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Dottridge,sisters

Transcribed by: Katie Dvonch

Susan: We might start right here.

Tye: OK.

Susan: Right?

Tye: Sure. So tell us is this house- what year is the house going back to when...

Barbara: 1924, was it?

Tye: And it was in your family all the time?

Susan: It was Alexander Seabury Childs, and Ella Childs.

Tye: Ah, and they are what relation?

Susan: That was my great grandparents.

Tye: Could you just say who you are so that this is on tape?

Susan: I'm Susan Dottridge Hallanan.

Barbara: And Barbara Dottridge LeClaire.

Tye: And hopefully the distinction whoever is transcribing this between the voices, but if not, I'm going to occasionally point out who was who. And...

Phil: And im going to say I'm Phil so I don't end up as unknown speaker, which I did on a number of transcriptions.

Tye: And since I'm paying this bill, the- you know who I am. And I think- I also want to just say, before we even get started, tell you what we're doing to make sure you're comfortable with what we're all about. And the- this is a project as we explained last night and a ... wow..

Phil: That's for cutting ice on the pond.

Tye: It's beautiful.

Susan: The last...

Barbara: It says Gifford Historical Society.

Tye: Was it still sharp?

Barbara: And I told them that I had...

Tye: It looks like it could be a guillotine as well... [unintelligible] When was the last time it was used on ice do you think?

Phil: Probably a [unintelligible] state. My- her great grandfather worked on it.

Tye: Wow.

Phil: Seabury worked on it, I think it was Seabury.

Barbara: Yeah, he worked down there.

Tye: So what we're doing is something- when little over two years ago, just at the beginning of the pandemic, Jim Gould was leaving town. And we wanted to sit down with him, I knew much less than I ought to about Cotuit history, Phil knew a lot more. And we sat with him for an hour and a half, two hours. And we didn't get infected by COVID, but we got infected by his obsession for Cotuit history. And what we decided to do was, um, he was leaving not just the village, but sort of the sense that somebody, um, who cared as deeply was as involved in history. And so what we decided to do was start out by interviewing anybody who was game to talk to us who was over 90 years old. And then we started working our way down to, we're now at two young ladies like this. And I think that the- and the point of what we're doing is partly that what generally happens in terms of history of a place like this, or history within a family is when somebody goes, people say "Jeez, I wish I'd gotten them on tape, because they took with them all their stories." And we're trying long before people go to get their stories down. So that partly, it's there as a record for anybody who moves here, or who lives here and wants to know more about what goes on in the history. And partly someday, if we ever find the time to write it up

in a story for the Boston Globe, The New York Times, somebody. Because I think the history of this village is in miniature, the history of America, there's so much that went on here, and it's such a special place. And the defining question, if there is one question that defines what we're interested in, and this is a biased question, but it is a question of: What makes Cotuit the most special place, not just in Barnstable or on Cape Cod, but on the planet? And I think there are things about this community and people like you who have got deep roots through the generations here, will I know have interesting answers, but starting out with- I'm going to stop my monologue- and we'd love to hear you describe some things about the house.

Susan: Well, like Barbara said, it was built in 1924. Are you familiar- who Seabury Childs is I'm sure?

Tye: I am vaguely, and Phil is I'm sure, infinitely...

Susan: Well, because, the Historical Society has a lot of information about him.

Tye: Yes.

Susan: Because he was quite...

Barbara: He started the first- the fire department and got the first fire truck, which is down at the Historical Society. So his son in law, Orman Dottridge, who was married to Lila, who had that map, um, built this house for the Child's family.

Susan: Way in the woods. Why do you want to move way up there in the woods?

Barbara: They live down on Main Street.

Tye: Ah.

Phil: And this was- this was before any of Lake Street was built?

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: No... Yeah, Lake Street....

Phil: Well, about the same time, I suppose.

Susan: Um, I- they may have been there... I'm not sure when they moved into that house on Lake Street.

Barbara: But anyways, this house.

Phil: And who? I'm sorry... who?

Barbara: That's OK.

Phil: You said they came from Main Street. Where, where on Main Street?

Susan: Seabury Childs was born in Indiana.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: His father met Mr. Codman, yeah, Mr. Codman in the Civil War.

Phil: Okay.

Susan: And Mr. Codman encouraged his- him to come to Cotuit.

Phil: Okay.

Susan: So...

Phil: There were, there were Childs in Cotuit prior to that?

Susan: Prior to that.

Phil: Different Childs? No relation?

Susan: I think it's a different Childs.

Phil: Okay.

Susan: As far as I know.

Tye: So what- that goes back. We have people who tell us, you know, we met after World War Two, you're talking about the Civil War they met. And the- you say that this was out in the woods at the time, it was built in the 1920s. In- any idea what this village was like at the civil war time?

Susan: I've never thought too much about it.

Tye: That must have been- he must have really taken his word for it and liked, uh, Codman, to- the idea of coming to what must have been nothing, then.

Susan: Oh, right.

Phil: Oh, we do know that there were Cotuit captains who were in in the Navy.

Tye: Yes.

Phil: And, and we know there were Cotuit captains who were in the army as well during, you know, other folks who were in the army. So it's [unintelligible]

Tye: Do you know where the... So Codman gets Childs to move here at that point. Do you know where Childs was coming from?

Susan: Indiana.

Tye: Oh you said Indiana.

Susan: It was, yeah, Seabury's father.

Tye: So that's also... a big deal coming from Indiana to somewhere called Cotuit in the middle of nowhere in Massachusetts.

Susan: And they lived in the house that's on Ocean View Avenue. Just, you know where the, um, road comes out from Block Point Drive? The cape, just to the south of it.

Phil: Okay.

Tye: Wow.

Phil: So the Codman?

Barbara: Was that Codman's house or was that Grandpa Child's house?

Phil: Because...

Susan: I think it was, it might have been the Codman's house. I mean, that's where the...

Phil: Yeah, maybe.

Susan: [unintelligible] Yeah, I think his name was Thomas.

Phil: Yeah. I think you're right.

Susan: Thomas Childs.

Phil: Thomas Childs. OK.

Tye: So that house goes back to the 1800s.

Susan: Yeah. Um. Yes.

Tye: They're at the end of the Civil War?

Susan: Yeah, yes. Yeah. Yes.

Phil: And Seabury married, you said his wife's name was Ella?

Susan: Ella.

Phil: And she was a...

Susan: No. Yes, Ella, and she was Honeywell and she- they met in New Bedford.

Phil: Okay.

Susan: But she was born in Maine.

Phil: Oh, okay, interesting.

Susan: Yeah. I mean, we, we go back to- our families go back to Maine. So... several different, several different... You don't want me to mention Maine?

Tye: So I do. I want you to mention Maine, but Maine to New Bedford to Cotuit seems like a logical progression. Landlocked farmland in Indiana, Indiana to Cotuit it seems like a leap of faith that maybe, at the end of the Civil War, you're looking for a new life and whatever. That's so interesting.

Susan: Yeah. I read a lot historical novels. And it seems as though people really went all over the United States after the Civil War looking- because there was a lot of devastation in the way the war was fought, so that people didn't have a livelihood and they just went.

Tye: So that's interesting, because Indiana, there might have been battles fought in Indiana. And in Massachusetts, we looked like pretty safe territory.

Susan: Yes, yes.

Tye: Destroyed territory.

Susan: But I guess that there was a real bond between, um, grandpa- the grandfather Childs and Mr. Codman.

Phil: Oh yeah. Colonel Codman.

Barbara: Thank you. Colonel Codman, probably Private Childs, I don't know (laughs). Yeah.

Tye: So...

Barbara: We've got this out, because this is this house. Before this was done. Um, obviously they push this out so that we would have more space.

Phil: Oh yeah, yeah.

Barbara: Well, right.

Susan: See what happened was that my parents, my parents, Robert and Helen, decided we're going to get married. They were very young. And what happened back in those days, if you look at the history, I can kind of- I could kind of tell you a little bit about what I have figured out.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: Was that they often would live with a parent, usually a parent, if there was enough room in the house, because most couples when they got married like 20, they were 20.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: About 20 years old. They didn't have- they weren't, couldn't afford to provide a home for themselves. So they moved in with, with the, with their grandparents. And, I came home from the hospital to this house. We all did.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Susan: There ended up being seven of us children. Because we, um, we had the five of us and then two foster children. And you can imagine that we- it got kind of tight in here.

Tye: Jeez, yeah. [unintelligible]

Phil: So your mother was Seabury's granddaughter?

Barbara: No. Our father is Seabury's grandson.

Susan: Dottridge. This is all Dottridge.

Phil: Right, right, right. OK.

Tye: So you, um, stay in the house when the grandparents died, your parents have the house and there are seven kids in here.

Susan: Yeah, there weren't at that time seven.

Barbara: My father was fire chief for Cotuit. And he went to a rescue one day. And there was unfortunately a man that had hung himself. And there were two young kids. How old, Susan?

Susan: 8 and 10. Well they're the youngest of a large family. The mother had deserted them..

Tye: Oh, so those were the two foster kids that you took in?

Barbara and Susan: Yes.

Susan: They were from Cotuit!

Barbara: So he brought them home and they ended out going through the state to take them in. And at times, some of the other kids had stayed with us too- some of their brothers and sisters, the older ones. But, uh, they stayed here- the foster children's stayed with us until they moved out to get married or whatever.

Tye: And are they?

Susan: They are they were married.

Tye: Are your three birth siblings and the foster kids still alive?

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: Oh, yes. In-

Tye: In Cotuit?

Barbara: Not the foster children, but all four of us...

Susan: No, not anymore. Susan: No, two of us in Mashpee and three in Cotuit.

Tye: Wow.

Susan: [unintelligible] People say you can't go home. [unintelligible]

Barbara: People used to call this Dottridge Square because there were so many Dottridges that lived here on the square.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Tye: Any still?

Barbara: Oh, yes. Yeah.

Phil: And the grandpa Dot on the barn, that's, that the- who we're talking about? Seabury's grandson.

Barbara: Right.

Phil: OK, got it.

Barbara: No, Seabury's son-in-law.

Phil: Son-in-law, OK.

Susan: Yeah. Lila was, Lila is the- is their daughter.

Phil: OK.

Susan: Who married Ernest Orman.

Barbara: So her father was Seabury.

Phil: OK.

Susan: Our cousin lives in that house.

Barbara: Pardon me?

Tye: Are you on the square here?

Barbara: Yeah.

Phil: Well this corner, the Lake St...

Barbara: [unintelligible]

Tye: [unintelligible] So it still is the city they used to call it. It still is the, uh...

Barbara: And my other sibling, you really need to talk to Ben Dottridge because he knows all kinds of stuff about the fire department and he's only a couple of years younger than...

Tye: He's the one in Mashpee?

Barbara: No, he lives right here on Lake Street.

Tye: Okay. Yeah.

Barbara: Yeah.

Phil: I've, I've wondered, and you may know this. So there's...

Tye: Can we sit down?

Susan: Absolutely. Starting in this room is because- this shows the petition. This was the porch.

Phil: Got it.

Susan: I pushed it out. [unintelligible] So you can see it in here too, but...

Barbara: Have a seat, wherever you're comfortable.

Phil: [unintelligible] There sort of looks- it like there was a road that ran diagonally through the lakes- Lake St. Square there.

Susan: Oh, you mean in between Lake Street and School Street?

Phil: Yeah.

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: Yeah, absolutely there was!

Phil: And it looks like it cuts off the corner of that little little house that's across Highland on School Street. Their driveway seems to be a continuation.

Susan: It goes out onto [unintelligible] avenue.

Phil: Yeah. So what was the story with that? That- was it a road or like a..?

Susan: It was just a dirt road.

Phil: OK.

Susan. And, um, and also, um, grandpa Dott's house over here.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: It also went from their driveway out to that road.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Susan: I walked that a lot. Beca- I walked that a lot...

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: As a young child, because he- I'm sure you know, um, that the house, School Street house- Dottridge house- backed up to that road.

Phil: Yeah, that's the one that the white.. [unintelligible]

Barbara: Yeah, my brother Ben owned that at one point.

Phil: OK.

Barbara: And it was also owned... who else lived there?

Susan: Oh my grandparent- my mother's parents also owned it at one time.

Phil: Yeah. And that was circa 1900.

Susan: Right.

Tye: So, uh, just a quick, uh, distraction here, what war is this ration book from?

Susan: Do it say on it?

Tye: I can't read, uh, any dates there. Yeah, I don't see any indication. I presume its World War II, but I don't know.

Barbara: This was from my mother-in-law from upstate New York. So... um...there are stamps in it too.

Tye: So you were both born in Cotuit and came back to this house. Were you year round forever here?

Susan: Myself, I lived in Florida for 24 years.

Tye: You did. And came back?

Susan: Falmouth. I lived- I moved- I left Cotuit in 1971. I moved to Falmouth.

Tye: This is Susan talking. Yes, yes. So you, you moved to Florida in 1971?

Susan: No, I moved to Falmouth in 1971. I went to Florida in 1992.

Tye: And during that time, um, still had things going on in Cotuit? Or left Cotuit and then just came back later? [unintelligible] You're not spending summers in Cotuit?

Susan and Barbara: No.

Tye: So what made you leave Cotuit, and what made you come back to Cotuit?

Susan: Well, I moved to Falmouth to- just to- because my husband was working in Falmouth. He was from Falmouth also.

Tye: And Florida because?

Susan: Uh, because (laughs).

Barbara: Because she got divorced.

Susan: I got divorced and left and went to Florida.

Tye: And came back?

Susan: And came back because I had- I was remarried and my husband passed away. They came back to Cotuit. I lived in Cotuit for four years, for four years after.

Barbara: Not here.

Susan: Not in the house, but I lived on School Street.

Tye: Came back here because family was here, because you were in love with Cotuit and just couldn't wait to be on the lake.

Susan: Well because...

Barbara: She didn't have a choice. We brought her back (laughs).

Susan: Yeah, but I came to Cotuit because that's where- that's that was home. Yeah, Cotuit is home.

Barbara: My husband and I bought this house from my parents in- let me think- 82 I believe from my parents, so we've been here ever since then.

Tye: And bought it from them because they were leaving to do what?

Barbar: They were traveling a lot between, um, Maine and Florida. Um, it was getting to the point where they couldn't keep up the house, and they wanted to keep it in the family. So, uh, we ended up buying it from them.

Susan: See my mother's, our mother's mother was born in Maine. So- and she had an uncle who was nine years older than her, and they were very close because my mother, my mother used to spend her summers in Maine because her mother worked, which was unusual at that time.

Phil: Yeah, I would think, yes.

Susan: But, um, yeah, so she- they were very close because they spent their summers together. Yeah, so they loved, and they loved me.

Phil: Where in Maine?

Susan: Bar Harbor.

Phil: Yeah. Nice.

Susan: House Cove.

Barbara: When they were going between here in Florida, at that point, they were going to Brownfield, Maine to work on my father's cousin's campground for the summer.

Phil: Oh, I see.

Barbara: And then they would go to a campground in Florida for the winter.

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: Did you ever leave Cotuit?

Barbara: I did.

Tye: You did.

Barbara: I left Cotuit when I was first...

Tye: This is Barbara.

Barbara: Barbara. Yep. I left Cotuit and moved to Paupannisset for two or three years.

Tye: Wow, wow. So what makes you leave here and go so close?

Barbara: I wanted to get out of- I wanted to leave the house, and I was working and ended up with a roommate from work and we lived there. Boyfriend's in Falmouth, so we wanted to close- to be closer to Falmouth than to where we worked.

Tye: Yep.

Barbara: Um, and then I moved back here and lived with my brothers. And then I started dating Jim. And I moved to Mashpee on Cotuit Road because he had a house there. And then we moved back here.

Phil: Ah, OK.

Barbara: So I never went to college. I went to work. Um, wo weeks after I graduated from high school at the electric company, and stayed there until I retired at 55.

Susan: And we had the same job. I did the same thing. See, I'm 12 years older than her so I'm actually a different generation.

Tye: So that's also really funny because you leave Cotuit to move to Cotuit Road you couldn't get to...
[unintelligible]

Susan: I know, I know.

Speaker: Cotuit Road was pretty- not a lot of houses on Cotuit Road.

Susan: No. Well there was- [unintelligible] there was up in the Mashpee part. But when you went to Sandwich, when you went past that...

Phil: Like up by Peters...

Susan: There was nothing. Right. I mean, when I was I mean, it's just blows my mind. Because see, I was born in 1942.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: Cotuit just has exploded. I mean, there was no nothing on [unintelligible] Road.

Tye: So can we talk about that explosion for a minute? The last interview that we did was with, um, Ann Burlingame. And the- she said that- so you know where she lives on [unintelligible]. And she said, when I came here- she she came 70 years ago to get married. And she said, "We used to sit in the house, and when a car went by, we would say 'Oh, there's a car on the street' and we would go to look." And in the time that she told us that there were five or seven or whatever cars perpetually, um, perpetual traffic, you came and Cotuit looked very different. Can you describe for us some of the things that- you talked about where we are now, which seems to me just off the center of town, and that was described as being out in the woods when...

Barbara and Susan: Yeah.

Tye: What are some ways when you would explain to somebody how Cotuit has changed in the time that you've known Cotuit? What are some of the more dramatic things that have changed?

Susan: I went to the school where the post office is. And they [unintelligible] that was with the same school my dad went to.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: And it was three, three rooms, three class three rooms, two classes in a room. I couldn't tell you how many in the class. I mean, I tried to think about the children who were in the class, weren't very many.

Tye: That was an elementary school?

Susan: It was the elementary school down here.

Tye: So...

Susan: Where the post office is.

Tye: Sure. Right. So you went to that school, and that was only Cotuit kids the time?

Susan: Yes.

Tye: And the, um- did you know when you were growing up every kid of elementary school age in the town, in the village?

Susan: I would say yes.

Tye: Yeah.

Barbara: I did too twelve years later.

Tye: But the school was still there?

Barbara: No, the school was up here.

Susan: No. I was one of the last classes in that school. Yeah, David and Benny went...

Barbara: Up here.

Susan: I was the only one that didn't go to the elementary school up on Old Oyster Road.

Tye: Do you remember- my guess is you were too young to remember- [unintelligible]. Do you remember what the discussion was and why the school was going to shut down there?

Susan: No, I couldn't say. Um, it may have been in disrepair. I'm not sure.

Barbara: But didn't they move it?

Susan: Pardon me.

Barbara: Didn't they move the school?

Susan: No, they tore it down.

Barbara: Oh, OK.

Tye: Tom Bridges tells a story about a flop of land.

Phil: That was...

Susan: Oh, well, this is all to do with the church and and the the building on the corner of Main Street and the school street that was torn down. I mean, I mean, I remember that building. The post office was in that building.

[unintelligible]

Phil: The land it's owned by the church.

Tye: [unintelligible] swapping lands.

Susan: Yeah.

Tye: They could do what they wanted to do. And they're...

Susan: Well, they made the power. [unintelligible] I remember all that. Yes.

Tye: Do you remember a different sense of what the village had? If you wanted to go out and buy something in town or do something- did it seem like there were more options to do things here?

Susan: Well, obviously the Coop.

Tye: Sure.

Susan: That was the only grocery store that we to until the store where- on on West Main Street, the grocery, um which store?

Barbara: A&P in Osterville.

Susan: But we didn't shop there.

Barbara: No.

Susan: No.

Tye: You could do everything...

Susan: At the Coop! We did everything at the Coop! I mean, they- and they had, uh, not just food, but, you know, sundries, diff- you know...

Phil: Candy? For one thing...

Susan: Yeah. Yeah, my mother, my mother would send me with a list and once in a while I snuck in a candy, but but she let me know that she knew. (laughs)

Tye: By, by the time you were growing up the A&P was where- for bigger purchases?

Barbara: In Osterville.

Susan: No, but we- there was always an A&P In Osterville.

Tye: And you didn't go in the early days?

Susan: No, but I'll tell you. I have a story about the A&P though. My mother's father...

Tye: This is Susan.

Susan: My mother's father was an A&P manager. And they came to Osterville from middleborough. He came- he brought the family to Osterville, because he was the manager of the A&P in Osterville. Yeah.

Tye: So then that makes it even more confusing to me why you weren't shopping at the A&P.

Susan. Because, well, for one thing my mother didn't drive.

Tye: So it was just a matter of getting near the...

Susan: My father worked a lot, a lot long hours in... most of the year, I would say. He was in, he was in the forest fire patrol. They had a fire truck that drove around the town, um, looking for fires.

Tye: Wow.

Susan: That's how many that's how many fires there were. Yeah, because there was so much open land. I mean, I drive, you know, like you talk about Cotuit road- here was nothing there.

Tye: Let's go back. I'm intrigued by that. The idea that you had somebody who was going around looking for fires suggest, as you say that there were a lot of fires, and there was a lot of open land. That also suggests you didn't have a system of alarms and other things where they would know instantaneously if there was a fire.

Susan: Well, the fire towers were in operation.

Tye: So it was all visuals.

Susan: Yeah, yes. And, um, my grandma Dott, Lila, she was in the fire tower during World War II.

Tye: Wow. They had somebody perpetually- they were manning the fire tower all the time?

Susan: Yes. I remember...

Barbara: Was it year round though? Was it year round? Or was it only in the summer?

Susan: Well, it was in the fire season, fire season, which started in the Spring, you know, pretty much when things would burn, you know.

Phil: My father remembers Cotuit Road going up in flames. That was apparently-

Susan: He- scuze me to do it wrong.

Phil: Cotuit Road, in in Sandwich, a big fire there.

Susan: Yes. And I was going to say that on route 130 there's a monument. Do you know where that is?

Phil: No.

Susan: It's just past, um, Cotuit road on 130, going north. On the left hand side, there's a monument. Two men who lost their lives in a fire in Sandwich. [unintelligible] Two firemen and, two firemen with I think my father was- I think my father was there and probably my grandfather.

Phil: I think they had lots of volunteers. I mean, my father was well...

Susan: This was all volunteer. [unintelligible] Most of Cape Cod was volunteers anyway.

Phil: Sure, but they also tapped guys who weren't-

Susan: Right.

Phil: Or firemen.

Susan: Oh, sure, they probably needed them.

Tye: So, let's back up for a second. You just said it's all volunteer. Your father was a volunteer or was he a professional?

Susan: He was both.

Barbara: He was paid-

Susan: Volunteer and Cotuit until he became chief...

Barbara: Right, right.

Susan: But he was a professional firefighter...

Tye: Before that.

Susan: Before that. He worked for- I don't know what year- I think maybe even before World War Two he was working for the town. [unintelligible]

Tye: So was the only fire person in those years the chief in Cotuit.

Barbara: Yes.

Susan: I believe so.

Tye: And part of his job was to visually look around the town- look around the village?

Barbara: Well, he wasn't only chief. He was also worked for the-

Susan: Forest fire ward.

Barbara: Forest fire ward. So he had really two jobs.

Susan: Yes.

Tye: Overlapping jobs.

Susan: This was a part time job here in Cotuit. [unintelligible] Chief was a part time job.

Tye: So the chief job must have been organizing the volunteers and making sure you had a trained force of volunteers who could do it or was the chief also, um, scoping out? I mean, I'm trying to figure out who was up in the fighter tower.

Barbara: You're better off talking to my brother about that.

Tye: Okay.

Susan: He can answer all those questions.

Tye: Fire towers was volunteers?

Susan: No, those were paid.

Tye: They were paid. For the town or for the village?

Susan and Barbara: The town.

Tye: Okay. And the village only had a part time chief, and the town had the professionals, which is where your dad was working?

Susan: Yes.

Barbara: Well, my father was fire chief, we had, um, the fire, radio and transmitter. And in the kitchen right here, we could blow the whistle from here, um, and there was - the non emergency line that came in through here. And my mother- people would call here for a rescue. Well, then it would come through to here because of the fire department. But my mother would get up at night, answer the phone and call people to go take the ambulance to go to so and so's house because...

Susan: But I remember all before there was no- before the ambulance. And, um, I can remember when they - you- my brother can answer those questions. He knows all about the fire department.

Tye: What was you- you were about to say you remember before they had the ambulance?

Susan: Oh, yes. Like people would come to the house sometimes. My dad would transport people in his own car.

Tye: So were you being awoken during the night for these emergency services?

Susan: Well, my- I remember one time my parents were away, and I must have been 18, maybe. I've slept in their room, and the phone rang and I and also- the the Tony Souza, who was the first assistant, I guess, Fire Chief, I think that's what, what he was called. And he had a phone at his house too. And he- so I'm picking up the phone and he's saying, you know, "Susan? Blow the whistle."

Tye: Jeez.

Susan: Because you know, I'm woken up in the middle of the night. So yeah. And we- the whistle was always blown at 12 o'clock a test.

Phil: Yeah, Every day.

Susan: Every day [unintelligible].

Barabara: When we needed a radio check, we could say...

Phil: Yeah. And that certainly was going still in my youth. That was how you knew...

Susan: Sure.

Phil: When you're out sailing, that's how you knew what time it was.

Barbara: Right.

Tye: Was there literally a whistle?

Barbara: Yes.

Susan: Oh, there was a button. You press the button. Yeah, I mean, you press the button. You hold it for a certain until- you can hear that, I mean, it's right there.

Tye: And you could hear everything?

Susan: The other way, it went-

Phil: Every, everybody in town heard.

Susan: Yeah.

Barbara: someone from town complained about it and that's why it came down.

Tye: When did it come down?

Phil: It had to be late 60s, maybe early 70s.

Susan: I was going to tell you about the whistle. You hold the button and you could hear it go up to a certain point and then you let go of the button and it would come down. And then you press the button again, because it had to go five times. And I think it was two times a rescue.

Barbara: Yes.

Phil: But once... [unintelligible]

Tye: So that must have been, um, a kind of job that was perpetual and never let up. It's going all night. Your mother sounds like she had great patience. And um...

Barbara: Yeah, she did.

Susan: Yeah, it was seven children (laughs).

Tye: That and the- yeah. I mea, I just can't imagine with five kids in a house coming home one day and saying "By the way, can we bring in two more?"

Barbara: And they love them like they were theirs.

Susan: No, there weren't five children at that time.

Tye: Oh, gotcha.

Susan: There were four.

Tye: Four.

Susan: But there's 16 years difference between myself and our youngest brother.

Tye: Do you think that was because other kids came in? And they, um waited a while?

Susan: No, they didn't, no. In those days there was no ...

Tye: No waiting.

Susan: No waiting [unintelligible].

Barbara: Myself and my younger brother were mistakes.

Susan: Well, I think...

Barbara: But my mother always said great ones.

Susan: They weren't planned.

Barbara: They were not...

Susan: None of the children, none of the children were planned.

Tye: The- from your younger brother, you're the oldest?

Susan: Mh hm.

Tye: From the younger to the, um, to you, how many years?

Susan: 16.

Tye: 16. And 14 between you?

Susan: 12. 12 between us.

Tye: So long time.

Susan: She was only a year old. She was a year old when the foster children came.

Tye: Wow. And so they became...

Barbara: Part of the family. Matter of fact, my foster brother was the first to have a grandchild, and she is just, you know, the first grandchild.

Susan: Great family.

Barbara: And she is just the-

Susan: Special. She's a sweetheart.

Tye: Can- I don't want to, I don't want to dominate. And I don't want to only stick to fire theme. But when there was, um, I would imagine something that kept a fire chief up nights was also having a hotel in town. And you've got all of these people in one building that could go up in flames. Was there a special, um, focus on the pines are on the hotel? Or you don't know?

Barbara: I don't know.

Susan: I don't know anything about that.

Tye: How much do you remember them being a part of the community, the hotels? Or did they seem like they were separate things and separate people and whatever.

Barbara: To me, they were separate.

Tye: Oh, they were?

Susan: And we - I felt totally separate from the summer colony. We were- the Dottridge's are a very close family. Um, and we were you know, maybe it's a little more spread out now. But we didn't go anywhere. I was, I was happy at home.

Barbara: Yeah, to go to Hyannis was a huge deal.

Tye: You were self-contained. One of the things they say about the, um, the Kennedys was when they lived in Hyannis, they had just the right number of kids to have their own baseball team. And they self contained. It sounds like you have your own compound here.

Susan: We did. And Monday we went to a memorial service for Jerry Morgan, who, he was one of the circle here. I mean, they were, there were- there was he and his younger brothers...

Phil: Not doctor just [unintelligible]?

Barbara and Susan: Right, right.

Barbara: But my brother Danny has some stories about he and Jerry Morgan to tell you, which also coincide with this house.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Susan: So I mean, there was-

Tye: There was a community here that was self contained. And you didn't need...

Susan: Right.

Tye: And the... was there... so having a school that had that few people and having that few year round kids, did your world go to them or it was just here? The other kids in town or were you...

Susan: Um, Betsy Reid is my cousin. And she's my age. So that was, um I mean, I had a friend from the time I was born, you know? I did. I was good friends with with a few of the girls.

Tye: But and I ask and you don't have to answer this question. You said your age. What is your age?
Susan?

Susan: I am going to be 80 in September.

Tye: Right, so you're about the...

Susan: 1942.

Tye: And you're even younger than that.

Susan: She was born in 1954.

Tye: Wow.

Phil: Is Vicky Viera the same age?

Barbara: Vicky Viera is 10 days younger than me.

Phil: Oh, okay. [unintelligible]

Barbara: When my...

Phil: And just a block away right?

Barbara: Right. My- in my school, my grade, there were four girls in Cotuit born in August, the 4th the 14th, the 16th and the 24th.

Phil: Wow.

Barbara: So my cousin was one of them. And then Vicki.

Tye: And when you were in school the elementary school was here?

Barbara: Mh hm.

Tye: Did you go- when you got out of elementary school did you have to leave Cotuit?

Barbara: Yes. We went to Hyannis, um, for junior high school, which is, um, is it Pope John Paul now?

Susan: Well.

Barbara: South Street.

Phil and Tye: Yeah.

Barbara: Well, I went to the high school that's there now.

Susan: When I left here,

Tye: Yeah.

Susan: What year was it? 54, 50... I don't know. When I was 12 years old.

Tye: So it would've been 54, she's 12 years younger.

Susan: Yeah, yeah, it would have been. I went and took the bus, can you imagine? Cotuit, a little 12 year old from Cotuit, who hardly went out of Cotuit, to take a bus to go to Hyannis to school.

Tye: Big deal.

Susan: And the school- is the same. My parents went to that- again, my parents went to that school. It was seven through twelve.

Tye: Did you have- when you went to a place like Hyannis, um, did it seem like you were from the sticks being from Cotuit?

Susan: No.

Tye: Nobody gave you a hard time?

Barbara: Oh, no.

Susan: No. Everybody- it was just Main Street, you know? Hyannis was quite different.

Phil: Yeah., like Cotuit, pretty much just...

Susan: Exactly. And we went to Falmouth too- shopping. [unintelligible] in Falmouth. Actually, they used- see they were related to the Malchmans who had a store. Am I right?

Barbara: In Cotuit.

Susan: In Cotuit. Malchmans had the store in Cotuit. And the Isaacson's were related to them.

Phil: It was a clothing...

Susan: Clothing Store. Yes. And they- one of the brothers, Isaacson's, Isaacson's brothers would actually come to the house with shoes. I can remember my mother buying shoes for us, from him to have because he came to Cotuit. And they were good quality too. So...

Tye: But so one of the things that must have limited geographically your world is- if your father was off working and he had the only car, then you couldn't go anywhere beyond where you could walk or ride your bike.

Barbara: Right.

Tye: So your world was...

Barbara: When did mom get her license? Do you remember? Because she used to drive us.

Susan: I think it was 1952.

Barbara and Susan: [unintelligible]

Susan: She used to say she was pregnant. She had a stillborn in 1952. She had, actually had seven children. They had, actually had seven children. So...

Tye: Wow. Two stillborns?

Barbara: One miscarriage, I think.

Tye: One miscarriage, one stillborn.

Susan: Yeah, it was a little further, I think, than a miscarriage, but yes.

Tye: And did she ever get her own car? Or she had her license and used your dad's car?

Susan: When I was working at the electric company, they bought a second car. And it was partly my, you know, I, my mother and I kind of shared it. Because I drove to work with, um, Marilyn Pierce who lived next door. You know, Richard, I don't know if you are familiar with the Pierce's.

Phil: Yeah, yeah. On the corner.

Susan: On the corner over there. And then Pierce the son on this corner. Do you know what I mean?

Phil: I didn't. [unintelligible]

Babara: Well, Dick Pierce.

Susan: Dick Pierce. But the- that whole strip from Main Street to high street...

Phil: Oh, yeah, yeah yeah.

Susan: Was all Pierce.

Phil: Right, right. The yellow house.

Susan: Yes. That was their parents.

Phil: Yeah, yeah, no I remember that.

Susan: His parents. Yes. Was he around your year? No, he was older than you.

Phil: No, older, yeah.

Susan: That's one thing that's been hard for me since coming back here.

Phil: Figuring out generations.

Susan: Generations, and I look at people and they say, you know, yeah, it's good. Anyway, sometimes like they say ridiculous things.

Phil: Yeah, it's true. I do it. You know, I do it even within my family. I forget who it was, you know...

Barbara: So in 1969 through 72, the summers I worked at the coop.

Phil: Okay, yeah, yeah.

Barbara: So I could have waited on you with Kenny Candy.

Phil: Oh, I'm sure you did.

Tye: Who was running the coop then?

Barbara: Milton.

Tye: So he was- through the whole time you were there.

Susan: Oh, until he died. Oh, yes.

Phil: It was fun. [unintelligible]

Susan: Yes, it was, it was.

Tye: So I loved listening to his voice last night. But is that your memory? Not having known him, my image of him is just what Phil said last night, which is that he was the glue that kept a lot of this village together and that he was a generous enough guy.

Barbara: He carried that [unintelligible] said that. Yeah.

Tye: And did you see that firsthand when you were doing it? Or you weren't aware of it? [unintelligible]

Barbara: I wasn't aware of it. I would write up the slips when I worked there. But I wasn't aware of...

Tye: That he was [unintelligible]

Barbara: Yeah. But people would come in and give me money to put towards their bill.

Phil: And you ran the cash then.

Barbara: Yeah, I did. With Marion and...

Phil: Yeah, cuz I just- I mean, well, it's funny that I don't remember because my memory is that it was either Amelia or Marion. That was it.

Barbara: well, I worked...

Phil: Did you work in the evening or something?

Barbara. I worked from nine to twelve and six to nine.

Phil: Okay, okay.

Barbara: So that I could go to the beach during the day. And then at nine o'clock at night you go out.

Phil: Yeah, so maybe I was generally there in the afternoon or something.

Barbara: Yeah.

Phil: Yeah, that would make sense.

Susan: I can add to that because I would go, my mother would send me to the coop with a list. And I didn't go with any money.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: They carried my parents.

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: I was aware of that.

Tye: Do you mean that your parents were having a tough time?

Barbara: Well, our parents didn't have a lot of money.

Susan: It was, yeah, it was always tough for them.

Tye: So how could he do this? He was carrying a lot of people. How could he? He was not a wealthy guy, Crocker, or was he?

Susan: Well-

Barbara: I don't know...

Susan: You know, that...

Barbara: Maybe he made enough in the summer to be able to carry people through. I don't know. Because it was busy in the summer.

Phil: There was carrying and there was [unintelligible]. Nobody had money, ever. I mean, nobody paid with cash. Everybody just signed their slip.

Susan: Right.

Phil: Whether they... and if..

Barbara: Paid or not.

Phil: And if they were wealthy, you know...

Tye: You paid...

Phil: Most people just paid it. But I think what was cool was the fact that some people weren't as able to pay back. So it's not. So. Yeah, there was very little, you know, cash rolling back, and I'm overstating it.

Susan: But my recollection is like, Samuel Dottridge came here. And he became wealthy. He was wealthy- as for the times.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: John, his son, John.

Phil: And you're talking now 18?

Susan: I'm talking 1800s.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: Now my- I'm talking about my descendants.

Tye: He was the one from Indiana?

Susan: Samuel Dottridge. It's the Historical Society House.

Tye: [unintelligible] And Childs was Indiana.

Susan: Right. Okay. So, Samuel was very industrious and wealthy. John was built- was a builder. He was wealthy. Bennett, I think was probably, was very- the next gen... I'm talking about generations.

Phil: Capt-

Susan: Captain Benett. He would- look at how- he was very industrious. As far as I'm concerned, he was probably the most interesting of the Dottridge descendants. And he- they should do a talk on Bennett. I- I told Cindy that.

Phil: Yeah. And he was in- he had one of the Mansard houses on Main Street?

Susan: Yes.

Phil: Which belonged to...

Susan: Now, um, his son, Earnest, um, on Main Street...

Barbara: No, School-

Susan: School Street, I'm sorry. Um, came a lot. I mean, he studied his family and then World War I came along, and then the Depression. Well, the Depression was, was devastating on These Cotuit families.

Phil: Yeah. A-a-and the whaling industry had just gone down, so and the trade, I think, you know was flattened out. So there probably wasn't much to do to make money.

Barbara: Right.

Susan: My mother's family, my grandfather worked for the A&P, they had plenty of food. They did, you know, he had a job in food.

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Barbara: So, I think her brother also worked at the coop, and he worked at the meat counter.

Phil: Uh huh.

Barbara: So he was taught by Lou how to cut up the meat and all that kinds of of stuff.

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: Were the prices here, um... so, I assume that anytime I buy something at the Coop that I'm doing it either because I'm lazy or because I want to support the Coop.

Barbara: Yep.

Tye: But that I'm going to pay a higher price.

Barbara: Yes.

Tye: Were the prices always higher than the A&P and others?

Barbara: I don't know, but I tend to not think so.

Tye: Ah-

Barbara: Well,

Tye: Because people were doing everything, they were a real competitor of the A&P.

Susan: When my mother could, we- I can remember going to the box store on West Main Street. So, she must have been able to buy groceries. She was very thrifty. Very-

Barbara: She sewed all of our clothes.

Tye: She must have had to have been thrifty to deal with seven kids and, um...

Susan: And she was a good cook. We ate very well. I don't know how our parents did it. They took us to the dentist.

Barbara: Well, he also carried it- them, the dentist.

Phil: Where was the dentist?

Susan: Are you talking about...?

Barbara: I'm talking about Dr. Ziggler.

Susan: Honey, I'm going back to the 40s [laughs].

Tye: You're saying it was more than just the Coop that was carrying people. It was, and I presume...

Barbara: The dentist that I went to- I was born in 54- carried my parents and such. Because there were all these kids, and he wanted them to take care of their teeth. So he said, just keep sending us a check.

Tye: Wow.

Barbara: You know, and my father sometimes, he would get up to a certain level where he would go to the bank and borrow money to pay off his debts so then it would start building up again, it was just...

Tye: So let me ask you... Were they generous because they liked your family, were they generous because they knew he was the fire chief and that he was doing something civic minded?

Barbara: I don't know. He was a great guy, but I don't know that.

Tye: That's a lot of people carrying and-

Susan: Well, the dentist was kind of a friend of mothers, mother's, mother's sister.

Barbara: Sister.

Tye: Did the doctor carry?

Barbara: Oh, I'm sure he did, Dr. Higgins. Oh...

Phil: He started up a fund, as I understand, that there was actually a fund to carry people in Cotuit. So, I'm sure he did plenty himself. But he also raised raised money for them.

Susan: Yeah, he and my father were very close.

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: I mean father went there- went a lot. And, um, yeah.

Barbara: I was telling somebody last night that the reason that I liked scallop shells so much was because I was over at the island with Vicki Viera and her family. And I stepped on a scallop shell, it went into my foot, it never bled. And so I came back, went to Dr. Higgins with my foot up on his desk, and he was pulling pieces out.

Phil: Oh yeah, jeez.

Barbara: So I, you know, I've had scallop shells...

Susan: He pulled pieces out of my [unintelligible]. Yeah we- I'm sure there are lots of Dr. Higgins stories.

Tye: I think we're just- this is a different sense of what a community was and people carrying other people suggested the village was really bound together.

Phil: Taking on foster kids, I think there was a lot of that.

Barbara: Yeah..

Phil: That kind of thing.

Tye: So it is also was a little bit of a, um, miracle or a, um, story that a family that was of as modest means as your family was, would think nothing of bringing in two kids that you rescued.

Susan: And it was not only them, like Bobby said it was- their siblings, three of their siblings, especially two of them. I remember here

Tye: Spent a lot of time here even though they weren't living here.

Susan: They were older than me.

Barbara: They did live with us, but only for periods of time, not for the whole duration.

Susan: Right. Yeah.

Tye: It's really interesting, and it's very different than, um, previous interviews we've done in terms of getting a sense. You know, one thing for Milton Crocker to do it, but dentists and doctors, and everybody was doing, presume, I presume a few head and other business, you know, in town or whatever, that those people must have been doing the same thing because people couldn't afford it.

Susan: Probably

Barbara: I went to Dr. Rapp's house one time for him to examine me because I'd fallen down the stairs. And Dr. Higgins was away. So my father called Dr. Rapp and I went over there.

Tye: Wow. And you think he was paid?

Barbara: I have no idea.

Tye: You have no idea.

Barbara: I have no idea.

Tye: Be really interesting, to, um, so next time I see him, I'm going to ask him whether he was carrying a lot of people. And the- it must not have been easy to make business. I come from a family where my father is a doctor, and he would tell me stories all the time about before there was Medicare or Medicaid. The doctors just carried people.

Susan: Oh, sure.

Barbara: And he was a radiologist, so I don't even know [unintelligible]

Tye: He was a family doctor before he was a radiologist.

Barbara: He was.

Phil: Very, very briefly

Tye: Briefly.

Susan: Yeah, I was going to say that it had to have been briefly.

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: Because I babysat for them at one point. One summer. Full time for a while. And...

Tye: Were they easy kids?

Susan: The two, the two children?

Tye: Yeah, the two children.

Susan: Yeah.

Tye: So we did an interview with Jesse and her parents after we interviewed Keith alone and the. And it was really interesting, because it's interesting to me always, when a kid thinks they know the story of what went on in the family. And her mother especially was correcting all the time and said, "No, you think that happened, but this is what really happened."

Susan: Yeah. And Jan is the older one. I don't...I don't know how much

Barbara: She's [unintelligible] years older than me.

Phil: Jan and Stuart would have been...

Barbara and Susan: Right.

Susan: So how much younger...?

Barbara: Stuart is my age.

Susan: Is Jessica?

Barbara: Jessica?

Phil: Jessica is, uh, born in 57 I think.

Susan: Ah, it's hard for me to think how old.. When was.. So Stuy was your age?

Barbara: Mh hm, and Jan was two years old.

Susan: Jan was two years older, yeah. So she would have been born in 52.

Tye: So, you can, you don't have to answer this, but the... Susan, when you got to work for the electric company, and your parents are working hard, but also have limited means. Do you contribute your income to the households income?

Susan: 10 dollars a week.

Tye: You did.

Barbara: I paid 25. And I remember coming home. I was so excited I got a raise. And my father says, "Well, I was just thinking about asking you for more money!" He went up 5 dollars (laughs).

Susan: Yeah, they didn't ask for much.

Barbara: No.

Tye: So that was- but you were living here. And that probably didn't come close to covering just what you were doing out of school.

Barbara: No, and we were out of high school. So you could have been out on your own, but you weren't so...

Tye: Sure.

Susan: Well, but when- there weren't seven children living here when you're talking about.

Barbara: No, no. There were like two living here then: Chuck and I.

Susan: Yeah. I mean, there were- there were five years between five children with - that that include the foster children. So from me to my brother David there were five years.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Susan: So I mean, it left the two younger ones, really.

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: How long ago did your parents die?

Susan: 2007.

Tye: Both?

Susan and Barbara: No.

Susan: He died in 96. He had- he fell and had a head injury. He died because of a head injury. He probably would have lived into his nineties. His father- his brother just died last year. 94.

Phil: Spike?

Susan: Spike, yeah. And the sisters were 90s.

Barbara: And Spike had a brain injury. He had- was it a blood clot or something?

Susan: I think so. He should've died.

Barbara: Yeah. He was driving a school bus for July 4th. Fire-fireworks up in Falmouth.

Susan: I don't know if it was that or...

Barbara: A firetruck, not a school bus.

Susan: Was it the road race?

Barbara: Maybe it was the road race? I don't remember. But he was transporting people. And he was sitting in the parking lot and he had this thing happen. Yeah.

Susan: It was right around the corner from the Falmouth hospital.

Tye: It's a miracle [unintelligible].

Barbara: It's a miracle that he wasn't driving.

Phil: Jeez.

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: They sent him to Boston...

Barbara: And then he [unintelligible] for many years afterwards. Our father got through with the town and the fire department when he was 50 because of depression. There were a lot of things that happened around- there was an accident in Cotuit where there was a whole car full of Belgians people from Gelb, Belgium, they burnt up, they couldn't get them out.

Phil: In Cotuit?

Barbara: [unintelligible]

Phil: I never heard about that.

Susan: There were two really, there were two really bad accidents. I remember that one that was like 28 by Putnam Avenue. And there was one in Mashpee by Quimiquisset road on that hill. Yeah. Really that...

Barbara: So, I mean, that was [unintelligible]

Susan: All the fires and everything. David had, David...

Barbara: Our brother, David, has PTSD because of fire department work. And depression.

Phil: Oh boy, wow.

Susan: Yeah.

Phil: I know. It's something that, you know, the current fire department's very sensitive to.

Barbara: They are.

Phil: Counseling.

Barbara: Yes.

Tye: But it must have been worse then because you could do this.

Barbara: Right.

Susan: Right. They didn't, they didn't, they didn't know about treating. It's like the people that came back from World War, um, II. I know that my- George's husband had a lot of depression.

Tye: Yeah, but I'm not talking about treating the depression. I'm saying also, you have jobs of life and other things...

Phil: Oh, yeah.

Tye: That fire departments can call on.

Susan: Oh, yeah. They didn't have any of that. Right. Yeah, it was very limited back then, what they could do.

Tye: Wow.

Susan: But- Benny went, I think Benny went to that too.

Barbara: Because I know Eddie Sinsa did. He's- anyways... I found it very sad when my dad passed away, because in 84, he became bipolar. And it would be every two years 84, 86 and 88 that it would happen. He would go on a high hit and think he was feeling good. He didn't get his medication. So he would go into high and he would do bizarre things. Um, and when he fell and hit his head, I cried all the way to the hospital asking God to please take him because he was so depressed all the time. He was so

thin. I really think that his body wasn't absorbing nutrition. And I just found it so sad that he helped so many people

Susan: And he was so loving.

Barbara: He did, he loved everybody.

Susan: But he was a great father. I mean...

Barbara: Yeah.

Susan: I mean, he gave me a hug. He gave us hugs. I mean all the time, you know.

Tye: You think he developed this? You don't think he had it? Um, you never saw signs of it earlier than you are describing now.

Susan: No, but my mother used to say that started when her mother died. It was like, he was really close to his grandparents. And, um, yeah.

Barbara: But his sister also, Betsy Reed's mother was also bipolar. Just so- you don't have to use that, but I'm just telling you the background of some of that, you know what...

Susan: Yeah.

Barbara: How I felt, and it was a lot different for Susan or my brothers because they remembered a lot more from their youth with him that when I did.

Susan: We had a lot more years.

Barbara: A lot more years. Yeah.

Susan: Yeah.

Barbara: And I was the one to find him when he...

Phil: That's tough too.

Barbara: Anyways, anything else? What else?

Phil: Well, we're coming up. We're over an hour.

Tye: We are over an hour. We normally give people a break after an hour.

Susan: We're fine.

Tye: What, um, did we miss?

Phil: No, I think we've hit some, you know, great topics.

Susan: I could mention again the Coop. I mean, it was a pleasure to go in there. And they had- it was a full grocery store.

Phil: Yeah.

Susan: They had everything that you needed.

Phil: Carts.

Susan: Yeah.

Barbara: I- growing up it's good to let we never attended to like summer people, because they invaded us. Um, but when I worked at the Coop, I fell in love with the summer people because I really got to know them. I remember Mrs. Wesson coming in with her shirtwaist dresses, sometimes they would all the way back-lined up to the back door, not where the back door is now, but you know, it was just it was really fun meeting all the people and...

Susan: It's neat going back in there.

Barbara: Yeah, although it's changed so much.

Susan: But, just going you know, just...

Barbara: Going in the building.

Susan: You know, one thing that impresses me about Cotuit is that the houses that were here, like, you know, in my youth... any changes that have been made, almost all the changes are good. I mean, they still look look [unintelligible]

Phil: That Bennet Dottridge house looks fantastic.

Barbara: Pardon me?

Phil: The Bennet Dottridge House.

Barbara: Yes.

Phil: That house looks fantastic.

Barbara: Yes. Now, our aunt Lola and Uncle Burley, Lola was grandpa Dott's aunt.

Susan: Yeah.

Barbara: They lived in that house. They lived in that house. And I remember going in there and they had a kerosene heater, and oh my gosh, did that stink. And we would take them for rides. My father would go for rides all the time, because he had to be near his radio. So we go for rides and, oh, they just smelled so bad from that kerosene.

Susan: When he- see he was on this forest fire patrol, and they would work seven days a week. And so his day off, he'd take- he'd take my brother and I remember, I think it was just Benny and I, and we would go to the fire tower climb the fire tower.

Barbara: Yes.

Susan: It was so scary.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Susan: I don't know. It wasn't fun for me. It was scary. Cuz you it- you know, it moved.

Tye: Is Ben, the brother that you're suggesting that we talk to?

Barbara and Susan: Yes.

Tye: And so what would if, um... when I turn this off, I'd love to get a phone number on...

Phil: Does he do email?

Barbara: Yes.

Tye: Even better. So who else? You know the community and we're, um, interested in, um, year round people with roots and with enough age that they would remember back. Who else would you put on a list?

Barbara: I was trying to think of that because you mentioned that last night.

Susan: I mean, I told you that I thought the best information would come from Roger Reed. I mean, he's one of the older ones that can remember things.

Tye: Sure

Barbara: I've talked to him.

Susan: I know you have.

Phil: Yeah.

Barbara: How about Ronny [unintelligible]?

Phil: Oh, that's an interesting thought.

Susan: yeah, he's almost as old as I am.

Phil: Was he born here?

Susan: No.

Phil: I didn't think so, yeah.

Susan: Nope. And his brother too, his brother's a little bit older than Ryan.

Phil: Yup.

Barbara: To be honest, I actually went through my phone book trying to come up with people but...

Tye: So that's interesting. [unintelligible] came up last night. Remind me the context last night, when the- discussion of [unintelligible]

Phil: That was Soloman [unintelligible] house. Right.

Tye: OK. And this is- [unintelligible] real estate as well they do...

Susan: That was his mother- his mother started that.

Barbara: Oh, yeah.

Susan: Ronnie's mother started the real estate. She was very industrious.

Phil: And she's got a daughter... right down there.

Barbara: Yep. They were trying to take over the Dottridge's.

Susan: Well, it was weird last night because I had said to Bobby, I don't think I can go at seven o'clock. I sit in my chair at five o'clock and I'm done for the day. Well, my son and I made a date for lunch. I mean for dinner last night. And I had to stop at my brother's so we ended up at [unintelligible].

Everyone: Oh.

Susan: Instead of being [unintelligible].

Phil: Sat by the window and listened.

Susan: Well, and Fred Johansson came and sat next to my son.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Susan: He said, I skipped out on Sharon's. And on the other side of me is Sarah Eric.

Tye: That's so funny, so we were smelling the-

Barbara: The food.

Everyone: [unintelligible]

Susan: When I lived on School Street, just past the post office, I was walking

