch with Thorp. We rented the Tetlo cottage, which is right on the water across from—on Surfside Avenue across from where the Bruck's house is.

Q: So, next to Kellogs?

A: Yes. Except there were three or four lots between where Kellogs' is and Tetlo's. [inaudible 21:08] would have been just a little bit between what is now Carpenter's house and Bruck's house. [inaudible 21:17], because when we went out the driveway, we looked straight at the Buckwith cottage. And we had that that summer. We came back and got the following summer, the summer of '38, which was a very rainy summer. I heard you ask Corny how far out she was allowed to go, and we were not allowed to go much beyond our knees, supposedly.

Q: During that summer?

A: Any time. If you were out above your knees, with the waves it could be instantly be up to your neck. My cousin and I were out, and [inaudible 22:13] was calling. We were out above our knees, and we were quite a ways, and I always remember Nan saying, "Don't look at them. Pretend we don't hear." You asked what we did down there. [inaudible 22:32] in the house playing Monopoly when it rained.

Q: What kids did you play with?

A: I played with Sandy, who was exactly my age. Jack was older. Barry was Jane's age.

Q: Jane is your sister?

A: Yes. The summer of '38 I was [inaudible 22:55] our house down here. Remember [inaudible 23:06]? There were people from Hackensack, New Jersey [inaudible 23:13]. People gravitated to [inaudible 23:16]. One of the things I remember from the 1936 year and 1937 year was going down for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks at the breachway to what was then a major hotel down there called the Breakers, which was really a ramshackled, unbelievably dilapidated building, but every night that they sat up on the veranda that looked out on the breachway [inaudible 23:56]. We did a lot of walking in groups at night. We would walk as a group up to Blue Shutters.

Q: Just the way did it, and just the way kids do now.

A: There was a group down at the bowling alley, and right across the street from the bowling alley was a little store similar to Blue Shutters, but not as nice and not as well staffed—Mother Brimley's. I had a picture of it, and on the front of it, it says Mother. In those days, nobody noticed it. Sandy and I went to Mother Brimley's every night, because she had a young girl who waited on us. Buggy was nice to talk to. We'd go out there from the Ashaway group of cottages next to what was then the Quonnie Inn, which is now where the [inaudible 25:08] are. We would walk on the boardwalk all the way down and around and come up the Breachway to the Breakers Hotel. People's windows of their living rooms were five or six inches above the boardwalk, and so all these people were walking on the boardwalk every night and you could look down into these houses and watch these people reading magazines or reading newspapers. People would pass each other. It was a nightly routine. A lot of people would just walk the boardwalk every

night the whole length and turn around and go back again. What else? The barracks were up front. I remember that also.

Q: Were you not allowed to go to the barge?

A: I had no restrictions on the barge. I remember Corny on it, because I went there early, but there was [inaudible 26:17]. Sometimes it had a lot of sand on top, and sometimes that would be all gone and the barge would be sitting on those rocks.

Q: And that's the barge that hit your uncle's house and demolished it?

A: That and the waves.

A: The bathing beach was completely different then, because it had houses in very close order all the way from here almost to the Charlestown Breachway.

Q: So, the houses that are in front of you, that pattern was created all the way up to Blue Shutters?

A: Yes. And beyond. All the way up.

A: Quite a ways, but there was—

A: You could go so far, and then you'd have to be in a balloon-type-tired car to go any further.

A: Martha's [inaudible 27:14], who had a house way in the [inaudible 27:19].

A: He was a [inaudible 27:21].

A: He was a doctor, actually.

A: He was a doctor.

A: He would take us—he would drive us on his balloon-tired car out to the very end.

Q: To go out over the old breachway?

A: Yes.

A: Sandy and I used to like to walk down the boardwalk and throw cherry bombs into the people's yards. We came up from the beach one day walking on steps like ours along the dirt road, and when we got within site of our house and the Tetlo cottages, there was a police car—the Charlestown police in the driveway, and Sandy and I lit out into the underbrush [inaudible 28:13] for some time until that was gone. When we got home, we discovered the policeman was courting their maid. It had nothing to do with us. We had



egos going. Barry Saunders was in charge of the tennis courts. To raise money for the tennis courts, there were clambakes on the beach in front of their house. They had some people come in and bring in seaweed and the rocks. Everybody went. Everybody paid. The men were there in their white trousers, neckties. It was a big occasion.

Q: Do you remember how much your parents bought the property for?

A: They didn't buy it. We rented for two years before the hurricane and it got washed away, and that was the end of renting from Grandma until we started renting the back house, or the house next to you. I've got one of the leases at home. It would be petty cash today.

Q: I remember my mom mentioning that my grandfather purchased [inaudible 29:51] from the Buckwith's and those two front lots for \$13,000.

A: In '39?

Q: No. Later than that. I think it was '41. They rented for awhile, and then I think she said that [inaudible 30:14].

A: My information is that after the mother introduced her son here on the beach all the time [inaudible 30:24]. She came over and introduced herself. She said, "I want you to meet my son, Robert."

Q: My brother Robert.

A: Your brother. This was your grandmother who came over and said that she wanted me to meet her son. And then Jack came up out of the water, and she introduced me to Jack. I thought she said, "This is Jack Sullivan," because they didn't look anything alike. I just assumed they weren't brothers and that one was Sullivan and the other was Sullivan. I lived with that for the rest of that summer until I understand it differently. For a while I thought Jack was really [inaudible 31:17]. When we were in the Tetlo's cottage, we had a fire in the basement. They had a hot water heater that was run by kerosene. You had to go down and turn it up, or light it, I guess. But it had a pilot, and somehow the kerosene cracked, and the kerosene fell. If you know anything about kerosene, it spreads by itself not only was it on the floor, but it spread up the middle that was part of the hot water heater, and eventually there was an explosion from the kerosene that had already washed out on the floor. We had a cook outside who came running upstairs and said the house was on fire. My grandparents were there. My grandfather was very efficient. He started packing everything. I was upstairs asleep, and my father ran up and said, "The house is on fire. We've got to get out." I jumped up, ran downstairs. Everybody in the neighborhood was shoveling sand out of the backyard into the garage. There was black smoke pouring out. Every house had containers on the side of the house or attached to the house that said fire. They were red with big white lights that said fire, and inside was a big tank. It was primarily for fires. Every house had it. That got across the street. They eventually got the fire out before the fire department got here.

Q: What did it look like in back of those houses?

A: There was nothing. Trees and bushes. No trees.

A: Just beach grass.

A: Yes. Beach grass.

Q: What it looks like out front now, was that what it looked like back there?

A: Yes

Q: Because you said they brought sand.

A: There weren't lawns.

A: Nobody had a lawn. This was all sand. People have got lawns now. They have trucked in lime to grow all these lawns.

A: It was only beach grass and sand.

A: Mr. Saunders had a very nice garden that ran from the house out to the road between their driveway and the Barnett's driveway next door. It was loaded with flowers. My mother was always out picking flowers and doing things in that garden when we were down here. So, they got the fire out. The Tetlos went to New Hampshire every summer while we rented the house down here. My father wrote to Dr. Tetlo and told them what they had a fire in the basement that appeared to be negligible damage. There was fire and flame, but there was almost no damage, other than soot and smoke. But he said that the cost—to let us know—the cost to cover it since we were occupying the house. We never heard from Dr. Tetlo until after the '38 Hurricane when their house was washed away. He said, "I wish you had let the house burn to the ground, because I had fire insurance, but I did not have flood insurance." The house was washed away.

Q: That's what I want you to tell about when we were here without Janet and Cathy. You were telling about the phones.

A: [inaudible 35:25] home long before that. And the hurricane was on September 21<sup>st</sup>, a Wednesday. Friends—

A: They were on their honeymoon.

A: They were on their honeymoon. Not the friends that you know here, but his brother. Dick's older brother was on his honeymoon at the Tetlo's cottage. So, that morning Dr. Tetlo was really amazed that I had gone out to a point where he had never seen rocks before in all the years—they lived here year-round right on the water. And they had never seen all these rocks that suddenly appeared out of the ocean.

Q: Where did the Tetlos come from?

A: Westerly. Mrs. Tetlo was an [inaudible 36:21], and there was a big [inaudible 36:23] department store in Westerly. It was her father. And her sister, Edith [inaudible 36:28], lived with the Doctor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Tetlo—Doctor and Mrs. Tetlo. At any rate, they were really amazed about this low tide. The atmosphere was very sultry, and very yellow. I remember that. It was very, very yellow that day. It was like everybody had on a yellow dress, because we all commented about how yellow it was. The wind began here shortly after lunch, and it became stronger and stronger. They thought this was really a windstorm. The Tetlos had two big—those big wooden chairs that people have in their front yard, and when I was standing on the porch, one of them took off and disappeared in the lot next door. He was so terrified. When he went in the house to tell Mrs. Tetlo, the suddenly the [inaudible 37:39] came from next door and said that the windows were breaking in their house, and maybe they ought to think about getting out. But before they had an opportunity to get out, the house was surrounded by water from the ocean, which was now flooding at a tremendous clip, and they couldn't get the car out. And so, they decided they better go up to the Waterman's.

Q: Up the hill to get some distance and some height as well?

A: Yes. Which is 21 feet above sea level up there. It's probably four or five feet above sea level here. At their house it's virtually at sea level at the Tetlo's house. So, they started out, and by the time they got to the road, they couldn't get onto Ninigret. When they got to that corner, they couldn't stand it anymore. The winds were so strong. Mrs. [inaudible 38:50] was down on her knees, and she couldn't even get up. So, Dr. Tetlo said that he would take Mrs. Tetlo and go with the [inaudible 39:04] up to the Waterman's, and then he would come back for Mrs. [inaudible 39:12], which he did. He virtually had to crawl all the way back on his hands and knees because of the wind.

Q: There must have been significant water at that point.

A: The water was coming in rather rapidly. And then he and Miss [inaudible 39:29] crawled all the way to the Waterman's. she had scrapes and was bleeding by the time she got there. But they all survived. They stayed there through the entire storm.

Q: There used to be this big pit where Bruck's house was. I've heard many different theories on what that was. Was that there during the '38 Hurricane?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have any recollections about how that pit got there?

A: That was there when we came, and my understanding is that this is where Thorp got all of his gravel to make all the roads down here. So, they dug this big hole, and they laid out

on the roads. These were all dirt roads in those days. When we came in 1936, West Beach Road, which was not named that then—

Q: What was it named?

A: It didn't have a name. It was just a road.

A: It was the main road.

A: The road in from Route 1. But it was paved when we came. It's always been paved as long as I can remember.

Q: Another one that I interviewed told a story about when she was young, that that road was dirt. It was just a single-lane road going to the beach, and there were tracks from the old thin tires, and if it rained, you would be stuck in the track from the minute you turned off Route 1 that another car wouldn't be coming out, because the other car would have to back all the way up. You couldn't get out of the tracks. So, that was paved, but everything else was not?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember when these roads got paved?

A: After the war. Maybe in the early '50s. I think it was 1948 or '49 that they dug up and put the pipes in the ground.

Q: That's amazing about the water pipes being above ground. You would never think of that.

A: It was very brackish. You couldn't drink it. It didn't taste good. It was coming through old iron pipes.

A: We didn't drink that water.

A: Nobody drank it. We'd take two cider bottles up every day—Jane and I. Each of us would carry two and walk to the pump. You cranked it with your hand. You had to prime it, and eventually it began spilling water out [inaudible 42:19]. You had a funnel. You would put your bottle there and you filled it up with absolutely, clean, fresh, nice, cool water.

Q: What other homes were around Dr. Waterman's house?

A: We used to say they're not just as wealthy living in Westerly, because a lot of houses were right in the front. The houses that were back here were practically considered second-rate, because they were so far back from being on the waterfront.

Q: Who was next to Buckwith's house?

A: Nobody. [inaudible 42:55] was the only other house there, and then across from them was where Old South is—there was a pair of houses that were similar looking. I don't know if they had been here all the time.

Q: Those two big houses, and then the one in front of it as you were heading up.

A: Right. Then there was the Larkin's house across from where the Fountains live now. A very old brown house next to Treasure House. Those houses have been here, and Hearthstone, which is where Todd lives. That house was there. Her mother was there. And there was nothing this side of [inaudible 43:37] House, which is around the corner.

Q: Jerry Pitcher's old house.

A: Right.

Q: Where did Holine's house that was next to us—where did that come from?

A: That was the Holine's house. It was diagonally across the street from us a little beyond—on the waterfront. It was exactly the same house as the house next to Todd's is now—right next door.

Q: [inaudible 44:18].

A: Yes. Whoever lives there. The Burdicks owned that house. They owned it when it was—it landed right there. There was Red Top, which is Budley's house now. Red Top, Burdick's house and Holine's house were identical houses: four bedrooms on the second floor and two bedrooms on the first floor, a dining room, kitchen, cellar underneath with a big garage. Red Top was plastic. It was owned by the Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut. It was completely all plastered—the ceilings, walls—everything. We rented it in 1941. There were no phones down here. The Tetlos were the only people with a phone, and the McGrowns.

Q: I remember growing up as a child, and we ended up having a phone. But [inaudible 45:25] House never had a phone, and my mother used to say, "Take your bath. You have to walk just like we did." And when we were growing up, you never had seven numbers; you only had four, and that's one of the reasons why I can still tell you twenty different telephone numbers here in Quonnie as four-digit numbers. I always laugh, because when we actually got out phone, it's 0028, which kind of suggests that it was one of the older phone numbers.

A: Probably.

A: When did we get one? We were the last people on our road [inaudible 45:59].

A: [inaudible 46:03] was in a nursing home, because he wanted it [inaudible 46:05].

Q: What about your memories when you were down here?

A: I wasn't here. I was in the Navy. I did get back. When I was stationed in Boston, I came down weekends. My war memories are patrolling around on the beach and black-out curtains. They had gun emplacements where they could buy houses and be able to shoot out to incoming ships.

[skip in recording]

A: ...1938, and every one was just a refined cow path. In 1938 they built the present road with the median down the middle. There are little roads that go off, like up by [inaudible 47:26]. That little road in there was Route 1 originally. There are others. You can go up here towards the east, or up towards Cross Mills. It says 1A. That was originally Route 1.

Q: When you go down towards Shore Road, that was the original Route 1, right?

A: No. That was 1A—that Shore Road from Haversham down towards Weekapaug. But Route 1 got pretty close to—there is a little road where the Chamber of Commerce is across from [inaudible 48:09] up in Westerly. There's a little road that goes in there. It winds in and out around Route 1.

Q: Where did your family go shopping during the early times down here?

A: Everything came to us. I think meat was brought on a meat wagon. A guy came through and he had the meat.

A: He had fish.

A: And vegetables. There was a baker man. There was the milkman. They all came through on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. They would take turns so that they were not all here on the same day. I remember our family coming off the beach to Westerly to buy—

A: My mother took my father to the train.

Q: What's your earliest memory of riding a raft? Did you ride rafts?

A: No. [inaudible 49:13] brought down rubber rafts from Naugatuck, because the rubber company—this is the first time I ever knew about riding on the rafts. I just body surfed.

A: That's right.

Q: Back to war times.

A: That's all I can tell you about the war times. An interesting experience, after I got my commission, I invited two officers to come down for the weekend here with us. One of them came from the Naval base at [inaudible 50:07] in Narragansett Bay. He had [inaudible 50:13] at NIT, the Navy operations there, and I was stationed at [inaudible 50:20]. We all met on the train at various times along the way. We may have taken a bus in from the railroad station, because gas was rationed. If you used your gas to go into Westerly and drive around, you would not be able to get home, because you could not get home on 3 gallons a month, or some ridiculous amount that the government allowed you. So, we took the bus in, and the bus stopped at the head of the road. We walked in.

Q: You walked in from Route 1?

A: Right. Your dad did that every week. And back out, I suppose, to get the bus for the other way. It was a regular shuttle running because of the big Naval air base. That was an enormous base in terms of manpower. So, they came down. We spent the weekend here. This was in the summer of '45. A couple of years ago Corny and I were down in Preston, New Jersey, and one of the guys had graduated from Princeton, and we went over to the library to look him up and see where he was. It turned out he was the vice president of Rutgers, which was just up the road from—we had just come through—passed Rutgers on the way down. I thought he would be on the west coast, because his father came from Los Angeles. We got a hold of the third guy of the three that came down here. He lives in Michigan. He's a lawyer. This is 50 or 60 years that we haven't talked to each other or corresponded with each other. The first time. Dick from Michigan said, "My wife and I were on a motor trip back through the east, and we drove up Route 1 past Westerly, and I said, 'I'm going to drive down into this little beach.'" And he came down here and found our house. It was Richard Tetlo. He said, "I really would have been surprised if I had seen you on the road walking around." It was in the summer. That's interesting. I wanted to tell you about that. I'm sure you know that here's a German U boat that was torpedoed right off Block Island's Old Harbor the second day before the war ended.

Q: I went to Charlotte Burpee's talk at the Cross Mills Library, and she talked about spies—that people were concerned about spies, and that someone believed that there was a spy on East Beach, and she made some kind of communications about a battle with messengers, and that they tracked someone who was an atypical-looking person. After the message was found and given to the house at the end of the road that's by Blue Shutters—the house that has the painting on the side of it, that that was some type of a bunker, and that the communication that they found on the beach was given to somebody there. Apparently, there were officers that were stationed and living on East Beach, and that they increased the surveillance and coverage of this area after that, because they were so concerned about the activity level in this area.

A: That's possible, because a number of Germans landed on Long Island on one of the beaches there. They were pulled off into a rubber boat from a U boat, and they were captured.

Q: I don't remember all of the details.

A: One of the things that I remember about when they were building this road out here—

Q: Which one?

A: Route 1. The big highway. The concrete is very [inaudible 55:02], and at one point they got the concrete done in only one lane. The [inaudible 55:08] was something like this down to the dirt of what was going to be the next lane. Was that paved? I think it's paved tar. But underneath that tar, it's all concrete. It was a concrete road all the way to Westerly. Just beyond East Beach Road they stopped for a long time. That was back in the '60s when they began to continue it up to Route 4. We'd go to Westerly in 1938 when the one lane was so high. There was no passing. If you had gotten behind somebody who was slow, you had to go all the way to Westerly behind that, because you couldn't pass because there was no passing lane. But we would go over to the movies. Keith Graham, Dave Graham and his father would take us. His mother was caught in an undertow out here. That was a scary rescue to get her in before she drowned. Dave was six or seven years old then.

A: That was Wolf's drowning.

A: Yes. Mr. Wolf is another [inaudible 56:34] in that little house next to [inaudible 56:38] house. [inaudible 56:42]. Keith Graham used to take us over to the movies at the United Theater.

Q: Who were the kids that you would go to the movies?

A: [inaudible 56:56]. There would be five or six of us who would go to the movies.

Q: You would drive into Westerly to go to the movies?

A: They would drive into Westerly, and then he would pick us up when the show was over. He would either come back here and then he'd go back and pick us up. He'd be outside the theater at a certain time. That was the summer of '38 that we did that.

A: I have a memory of all the planes that were flying in this area every night.

Q: Because of the training facilities. That's why I wonder if you ever heard any crashes or any casualties that happened during the training.

A: No.

A: I think I've covered almost everything. I started going out seriously with you in 1948. No; '47.



A: Maybe.

A: It's an ongoing romance.

A: It's a good one.

A: The parades did not start until after the war.

Q: When was the pumphouse put in?

A: I don't know.

A: I don't either.

Q: Do you remember [inaudible 58:50]?

A: There was a pumphouse up there even back in the '30s, because the water had to come from somewhere through the above-ground pipes.

A: I think that was near where the Barfield's are now.

Q: Do you remember bonfires on the beach? Because when I was young, I remember after the parade we would have a big bonfire on the beach. Did you ever go to the pond? Did any of your friends have boats?

A: No.

Q: So, you were primarily on the ocean?

A: Yes. The ocean. Monopoly. None of us had bikes. I didn't know anybody who had a bike.

Q: No one had bikes?

A: My family packed up a gigantic trunk, and they'd send it up by [inaudible 59:48] express, and it was sent to the Tetlos. When we got here, it was there. Then we'd have it picked up, and it would be back in Worcester when we got home at the end of the summer.

Q: And you had a servant who came and stayed with you?

A: Yes. We had a cook at home, and she came down.

Q: Did she clean as well as cook and babysit for you? Did your parents go out and socialize when they were down here? Did they have card groups?

A: I guess not. My dad seemed to be very happy with [inaudible 01:00:23]. When I was sixteen and Jane was twelve, we never had anybody babysit when we were down here.

Q: Did you have kids over to the house for lunch or afternoon puzzles or anything like that?

A: No.

A: [inaudible 01:00:53].

A: I did that with the [inaudible 01:00:58]. I don't remember kids coming to our house.

A: Probably because your mom wasn't well.

A: Yes. She wasn't [inaudible 01:01:12].

Q: After the [inaudible 01:01:17] house was destroyed during the hurricane, when did they build that house? Do you remember?

A: Which one.

Q: On the pond.

A: This one here? It was built [inaudible 01:01:27].

Q: That was Mr. [inaudible 01:01:33]?

A: No. Sometime in the '50s.

