

MONETTETE HICKS
With her granddaughter, Terry Dean

Longtime resident – Eastpoint, FL

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Date: December 8, 2005
Location: Mrs. Hick's home - Eastpoint, FL
Interviewer: Amy Evans
Length: 1 hour, 11 minutes
Project: Florida's Forgotten Coast

[Begin Monette Hicks]

0:00:00.0

Amy Evans: This is Amy Evans for the Southern Foodways Alliance on Thursday, December 8th, 2005, and I'm in Eastpoint with Terry Dean and her grandmother, Mrs. [Monette] Hicks. And could we get y'all to say both your names, since you're both on here, for the record?

0:00:22.2

Terry Dean: Okay. Terry Dean. [To her grandmother] Say your name.

0:00:24.6

Monette Hicks: What?

0:00:25.1

TD: Say your name.

0:00:27.4

MH: Monette Hicks.

0:00:30.2

AE: Mrs. Hicks, what year were you born? What's your birth date?

0:00:31.4

MH: You have to talk loud. I got bad hearing too! [*Laughs*]

0:00:36.2

AE: What is your birthday?

0:00:38.3

MH: The third of September 1916.

0:00:42.2

AE: Were you born here in Eastpoint?

0:00:43.8

MH: Hmm?

0:00:44.3

AE: Were you born here in Eastpoint?

0:00:47.2

MH: No; I come here when I was three—three months old.

0:00:51.2

AE: From Carrabelle [Florida]? Is that where your family—no?

0:00:54.5

MH: [To Terry] Tell me what she said.

0:00:56.1

TD: Where are you from? Where was you born?

0:00:59.0

MH: At—well you know where Overstreet [Florida] is?

0:01:02.9

AE: No, ma'am.

0:01:04.6

MH: Well it's on the other side of [Port] St. Joe. Between St. Joe and Panama.

0:01:12.3

AE: And you had two sisters, is that right?

0:01:15.7

TD: You had two sisters? You had—well she had three. Tell her about your sisters and brothers—how many you had.

0:01:25.7

MH: I had a half-sister and a half-brother and two sisters or—my own sisters. My momma had been married before, and her husband died, and then she married my daddy and had three children—three girls and the baby girl died when she was nine years old.

0:01:53.9

TD: Of appendicitis.

0:01:56.1

AE: Died from appendicitis. So tell me what it was like growing up here.

0:02:05.3

TD: Tell her what it was like growing up here when you was a youngin'!

0:02:10.0

MH: Well [*Laughs*] we come here—well there was one big oyster house right down on the point and right where the bridge comes—lands down there now. And a man from Carrabelle owned it, and they said that he got a bunch of people from where—?

0:02:39.8

TD: Maryland or where was it? I think I told you [the interviewer] South Carolina, but I think she [my grandmother] said it was Maryland.

0:02:45.9

MH: Oh well, from somewhere else come down here and opened oysters. They call it opening oysters now; we called it shucking oysters back then. And my daddy and two of his brothers—three of his brothers come down there and moved us down here, and we had to come from Overstreet on a boat around to the point and—

0:03:21.1

TD: They come down the Apalach—

0:03:22.5

MH: They built—my daddy and my uncle built a shed they called it—just a top for Momma and my aunt and my cousin to shuck oysters under it, and they oystered—Daddy and his brother and his son oystered. Brought them—unloaded them there on the beach at that shed and Momma and my aunt and my cousin shucked them and would carry them down to that big oyster house at—that right there. [*Points at a photograph on the table in front of her.*]

0:04:00.3

AE: This is a picture of it?

0:04:02.3

TD: Yeah.

0:04:04.4

AE: It looks huge.

0:04:04.3

MH: Now we lived back up here off of—from that.

0:04:10.3

AE: So this—this is where the bridge dumps into Eastpoint from Apalachicola?

0:04:14.2

TD: No, from St. George Island.

0:04:15.7

AE: From St. George Island, okay, okay. And so that's what was Cat Point before they—or it was Eastpoint and then they moved Eastpoint back?

0:04:23.3

MH: Yeah, on up [back] here.

0:04:24.7

TD: And it's called Cat Point now.

0:04:26.7

MH: I can remember me and my sisters playing on the beach while Momma and my aunt shucked oysters, and they'd open the oysters and pour them in a—a galvanized washtub. Do you know what that is?

0:04:44.9

AE: *[Nods yes]*

0:04:47.1

MH: Pour them in there all day long. [*Laughs*] And ice in there. And when Dad and them come in the evening, they'd carry them down to that big oyster house and a boat would come from Apalach and—

0:05:02.9

TD: You can see it right there.

0:05:05.6

MH: —pick them up and carry them back to Apalach—pick the oysters up and carry them back to Apalach. And that's about all I know about—.

0:05:18.4

AE: Do you have any idea how many people worked here?

0:05:22.8

TD: How many people worked in that oyster house?

0:05:26.0

MH: Well when them Baltimore shuckers, they called them, was there, I imagine there was close to 100 and that—that's not it. It was bigger than that, but that was one that was right there close to it later on. And there's—there was a bunch of them from Baltimore and they built—the man that owned it lived in Carrabelle, and he built a long house—just one room, big room, they called a kitchen. That's what was mostly men that come to sell them oysters. And they called that a kitchen, and that's where they cooked and fed them. And then he built another one—two-story house there and that's where they all slept.

0:06:25.6

TD: How many people were shucking on the beach besides Grandma?

0:06:30.8

MH: I don't know anybody except our family. And then when the weather got cold, why they moved down to the big oyster house, and the Baltimore shuckers and more people coming in all the time and they left pretty soon. I—I don't know how long they stayed after we come down here; but—

0:06:53.8

AE: Do you know why they came from Baltimore?

0:06:59.6

TD: Why did they bring them in from Baltimore?

0:07:01.6

MH: What?

0:07:02.7

TD: Why did they bring them in from Baltimore—the shuckers?

0:07:06.1

MH: I don't know. They was helping when we come. I imagine they hauled them down here on a bus or something. **[Laughs]** I don't know.

0:07:19.5

AE: Did they come to show the locals how to shuck oysters or were they—?

0:07:24.3

TD: Did they show y'all how to do it?

0:07:26.8

MH: Yeah, showed my momma and them how to—how to open them. Then they used—called them oyster blocks; those were the round piece of pine or oak or something with a breaker in it, and they used a knife and hammer—crack that oyster and shuck it. And later on my daddy, Mr. Rice, in Apalach got him to build him an oyster house, and it wasn't as big as the one that the Moore's had there, but it was a pretty good size. I reckon it was about sixty [shucking] stalls. And my daddy run it. And then my daddy later built him a store and a cafe and had a gas pump. You didn't see but one gas pump back then. It was that kind of—that was the only kind they had. And my baby sister got sick, and Daddy sold out, and we moved to Apalach where it would be close to her doctor. And it wasn't no bridge or nothing then [from Eastpoint to Apalachicola], but they had to started to run the ferry—the same man that had them boats coming over here—and they'd go to Carrabelle and back here and to Apalach. And the ferry had taken the place of them, and then later on they built the bridge to the island—a long time after that; they built the bridge in [nineteen] thirty-five, I believe.

0:09:20.0

AE: So your father—

0:09:21.5

TD: To Apalach.

0:09:21.1

AE: The bridge to Apalach in [nineteen] thirty-five?

0:09:23.0

MH: Yeah.

0:09:24.4

AE: So her father made a good living shucking oysters to get his own house?

0:09:28.8

TD: Your daddy made a good living?

0:09:32.4

MH: Yeah, he did. Uh-hmm. And oysters was a lot bigger than they are now. And they would just go out to Cat Point they called it down there, and catch as many as they wanted. But they worked all day and come in a big boat load and unload them there and my—in that shack.

[Laughs] My momma and aunt and my cousin opened them the next day while they went and got some more. Now if you handle oysters like that, it would kill you. [Laughs] As a matter of fact, it wouldn't—I never heard of anybody dying from them. But just to shucking them and pour them in—when they carried them down to Moore's Oyster House, why they washed them and measured them and put them on there.

0:10:36.9

Male: Yeah, them oysters used to sit on the back dock six and seven days at a time.

0:10:42.3

MH: What did he say?

0:10:42.6

Male: No refrigeration; an oyster won't hurt you for seven days.

0:10:48.1

AE: Just sitting on the back of the dock?

0:10:48.8

TD: He's talking about there weren't no refrigeration, and it didn't hurt you to eat them.

0:10:52.9

Male: They'd bring the bags—they'd bring the bags over, and sit them on the back of the dock for six and seven days.

0:10:54.5

MH: Yeah, I reckon so.

0:11:02.4

AE: because they had so many they couldn't—couldn't process them fast enough, huh?

0:11:06.9

TD: And the thing was, the oysters were a lot bigger. Because I can remember when I was a kid, a regular oyster would hang off two saltine crackers that was hooked together. It would hang off both ends. They're a lot smaller than they used to be.

0:11:22.2

Male: About forty dollars a gallon now—and thirty-eight and forty dollars a gallon and more.

0:11:24.5

MH: And my daddy—

0:11:26.1

TD: A gallon?

0:11:27.7

MH: —built a lot of houses for Mr. Rice.

0:11:29.3

TD: Uh-uh.

0:11:30.7

MH: Or pay for the men then to come that would work for him.

0:11:34.3

TD: It's about—

0:11:36.3

MH: I guess it must have been twelve—at least twelve.

0:11:38.5

TD: Me, too. We're having to sell them for eighty-eight dollars a gallon.

0:11:41.6

Male: God darn; I wouldn't eat oysters.

0:11:43.0

MH: My sister got sick or moved to Apalach and oh, my daddy sold out everything he had down there. And that hurricane come in—in [nineteen] twenty-nine taking care of it. Boy it got most everything. My grandmother and granddaddy lived in a house on—they called it the Indian Mound on a shell bank. They had their house and my uncle lived—had built him a new house and that house is still down there on the point close to the bridge and they—they was the only two houses left down there on the point after the hurricane. But we lived in Apalach then. My daddy was still living over here, and Momma was living over there sending us to school, and he was running the store and the—everything, and the hurricane come. Why, he told them—the people—said, “You’re welcome to come up to my house. It’s further away from the water, but I won’t be there, but you’re welcome to come stay the hurricane out.” And that’s what they did. And they said they would stand out there and watch the houses floating down the bay and pieces of houses. It got all them new houses they’ve built for the shuckers—everything else. All that that Daddy built, that hurricane got that, too.

0:13:39.0

AE: So did he rebuild after that and where?

0:13:42.9

TD: Did he rebuild?

0:13:43.9

MH: No. He had sold out the store and the cafe and, of course, the oyster house belonged to Mr. Rice. And Mr. Rice in Apalach and it took—tore all that—the hurricane tore it all down and more fell off the house, too. And it was a two-story building. People that worked for him lived in there; they got them a hotel there so in Apalach where they could live in there—sleep in it.

0:14:22.3

TD: What did he do then?

0:14:26.0

MH: Who?

0:14:26.3

TD: For—for a living, your daddy?

0:14:29.0

MH: Well he—he oystered some and then whatever he wanted to. [*Laughs*]

0:14:36.6

TD: When did you start shucking?

0:14:39.4

MH: When I was about twelve years old. After my—when my baby sister was sick, we come back over here because the doctors in Apalach wasn't seeming like they were doing any good. We come back over here so she could have a doctor from Carrabelle come down there. And she died. She was nine years old. [*Introducing the woman who is walking into the room*] That's my daughter, Agnes [and Terry's aunt].

AE: Hey.

0:15:13.7

Agnes: I've been on the phone. That's when—ask her when they moved up here on Ferry Dock Road. Everybody built their houses further away from the water. And how many families lived down here then. Ask her, Terry.

0:15:25.0

TD: When—when Grandpa Charlie built his house up here, how many families were in Eastpoint?

0:15:32.6

Agnes: How many lived at Cat Point?

0:15:33.2

TD: How many lived down there at Cat Point?

0:15:36.7

Agnes: How many families?

0:15:38.0

MH: Not many when they built that house up here.

0:15:40.8

Agnes: Before the hurricane—.

0:15:42.4

MH: I don't know just how many was down there.

0:15:45.3

TD: How many was down there before the hurricane?

0:15:48.2

MH: It was a good many down there. I don't know just how many houses Daddy built for Rice for the workers, but all the way from the bridge is on up there to where my uncle's house is it's on—it's not where them houses are going to the island is.

0:16:14.8

Agnes: There wasn't anything there; it was all right on Cat Point.

0:16:18.1

MH: It's that one on the left-hand side going down to the—and the—I don't think they're going—I don't know whether anybody lives in it now or not, but it looks just as good it ever did.

0:16:31.2

TD: How many families were down there, not counting them workers that weren't from here?

How many families were living here?

0:16:40.7

MH: I don't know, about ten or twelve, I reckon. There weren't many.

0:16:48.0

TD: There weren't a whole lot of families here when I was growing up and everybody knew everybody. Everybody.

0:16:54.2

Agnes: Ask her did they build the house up here on the Ferry Dock Road when—after the hurricane—everybody moved.

0:17:02.5

TD: He built the house up here on old Ferry Dock Road after the hurricane?

0:17:08.3

MH: This house up here?

0:17:08.1

TD: Yeah.

0:17:09.2

MH: Yeah, a long time after the hurricane.

0:17:13.1

Agnes: And I think everybody left after that.

0:17:15.6

MH: It was after—they built the house after Agnes was a baby.

0:17:18.1

Agnes: Did everybody move from Cat Point after that hurricane?

0:17:21.6

TD: Did everybody move from Cat Point after the hurricane?

0:17:27.0

MH: Yeah, because there weren't nothing for them to live in down there. [*Laughs*] They never—there was—they had a flowing well down there to furnish water for them oyster houses, and they were wood—made out wood. And I'd seen ice—it would get so cold that water would run over in that big old tank out there, and there'd be icicles hanging down to the ground. And it would so cold the ground would burst, the ice we spew up. Us kids would come out and see which one could get there and knock it over—little old sprigs of ice sticking out of the ground—half of them barefooted. And we went to school out there where the Baptist Church is down the road there. And I guess it was after I was twelve years old where Momma went to—or carried us back and moved back to Apalach with us, so we wouldn't have to ride the bus. They started running a bus to Carrabelle then. And she didn't want—her and Daddy didn't want us to ride on it. That was after my sister died.

0:18:58.8

Agnes: It was a dirt road, I believe, and the ferry—.

0:19:02.1

TD: Tell her about the bus.

0:19:04.0

MH: About what?

0:19:04.3

TD: Tell her what the bus was like.

0:19:07.2

MH: Well it didn't have seats in it like it does now; they had seats like a bench on each side, and the man that drove it, he never did learn how to drive. **[Laughs]** And that's why Momma and Daddy didn't want us to ride, and—

0:19:25.6

TD: It was like riding in the back of a truck, literally—basically. Tell them about the bridge in Carrabelle you had to cross on that old bus.

0:19:34.0

MH: Well mostly it was a ferry when was going—no barge. It weren't a ferry, just an old barge. They pulled the cars across on that. And then later they built the bridge after they finished this road down here. That was after me and Louis got married.

0:20:00.5

AE: What was—what was school like, if she started working at age twelve to shuck? Did she go often or—?

0:20:07.6

TD: How often did you go to school, if you was shucking and going to school too?

0:20:12.7

MH: Well they didn't go to school after I got big enough to shuck oysters. [*Laughs*]

0:20:19.1

TD: So you just went 'til [you were] twelve?

0:20:21.7

MH: Huh?

0:20:22.0

TD: You was twelve years old when you got done with school?

0:20:25.8

MH: Yeah, about that. I was in the sixth grade. And my—the reason I quit school was because we moved back over here. My momma and daddy left with my sister and her husband and with my baby sister. And me and my other sister stayed with my grandma, and we had to shuck oysters to help out with the expense because Momma and Daddy stayed right with Isabel all the time 'til she died.

0:21:07.5

AE: How long a day would you shuck oysters?

0:21:09.8

TD: What time would you go—start shucking and when would you finish?

0:21:16.3

MH: Well it would start before daylight [*Laughs*] you might say, just as soon as they could see what they was going to shuck and shucked 'til we got all the oysters out or it got so late they couldn't see how. We didn't have no electricity.

0:21:33.0

Agnes: Had plenty of oysters then, plenty of them.

0:21:37.4

Male: Daylight to dark.

0:21:38.1

MH: Yeah.

0:21:38.2

Agnes: And the whole family—all the men in the family would go on one boat. Did she tell you that? It would be real long boats. All of her daddy and his brothers—about four went on one boat; it was that big.

0:21:55.4

TD: So there was a lot oysters to shuck.

0:21:57.4

MH: A lot.

0:21:57.8

TD: That was a lot of oysters to shuck, weren't there?

0:22:00.8

MH: Yeah.

0:22:02.7

Agnes: But there weren't many shuckers—two or three in the family, probably, and the kids.

0:22:05.9

MH: There weren't many people to catch them, either.

0:22:08.8

TD: Was Aunt Nancy shucking with you?

0:22:12.1

MH: Yeah, my aunt was shucking oysters for my uncle—not her husband but her—his brother had a little old oyster house down there about—well I told you that. And she would let one of us go with her one day, and the next day the other one could go and crack the oysters for her, and she'd give Momma and Daddy the money that we made and—.

0:22:51.1

AE: Can she tell me about the boat that they went on?

0:22:53.0

MH: Of course my sister didn't believe in that very much. She didn't—she didn't crack many [Laughs] and I got to work more than she did.

0:23:04.9

AE: Her father oystering and going out in the boat and how the boats are different?

0:23:08.6

MH: We moved here in 1917—first day of January of 1917.

0:23:15.0

TD: Grandma, how did they get to the oyster bar on their boats?

0:23:22.9

MH: Well if you didn't have an inboard motor on the boat that you were on, you used the pole, and they did—just went out to Cat Point.

0:23:33.7

TD: How many had motors? I don't think any of them did.

0:23:36.9

MH: None of the outboard motors—motors in the boat; they didn't—nobody didn't know nothing about no outboard motors then.

0:23:50.4

Male: One cylinders with a big flywheel on it.

0:23:53.4

Agnes: But her daddy had two and three cars at one time. He'd buy a new car, and then he would buy his brothers one, so the whole family, you know—and they go all the way to Grand Ridge or Sneads or Marianna [all towns in Florida]. That was a long trip for them.

0:24:08.2

TD: They thought they was seeing the world.

0:24:09.7

MH: What is she saying?

0:24:11.0

TD: Talking about Grandpa Charlie and his cars.

0:24:16.5

MH: [Laughs] Remember the first time he drove. Yeah.

0:24:21.1

Agnes: Tell them about that.

0:24:21.5

TD: Tell her about it.

0:24:25.1

MH: He had to go to Alabama for something and his—his daddy was going with him, and he went to Apalach and bought a car to go on and the man drove them around the block and come back to the car lot and said, “Well it's all yours.” Daddy hadn't never drove in his life. He got in there—him and Granddaddy and headed off to Alabama. [Laughs] They headed across a little narrow bridge and [Laughs] Daddy said he was scared to death to cross that bridge. He knowed he couldn't do it but he knowed he had to, so. Granddaddy was in the back seat, and he had a long beard, you know, and [Laughs] it'd take all the front seat for them to drive, you know. People didn't drive then like they do now. They'd hold that steering wheel with both hands. He said, “Well Papa, I don't know if we're going to make it or not.” He said, “You just hold on;

we're going to try it." And he said he glanced back at granddaddy and said he had to hold both sides of that car. He was a big man—holding on. And he made it and said when he got across, Granddaddy said, "By God son," said, "you made it—missed it two feet on both sides!" When Daddy would tell that, it would just tickle him to death. But he made the trip all right; he didn't have any—back then, you know, cars had running boards, they called it, and there was some black people that flagged them down and wanted a ride up the road there a little ways. And Daddy told him, "Hop on the running board there." [Laughs] They hopped on and said—he knew he wasn't driving like he ought to because he hadn't never drove before. And said them niggers said, "Captain, we'll get off right here." He said, "Hop off." [Laughs] He said he didn't slow down; he said they bounced back like that, and they were just a rolling in the ditch.

0:26:51.7

Agnes: You didn't have driver's license or any tag or anything; if you could afford to buy one, you had it.

0:27:00.4

AE: So who are—who is buying all these oysters from the bay?

0:27:06.9

TD: Mr. Russ in Apalach was buying the oysters, weren't he?

0:27:09.1

MH: Uh-hmm.

0:27:11.5

TD: What was he doing with them?

0:27:13.9

MH: Shipping them out on the train.

0:27:17.2

TD: Where to?

0:27:18.9

MH: Different places; I don't know just where they went.

0:27:20.0

Agnes: New York, I think, and Washington and everywhere all over the country.

0:27:24.8

TD: Where the rich folks was.

0:27:25.9

Agnes: You know back then they—

0:27:28.4

MH: Yeah, he owned—he owned that land down there and they built—Daddy, after we come down there, he built him an oyster house.

0:27:40.7

TD: They sent them oysters to them rich folks up north, didn't they?

0:27:43.7

MH: Yeah, I imagine they did. But my goodness, [*Laughs*] they didn't give nothing for them.

0:27:52.8

TD: How much did you make for a gallon back then?

0:27:56.4

MH: If he caught them and his wife shucked them, they got a dollar a gallon.

0:28:05.0

Agnes: That was good.

0:28:05.7

MH: That's a big difference from what it is now. And if you shucked for somebody, you got—I have shucked fifteen-cents and then they raised it to eighteen-cents. And when they got to being a dollar a gallon, buddy, we was making the money then.

0:28:24.1

AE: What is it now about?

0:28:28.2

TD: What is a gallon of oysters now? Ten dollars a gallon, I think? Yeah, I think it's about ten dollars a gallon now.

0:28:34.2

MH: Mostly the men culled them and the wives shucked them.

0:28:37.8

Male: When—when I first come here?

0:28:41.4

TD: No; now.

0:28:43.8

Male: Dollar-and-a-half a gallon.

0:28:46.0

Agnes: Now she said; they're not ten dollars a gallon, oysters aren't.

0:28:48.8

Male: For shuckers it is.

0:28:50.8

Agnes: Oh, is it?

0:28:50.1

TD: Yeah. For the shuckers, yeah.

0:28:53.4

Agnes: But they can shuck how many with them machines today, now? They can make—

0:28:57.9

TD: A bunch.

0:28:59.7

MH: This oyster house that's right down the road—across the road down there, washed away; it tore up with this last hurricane. We—after my daddy built a house up here, well my husband built one nearby him, and we worked there at that oyster house. And by then we was getting about four-fifty a gallon, if the man caught them and the woman shucked them. And they raised them fifty-cents, I reckon. I went to work with the ladies in there and they said, "Come on girl; get busy." They said, "Four gallons, five dollars." They was really making big money then.

0:29:47.3

AE: So was she saying before that they only oystered out in one part of the bay right here?

0:29:50.1

TD: Y'all only oystered at Cat Point?

0:29:54.9

MH: Mostly. Because they didn't have—many of them didn't have motors to go anywhere else. Cat Point or Porters Bar; they didn't go across the bay.

0:30:08.8

AE: And there were enough oysters all those years to keep everybody—?

0:30:10.8

MH: And the secret, though: they didn't oyster much, they fished.

0:30:17.1

Agnes: But they didn't oyster in the summer at all.

0:30:17.6

MH: Mullet fished.

0:30:19.1

Agnes: Terry ask her about that—how they—.

0:30:21.9

TD: Back then, y'all didn't oyster in the summer, did you?

0:30:24.2

MH: No.

0:30:26.4

TD: What did y'all do?

0:30:28.9

MH: Well my daddy always went somewhere and got him a job.

0:30:34.2

TD: What did the others do?

0:30:35.5

MH: Bummed around, I reckon. I don't know what they did.

0:30:40.9

Agnes: Crabbed, fished.

0:30:41.3

TD: Crabs and fishing and shrimping.

0:30:45.6

AE: What kind of job would her daddy get in the summer?

0:30:46.4

TD: What kind of job did Grandpa Charlie get in the summer?

0:30:51.7

MH: Well he carpentered and worked on the road, anything he could do.

0:30:56.6

Male: They had a little five-horse[power] air coolers in their boats—

0:30:59.9

TD: Sawmills?

0:31:02.8

Male: They had them little five-horse air coolers.

0:31:04.5

MH: Yeah, he worked at sawmill some.

0:31:11.5

Male: Most all of them had them when I come the first time.

0:31:15.2

Agnes: But they had outboards [motors].

0:31:15.8

TD: But that was—that was a long time between the time she was twelve and you came here.

0:31:20.9

Male: They started getting outboard motors then.

0:31:21.8

MH: What is it?

0:31:23.8

TD: What—what next? [*Laughs*]

0:31:32.5

AE: Ask her when she got married.

0:31:35.3

Male: An inboard motor out of Sears.

0:31:35.8

TD: When did you get married?

0:31:39.9

MH: When did I get married? Me?

0:31:41.3

TD: Yeah.

0:31:43.2

MH: Fourteenth of January 1933; I was sixteen years old, and he was twenty-four. [*Laughs*]

And we lived together sixty-one years when he died.

0:32:03.9

TD: And this is where they got married [pointing to a photograph of a church, which is on the table]. This was the old courthouse in Apalach, and they tore it down and put the hospital in there and built that thing down there by the bridge.

0:32:13.2

AE: Franklin County Courthouse.

0:32:14.9

MH: Yeah. A lot prettier than the one they got now.

0:32:24.9

AE: How did you meet your husband?

0:32:26.0

MH: We had to go to Apalach on a boat—there weren't no bridge or no ferry. My granddaddy used to—we lived right on the beach, you might say. We lived on a shell bank—the edge of the shell bank—but the road part of it was on the beach. And I guess all of it was before they made the road there and he said—used to tell us, “Children, I want to tell you something.” He said, “One day you're going to see a bridge to the—that island, and you're going to see one to Apalach.” We said, “Yeah, granddaddy, I'm sure we will.”

0:33:01.6

[Interruption: Terry's daughter enters the room]—Momma, come run to the store with me, please.

0:33:03.3

MH: What's a matter with you?

0:33:06.0

TD: [To her daughter] Because we're doing this.

0:33:08.7

MH: I said, "I'm sure that we will." We didn't believe him. "All right, I won't see it but you kids will." And they finished the bridge to Apalach the year he died, but he wasn't living here then. He had moved to Alabama, but they finished that bridge just before he died.

0:33:30.6

AE: How long did it take them to build the bridge?

0:33:33.7

MH: I don't really know—a pretty good while, though.

0:33:40.2

TD: A few years.

0:33:42.4

MH: That's not the bridge that's there now. The other one was—wasn't good as this one and wasn't as wide and all.

0:33:52.9

AE: How did you meet your husband?

0:33:54.3

MH: Huh?

0:33:56.7

AE: How did you meet your husband?

0:33:57.1

MH: He come and his family moved down here. And really, before—I guess they moved down here two years before we got married. I remember me and my cousin—one of my cousins—my sister was on the oyster house dock they called it, and my husband and his momma and daddy was coming by and going down on the point and he was chewing tobacco [*Laughs*]—I never

will forget that. He was walking between his momma and daddy chewing tobacco and he spit. I said, "If that youngin' was mine, I'd tear him up." **[Laughs]** I thought that was just awful.

0:34:56.6

AE: What was his name?

0:34:58.0

MH: Huh?

0:35:00.0

AE: What was your husband's name?

0:35:01.4

MH: Louis.

0:35:02.2

AE: Louis Hicks?

0:35:01.8

MH: Louis Hicks—Louis Hullman Hicks.

0:35:08.8

AE: Was he oystering when you met him?

0:35:10.3

MH: Was he what?

0:35:11.3

AE: Was he oystering when you met him—going out oystering?

0:35:19.4

MH: Honey, I can't hear what—. Agnes, come and tell me what she's saying. I've got three hearing aids and ain't neither one of them any good.

0:35:26.7

Agnes: Her hearing has just gone. Did he oyster when you met him?

0:35:29.5

MH: Yeah. And shrimped mostly and snapper fished. He done a little of all of it.

0:35:36.1

Agnes: He didn't oyster lots in my life; he shrimped most on the big boat. Even went to Texas on a boat and took a boat out there and shrimped for a while in Galveston [Texas]. But then they moved here from Chipley [Florida], and then they left. His dad died, and then they came back, and that's when she met him—for about two years they dated.

0:35:59.5

MH: And then in later years, after the kids all got grown, we built an oyster house—built our own oyster house—and it's still down there. It got some damage in that hurricane, but it's not as bad as some of them. My son and his wife lost everything they had in that hurricane.

0:36:24.3

Agnes: And [Hurricane] Dennis that just came got rid of most of all the old buildings down there.

0:36:31.6

AE: Uh-hmm. So before they built their own oyster house, were they working for her father?

0:36:36.5

Agnes: No, he was retired then and he—Daddy was mostly shrimping when I was growing up, so they—I don't know what year—what did—what year did Poppa quit working in the seafood? Daddy started shrimping on a big boat; see, he never actually was a big oysterman, Daddy. He went some.

0:37:00.6

MH: Well he didn't run no—he didn't run no oyster house after [nineteen] twenty-nine, but he oystered some and he crabbed. And he didn't never do much fishing—mullet fishing.

0:37:17.2

Agnes: And Daddy did; he worked for them Taranto's [Taranto's Seafood] and them people in Apalach. Who did daddy work for before y'all got married? He shrimped and fished out of Apalach, didn't he?

0:37:30.9

MH: Yeah, out of Apalach.

0:37:33.9

Agnes: Who did he work for—Taranto's or who? Apalach was just full of them old people, you know; they couldn't speak English.

0:37:40.7

MH: I don't really know, Agnes.

0:37:41.9

Agnes: And he was good friends with all of them, and he would tell his jokes.

0:37:46.5

MH: I think he mostly worked for Joe Taranto.

0:37:47.1

Male: He kept one of the big shrimp boats.

0:37:49.0

Agnes: Yeah.

0:37:50.6

MH: And you know their son [Anthony Taranto].

0:37:54.1

Agnes: Yeah, he mostly worked for Taranto, the older people. He was good friend with all them old people and could tell us some real fun, fun things that they did.

0:38:06.2

AE: Like what?

0:38:07.1

Agnes: Well like the people that ran the—who was it that ran the store over there? Oh, I didn't know I was being recorded?

AE: You're fine.

0:38:16.3

MH: That done what?

0:38:15.9

Agnes: Who ran the store and cut the pants leg off trying to sell everything; what was their name?

0:38:25.2

MH: I can't remember.

0:38:27.3

Agnes: The people that ran the store in Apalach? They sold hardware and food and everything.

Demo George—

0:38:42.5

MH: Oh, Nichols and Demo George? Yeah, they run right there on the corner and run—the train come over across the street from that store, and I don't know what year the train quit coming to Apalach. And then there was a big boat the called the Terrapin that had come from Mobile, Alabama, and they bought most of the seafood and stuff and—.

0:39:30.5

AE: So you and your—

0:39:35.2

Agnes: She's talking to you.

0:39:37.0

AE: You and your husband were—you were still shucking with your husband?

0:39:41.5

MH: Was I what?

0:39:42.5

AE: Shucking oysters when you were married?

0:39:46.2

MH: Yeah, uh-hmm.

0:39:47.8

Agnes: She shucked all her life until she was in her seventies, I guess. And they ran the oyster house for a long time.

0:40:00.9

AE: Can you tell me what it was like running the oyster house?

0:40:05.4

MH: Well, the oyster house we run—we would run for the Segrees down here, and then we built one up there across from—

0:40:21.2

TD: Ard's Fina. Kind of across from Ard's [service station in Eastpoint].

0:40:24.8

MH: Yeah, across from Ard's Service Station. And I don't know what to tell you about what—what it was like. You either done that or you done without because there weren't no more work around here. When they started building the road and the bridge to Apalach, my husband worked at that then. And—and he built the oyster house—well [our daughters] Agnes and Eunice was already married when we built that oyster house. Charles was still at home. We moved to Panama [City, Florida] one time and stayed a while and come right back [*Laughs*]; I don't care where we went, we come back to Eastpoint.

0:41:31.0

AE: How has she seen the seafood industry and the bay change all those years—?

0:41:37.0

TD: How has the—the seafood industry and the bay changed since then?

0:41:43.5

MH: How has it changed? Well I don't know how to tell you that. About the only thing I know about it is it's gotten—you get more money for your work now than you did then and—but there's a lot more problems to it, too, than there was then.

0:42:14.7

Agnes: Did they know about red tide and closed—?

0:42:16.9

TD: Did they—did any—did they ever close the bay when you was growing up or—or—?

0:42:24.0

MH: No.

0:42:24.1

TD: Did you know about—when did you find out about red tide?

0:42:29.5

MH: After the kids was all grown and married. We shucked oysters, Terry, on the beach, poured them in a washtub and Momma and them did—I didn't.

0:42:46.1

Agnes: They didn't have laws to keep them from doing anything.

0:42:48.3

MH: They'd sit there all day. Daddy and them would come in from the oyster bar, and they'd carry them down to Moore's Seafood House. And they washed them and measured them, put them on the Jessie Mae or a Terrapin—whichever one come. One of them would come ever—the Terrapin come every Thursday; that was a big old boat made like a barge or something, and they would come from Mobile, and they picked up oysters over in Apalach and fish and whatever they could get.

0:43:23.7

TD: And they brought y'all's supplies and your mail and stuff, didn't they?

0:43:27.4

MH: No, the boat brought mail—a boat like that one in the picture brought mail over here. Like this big old long boat—

0:43:52.1

AE: What is this picture?

0:43:53.6

TD: We found that picture. Me and my cousin took some of Grandma's pictures and we made copies of them. And we had to take them out of the frames, and when we took them out of the frames, we found that behind one of the pictures. It's in Apalach; we can figure that and we know about where it was at in Apalach, but we don't know anything else about it. And we blew it up enough to know that the boat's name was Maribelle, but Grandma don't remember a Maribelle boat, so—. Well the oysters are smaller now, aren't they?

0:44:34.4

MH: Oh, yeah. I mean they are.

0:44:38.5

TD: And there ain't as many of them. And there's all kinds of regulations.

0:44:45.1

MH: Yeah, there weren't no regulations—weren't no inspectors coming around then that I know anything about. Lord, if—anybody that had oysters now like they did then, they'd swear—kill them.

0:45:01.8

AE: Ask her does she like eating oysters.

0:45:02.7

TD: Do you like oysters?

0:45:05.2

MH: Uh-hmm, sure do.

0:45:09.2

TD: How you like them?

0:45:11.0

MH: Any way I can get them. [*Laughs*]

0:45:13.8

TD: I get that from her.

0:45:15.0

MH: I like them fried, and I like oyster stew.

0:45:22.6

AE: Do you cook?

0:45:22.0

MH: My son runs a little place, him and his wife, up there where I did live 'til after my husband died, and I got sick and come over here and he run—a little oyster house, just three stalls isn't it?

0:45:41.1

TD: One.

0:45:43.8

MH: Well he's tore them out then because there used to be three.

0:45:46.3

TD: Just one.

0:45:47.1

MH: And Martha shucked oysters there for him; now just him and his wife and he hauls them. She shucks and he puts them on the truck and carries them out; he's got customers all around Georgia and out there.

0:46:03.6

TD: And his truck has to be refrigerated, and they have to have ice and everything and—and you've got to have an oyster license now, and you've got to have a wholesale license; you've got to be inspected for everything.

0:46:22.0

AE: So are many of the families that she grew up here with are they all still in Eastpoint?

0:46:26.3

TD: The families that you grew up with, they're all still here, aren't they? Parts of the families?

0:46:33.8

MH: Some of their families is here, but I don't know of anybody that's as old as I am that growed up with me.

0:46:40.5

TD: She's lived in Eastpoint longer than anybody else has.

0:46:43.1

MH: Miss Kramer down here, she died a couple years ago, and she was a little bit older than I was.

0:46:56.3

AE: What—how—what do you think about all these generations after you staying here?

0:47:00.1

TD: What do you think about all your kids and grandkids and great-grandkids staying here?

0:47:07.6

MH: Well I don't think nothing about it; I think it's kind of natural. [*Laughs*] But I got a daughter that's stayed in Alaska thirty years—

0:47:24.2

TD: Forty probably.

0:47:25.9

MH: Hmm?

0:47:26.5

TD: A long time.

0:47:28.6

MH: And now she lives in Missouri. Her husband died right after my husband died. And she wouldn't—she wouldn't live here.

0:47:39.7

TD: That's my momma; she lives up there near my sister. She's spoiled.

0:47:46.2

MH: Yeah, she growded up here and there, and stayed with me most of the time.

0:47:54.0

TD: So this is home. Wherever else I go, this is home. Would you tell these younger kids to work on the water?

0:48:02.6

MH: Well I think now they'd be better to have a different job than seafood work because too much regulations and stuff to—and it's not as plentiful as it used to be. Of course, they'll get

more money for it, but you've got everything cheaper, too—groceries and everything. And we didn't have no electricity; had kerosene lamps.

0:48:32.9

TD: Weren't your momma and daddy the first ones to get electricity?

0:48:37.4

MH: Well there was several of them around here that got it about the time they did. They were just one of the first ones that lived out there—about the second house down there.

0:48:50.6

TD: Weren't your momma the first one to get a wringer washer?

0:48:54.3

MH: Yeah. *[Laughs]* And that thing started shaking, and she went and put her hand in it and liked to knocked her down. To start with, she had those tubs sitting on the porch and she was standing on the—in the yard and she put her hands in that water in that tub, and that electricity met her there. And she said, "Hmm, my feet has gone to sleep." She was just a stomping, "My feet has gone to sleep. I wonder why my feet has gone to sleep." She found out pretty soon after

that electricity from that washing machine—she got up there and put her hands in, and it she got a full dose, and then she knowed what it was.

0:49:48.9

AE: Will you ask her what kind of things she ate growing up or her momma fixed?

0:49:53.3

TD: What did grandma Lizzy feed y'all when you was growing up?

0:49:59.4

MH: Well about like anybody else. I don't know.

0:50:05.1

TD: Rice, potatoes, chicken?

0:50:10.1

MH: Yeah.

0:50:10.9

TD: Beans, greens? [*Laughs*]

0:50:16.2

MH: Fish and oysters, flounders and mullet.

0:50:19.9

AE: Did they have a garden or anything?

0:50:21.5

TD: Did y'all have a garden?

0:50:23.5

MH: Yeah.

0:50:25.5

TD: Raise your own chickens?

0:50:29.1

MH: And our own hogs and our own goats.

0:50:32.9

Agnes: Terry, don't forget the turtles and the squirrels. They were big hunters! [*Laughs*]

0:50:36.8

MH: What is it?

0:50:38.4

TD: And turtles and squirrels and—?

0:50:42.6

Male: Wild hogs.

0:50:43.8

MH: Yeah.

0:50:44.8

TD: The men went hunting, didn't they?

0:50:46.5

MH: Not as much as they do now. Didn't have time. Didn't get nothing for the—they had to work.

0:51:01.9

AE: Did she see a big sea turtle growing up?

0:51:04.2

TD: Did you see—did you see sea turtles when you was growing up?

0:51:09.0

MH: Oh, yeah. We'd go to the [St. George] island on a little old boat, and when there was a moonlight night and there were no houses over there—there was one old house they called the

hotel somebody built over there and had a bunch of cows over there one time. And we'd go over there and walk that beach and look for turtles, and you could watch them; they would come out to lay their eggs. You could watch them—how they'd dig them a hole, and they'd lay a few eggs and they'd cover them up and they'd lay a few more and cover them up. And then when they got all that laid why they—went around and around and packed that dirt down, and then they'd go back in the water. And then we'd go dig the eggs up. I wouldn't eat the eggs; I didn't like them because you couldn't cook the white where it looked like it was done. But a lot of people liked them. And they liked the sea turtles. I didn't like the sea turtles after I got big and grown. I liked those small ones—the turtles that they would catch them on the shrimp nets.

0:52:35.0

AE: How long—how long would it take you to get to St. George Island on a boat?

0:52:41.4

MH: It wouldn't take very long, but usually we didn't have no motor; they had oars. You know what that is? Some people calls them paddles. And we'd go around—you couldn't hire me to do that now. **[Laughs]** No one ever did get lost or anything; if they got lost in the fog why they'd—my husband would hear them running around, and if they had a motor on their boat, they'd—he'd go get them. He rowed a lot of people in because they was lost in the fog. Not long before he died, two men come to the house and one of them said, “I wanted to come and thank you again for saving mine and my daddy's life.” He said if he hadn't have went—if Louis hadn't have went

out there, they said they'd have just drifted right out in the Gulf [of Mexico]. But Louis heard them running around out there, and they didn't know where they was. [*Laughs*]

My brother-in-law is oystering down here at this oyster house—it's gone now but it was right down at the end of this road. And him and my sister lived down on the—where the bridge is down there close to it and he unloaded those oysters, told her he was going onto the home and she drove a car on down to the house; he went on the boat and he didn't come. He—she come to the house about twelve o'clock just all upset and Louis—James had not to go the house yet. And so Louis went and helped her to look for him, of course. And he had got lost in the fog, and he would tell us that, "Yeah," said, "when I finally stopped," said, "I was over in the Crooked Channel." That was over there close to Apalach. Said, "I met two other niggers," they called them, "and spent the night with them—two niggers and my dog." [They] got lost that night and they were together—lost in the fog. [*Laughs*]

0:55:08.6

TD: Do you remember the sailing ships that came in?

0:55:12.0

MH: The what?

0:55:12.5

TD: The big ships that came in to Apalach that Granddaddy used to talk about?

0:55:19.5

MH: No; I didn't—I didn't never know nothing about the waterfront in Apalach. We went to school over there before [my sister] Isabel died. That was a long time ago.

0:55:47.9

AE: What does she think about how things have—have changed since she was born?

0:55:53.8

TD: What do you think about how things has changed since you was born?

0:55:58.6

MH: Well I don't think about that much. **[Laughs]** But I don't know.

0:56:13.8

TD: It's changed a lot, ain't it?

0:56:16.0

MH: Oh yeah, a real lot. People was more friendly back then than they are now. They had a hard life, I can tell you that. But they didn't know it. They didn't know it was as bad as it was.

0:56:48.3

TD: You didn't worry about your kids, did you? Everybody knew everybody.

0:56:54.1

MH: Yeah. And then they started running the ferryboat from Apalach to down there where the bridge is, and they did that when you [Terry] was a baby.

0:57:16.1

TD: I can remember the ferry going from Cat Point down there to the [St. George Island] island.

0:57:23.1

MH: The ferry would come from Apalach to Eastpoint and to the island. It would make two trips a day, I think. And Captain Andy Wing [?] run the ferry; he run the Jessie Mae, the mail

boat. And there was a Post Office in the house that's still down there. The Browns run the Post Office.

0:57:54.0

AE: How about all these tourists that are coming in now?

0:57:57.3

TD: What you think about these tourists coming in?

0:58:02.0

MH: Well I think it's a good thing. I think—

0:58:05.0

TD: My son calls them terrorists.

0:58:07.0

MH: It is—the people now has got an easier life than they had back then, I can tell you that. But they didn't know no different. They didn't know it was bad. [*Laughs*]

0:58:22.8

AE: What does she want folks to know about the place here where she spent her life?

0:58:28.6

TD: What do you want people to know about Eastpoint, where you've lived your life?

0:58:35.5

MH: What do I want them to know? I don't know how to answer that.

0:58:43.2

Male: They had it made around here, shoot.

0:58:48.1

MH: I think they have it a lot easier than they did when I was growing up, but there wasn't any churches here and I guess—I guess the Pentecostal Church was the first one that built over here. Then somebody would come once a while and—not very often—run a revival at somebody's

house or an empty house that there was down there at that house [Mister] Rice had had Daddy to build.

0:59:37.0

TD: Tell her about the house you and granddaddy first lived in when you got married.

0:59:40.8

MH: *[Laughs]* Well that was after the hurricane, and his momma lived in a house that my daddy had built, and she was a widow woman; her husband was dead. And the house that she lived in was just two rooms—a bedroom and then a room for the kitchen and the big part of the house washed away, left the kitchen and it was about—it was wide enough to put a bed across the—just fit in there and they had a bed and a dresser. The dresser sat by the bed then, and the bed here and the dresser here and the door here and then the table. *[Laughs]* We lived in that; that was our first house. And then we lived in a house on the beach that was made out of tarpaper. A man had made it for to store his nets in; he was a fisherman—to store his nets in there. But we never did like to live with nobody and he told Louis, he said, “I'll take them nets out of there; I'm not using them anymore, and if y'all want to camp in there well, you can.” And we did. And I had malaria fever and liked to died, and I'd lay up there and just burn up in that tarpaper house. *[Laughs]* But we made it all right. We lived in an oyster house in the summer time, and he was going fishing one night and he smoked and they was out in bay going to the island and gas had leaked in the boat and he didn't know it and he struck a match to light a

cigarette and the head popped off down there in that boat and there was gas leaked in there and it blew him overboard. And he burned—he wore his sleeves rolled up, and it burned real bad there where his sleeves was rolled up and all the way down to the ends of his fingers and his face and his neck, and he was burnt real bad. And they rode to Carrabelle on the fender of a car, so the wind would blow on him. He couldn't be still he was burned so bad, and they carried him to Carrabelle. It was Doctor Sikes down there and then we moved up in a house—in the oyster house—where it would be a lot of wind down there. And God Almighty, I don't whether you know what a mosquito bar is or not—goes over them. Used—people used to have them to put over their beds to keep the mosquitoes from eating them up, and we put—lived in that oyster house—had big doors on the back over the water and his—that's the way he could make it—that wind a blowing on him.

1:03:13.3

TD: How many scars did he have?

1:03:18.1

MH: Scars? He didn't have any, hardly. I don't know. Were he was burned bad and when it got cold you could see the scars on his face a little bit, but everybody knewed that it was just going to be scarred real bad, but he'd go to this doctor every day and he would peel all that new skin off—all that dead skin and make him get out in the sun. They couldn't stay but just a minute and

then they'd go backwards and forth in the sun, and he said that would keep him from scarring,
and I guess it did.

1:03:56.4

TD: It did.

1:03:55.3

MH: Something did.

1:03:57.8

TD: To look at him—I mean, she knew because she was there; she—she, you know, knew, but
to look at him, you couldn't tell he had ever been burned.

1:04:06.9

AE: That's remarkable. Oh, my gosh.

1:04:08.9

TD: Yeah.

1:04:09.5

AE: Was it your grandmother that was the midwife?

1:04:13.3

TD: No, your momma was the midwife for here, weren't she?

1:04:16.5

MH: Well she worked for the doctor some. But his aunt was a regular midwife; she had a license to be a midwife.

1:04:27.3

TD: Grandmom Lucy delivered a lot of babies around here, though.

1:04:29.2

MH: Miss Hicks' sister. But Momma worked for Doctor Monroe and the doctor in Carrabelle—

1:04:45.5

TD: She delivered a lot of them, didn't she?

1:04:46.6

MH: Yeah, they sure did. Here in Apalach—I don't think—I don't think she ever went to Carrabelle. If she did—just done that here and then Apalach.

1:05:05.0

TD: And she was—she was little; she was a tiny woman.

1:05:13.0

MH: Yeah.

1:05:13.7

AE: She was about five-foot—four-eleven, five-foot. And how tall was Grandpa Charlie?

1:05:20.6

MH: He was over six-foot.

1:05:23.6

TD: About six-three.

1:05:23.1

MH: I don't know just how tall he was.

1:05:27.3

AE: What years did her parents pass?

1:05:29.1

MH: But he could hold his arm out like that [parallel to the ground] and she could stand under it and have plenty of room. [*Laughs*]

1:05:35.2

TD: She—he died a few days before I was born in 1955—in February of 1955—and she died at ninety. She was ninety-years-old in [nineteen] seventy-eight.

1:05:54.4

MH: Momma lost two husbands—three husbands—and all of her children but me before she died. She had four girls and a boy. She had two boys that died when they was real young.

1:06:18.5

TD: Four girls and the boy lived to be adults. Y'all was the ones that lived to be grown up, and the others died when they was little.

1:06:28.5

MH: I have two of my own sisters, and then I had a half-sister.

1:06:33.6

TD: And she died young; she had heart trouble.

1:06:34.3

MH: The boy was my half-brother.

1:06:37.7

TD: I think she was about thirty-six when the oldest girl died; she was thirty-six years old when she died. Aunt Mariam was about thirty-six when she died, weren't she?

1:06:46.1

MH: She died when Charles was a baby.

1:06:51.4

TD: How old was Uncle Kerry and Aunt Nancy?

1:06:54.8

MH: When they died? Nancy died the day she was fifty-five years old. And I believe that's right and he died when he was about sixty-three.

1:07:11.2

AE: How much Indian was her father?

1:07:14.3

TD: How much Indian was Grandpa Charlie?

1:07:18.6

MH: I don't really know; his daddy was half Indian, and I don't know if it was—his momma was Indian or his daddy because they wouldn't talk about that, you know. People used to think it was—I guess they thought it was ugly to be an Indian.

1:07:43.5

TD: You were discriminated against. But from what we understand, the daddy was full-blooded and the momma was half Indian, or her daddy's parents were like that. And he was real tall. Her—how tall was Grandpa Charlie's daddy?

1:08:04.6

MH: He was tall; he was a big man. He was about like Charles, my boy.

1:08:13.6

TD: He's big, but he's only six-three, but this one—

1:08:14.9

MH: He didn't have a big stomach like Charles has got, but he is big and tall.

1:08:19.8

TD: He was real tall. I think my uncle told me he was like six-nine or something. How tall was—weren't it Little Grandma? How tall was Little Grandma?

1:08:30.3

MH: She weren't as tall as you are, and I don't know how tall she was.

1:08:35.5

TD: Probably about five-foot.

1:08:36.8

AE: Are there any pictures of them—her parents?

1:08:40.0

TD: She's got pictures of her momma and her daddy, but she don't have no pictures of her grandparents.

1:08:46.0

MH: It was my granddad that was part Indian, and she was Dutch and Irish she'd say. [*Laughs*]

1:08:53.5

TD: Didn't none of them claim to be Indian at all.

1:08:55.5

MH: But, you know, back then people thought it was awful to be an Indian and my granddaddy was—

1:09:05.0

TD: Her daddy, if you told him he was Indian, he'd get mad as fire at you.

1:09:08.1

MH: He wouldn't talk about it.

1:09:08.8

1:09:07.2

TD: And deny it.

1:09:09.3

MH: To us—we could ask him anything about it and they talk—people will talk funny about that. And anybody asked him and said, “Aren’t you part Indian?” He’d say, “Hell no, I ain’t no damn engine.” **[Laughs]**

1:09:26.4

AE: Did he look Indian at all?

1:09:29.4

MH: Yeah.

1:09:30.1

TD: They're dark complected; their whole family is dark complected and got black hair. She [Monette] gets perms in hers or otherwise it's just straight as a board. And you see she's eighty-three and she's got more—she's got less gray hair than I do at fifty. And she ain't been in the sunlight. Y'all was all dark complected and had dark hair.

1:09:53.2

MH: It's what?

1:09:53.7

TD: You—you was dark—weren't he dark complected and had black hair?

1:10:00.6

MH: Uh-hmm. My daddy did, too. Daddy—

1:10:05.9

TD: Was it—his hair was straight, weren't it?

1:10:11.0

MH: Granddaddy's weren't real straight, though, but Daddy's was—just straight as—and black—black eyes. Pretty. **[Laughs]** I wish I had looked like him.

1:10:27.0

AE: Well I don't want to wear her out for the rest of the day. Well, I thank y'all.

1:10:39.3

TD: She thanks you.

1:10:42.5

MH: You're welcome.

1:10:44.0

AE: I've enjoyed it.

1:10:46.6

MH: I probably didn't tell what you wanted to hear but I—.

1:10:50.3

AE: Sure you did.

1:10:50.3

[End Monette Hicks]