

COTUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INTERVIEW

FEBRUARY 21, 1978

REMINISCENCES WITH HELEN MACLELLAN AND SALLY SAWYER

BETTY PECK, INTERVIEWER

SALLY SAWYER BEGINS: I AM SALLY SAWYER, THANK YOU FOR THIS INTERVIEW FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THIS IS FEBRUARY 21, 1978. AND WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE HOUSE?

MACLELLAN: LOVE TO, IT'S MY FAVORITE SUBJECT.

SAWYER: THE THING YOU KNOW THE MOST ABOUT, PROBABLY. GOING BACK, WAY INTO THE 40'S. YOU MIGHT TELL THEM FIRST ABOUT HOW YOU AND CHARLES BOUGHT IT WHEN IT HAD LAIN IDLE THROUGH THE WAR.

MACLELLAN: WELL, I DID QUITE A LOT WITH CHARLES ALMY, WHO LIVED FURTHER UP THE HARBOR HERE. AT ONE POINT IN THAT TIME HE BECAME INTERESTED, WITH ME, IN THIS PARTICULAR PROPERTY. I LATER BROUGHT A MAP AND HE WAS A PART OWNER FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME. OF COURSE, HE LIVED UP IN THE NORTHERN END OF THE BAY.

PECK: WHAT WE CALL THE NARROWS.

MACLELLAN: NO, NORTH OF THE NARROWS.

PECK: NORTH BAY.

MACLELLAN: BEYOND PT. ISABELLA. CHARLES ALMY WAS JUST THIS SIDE, BEFORE YOU GO INTO PT. ISABELLA DRIVE. IN THE COVE THERE.

PECK: THIS HOUSE IS ONE OF THE FEW IN COTUIT DESIGNED BY GUY LOWELL.

MACLELLAN: YES, WE HAVE THE PLANS THAT SHOW ALL THE THINGS ON THE MAIN HOUSE AND THE ADDITION WHERE WE'RE SITTING NOW, WHICH IS THE EXTENSION OF THE DINING ROOM AND THE EXTENSION OF THE BEDROOM - WHICH WAS MRS. LOWELL'S BEDROOM OVER. WHICH GIVES VERY LOVELY, EXTRA SPACE IN THE UPPER ROOM. THIS APPARENTLY WAS DONE TO ACCOMMODATE A VERY LARGE, TALL, HEAVILY CARVED - I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT, CHINA CLOSET. WE DIDN'T REALLY WANT IT. IT DOMINATED THE WHOLE ROOM TREMENDOUSLY. BUT - WE LIKE THE EXTRA SPACE

BECAUSE IT GIVES JUST THIS MUCH MORE ROOM. IT'S A VERY CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED SET OF PLANS WITH EVERY LITTLE DETAIL CAREFULLY WRITTEN OUT, JUST HOW CAREFULLY THE THING MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AND EVERYTHING MUST BE KEPT COVERED. BEAUTIFUL SCRIPT, OH, SUCH LOVELY HANDWRITING ON THE PLANS.

PECK: OH MY. THAT WAS AROUND 1864, DID YOU SAY?

MACLELLAN: THAT'S WHAT - I'VE BEEN TALKING TO HARRIET CABOT. THAT'S WHAT WE'VE CONCLUDED. THAT THE MAIN HOUSE, THIS SECTION, WAS APPARENTLY 1864.

PECK: SALLY, YOU'RE SITTING FACING THE VIEW, I HAVE MY BACK TO IT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO DESCRIBE IT A LITTLE? BECAUSE IT IS AN EXCEPTIONAL VIEW.

SAWYER: WELL, OF COURSE WE THINK IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SPOT. HELEN AND I OFTEN SAY EVERY MORNING WHEN WE COME DOWN, IT'S JUST ABOUT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD. WE THINK IT IS. LOOKING RIGHT NOW OUT AT COTUIT BAY AND OUT TO THE RIGHT I CAN STILL, SITTING RIGHT HERE, LOOK PAST THE DUNE, DEAD NECK AND OVER TO THE SOUND. SO THAT IT'S A LOVELY EXPANSE OF WATERFRONT HERE. WE ARE NEVER ENDINGLY GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO LIVE HERE.

PECK: AND HELEN, YOU -

MACLELLAN: WE LOOK ACROSS TO OYSTER HARBORS.

PECK: AND YOU SAID THAT YOUR UNCLE OWNED A STRIP RIGHT -

MACLELLAN: HE BOUGHT ALL THE ISLAND FROM A LOT OF DIFFERENT TITLES, BUT THE PROPERTY THAT'S IMMEDIATELY EAST OF HERE, ACROSS THE BAY, BELONGED TO THE LOWELLS. AND WENT ALONG WITH THE LOWELL PROPERTY.

SAWYER: AND THAT WAS HOW YOU HAPPENED TO REALLY BE KIND OF INTERESTED IN THIS PARTICULAR PART OF COTUIT, BECAUSE YOU'D COME OVER WITH YOUR UNCLE TO SEE MR. LOWELL.

MACLELLAN: YES.

PECK: AND WHO WAS YOUR UNCLE?

MACLELLAN: RICHARD WINFIELD. AND HE WAS THE MAN WHO BOUGHT THE ISLAND WITH TWO, THREE OTHER FRIENDS.

SAWYER: I THINK IT'S SO INTERESTING. BECAUSE HE WAS A QUITE YOUNG MAN AND HE'D COME, AS HELEN HAS OFTEN TOLD THE STORY, COME DOWN HERE BECAUSE HE WAS INTERESTED IN OYSTERS. WASN'T THAT RIGHT?

MACLELLAN: FISHING, TROUT FISHING.

SAWYER: WELL, YES, LATER, BUT I THOUGHT HE FIRST CAME WITH HIS FRIEND BECAUSE OF SOME INTEREST IN THE OYSTER BUSINESS. THEY WENT OVER, ON THE ISLAND, WHICH WAS HEAVENLY WHICH WAS, BEFORE THE HURRICANE - JUST VIRGIN LAND AND BEAUTIFUL. SANDY ROADS AND TALL TREES. HE WAS WISE ENOUGH THEN TO SEE THAT IT WOULD BECOME A VALUABLE RECREATIONAL PIECE OF PROPERTY SOMEDAY AND BEGAN COLLECTING ALL THE 'WOOD LOT' LOTS. AND GOT THE WHOLE ISLAND TOGETHER IN ONE HOLDING. THEN IN 1925 -

PECK: REALLY, IN ONE HOLDING!

MACLELLAN: YES, IT WAS REALLY A TREMENDOUS PIECE OF WORK. THERE WERE ABOUT FORTY TWO TITLES INVOLVED.

SAWYER: THERE WERE WHAT - ONLY ABOUT FIVE BIG PIECES OF FIVE ACRES OF SO ON THE SOUTHWEST SHORE THAT HAD BEEN SOLD, AT THE TIME THAT IT WAS TURNED OVER TO THE FIRST OYSTER HARBORTS CORPORATION.

MACLELLAN: WAS TRUE.

SAWYER: THAT WAS IN 1925, 26.

MACLELLAN: WELL, THE SOUTHWEST CORNER HAD BEEN THE FIRST PART OF IT TO BE DEVELOPED, BECAUSE IT WAS WHAT FACED, WHAT THE SUMMER PEOPLE WANTED - THEN - IT WAS A FETISH WITH THEM ALL - AS WE IN COTUIT THINK. THEY MUST HAVE THAT SOUTHWEST BREEZE. RIGHT IN THE FACE, IF POSSIBLE. SO THAT WAS - I KNOW MY FAMILY TALKED ABOUT THAT. OF COURSE, WHERE WE LIVED ON THE OLD FARM THAT WE HAD IN OSTERVILLE, UP NEAR THE VILLAGE. WE DID GO RIGHT TO THE WATER AND DID FACE THE SOUTHWEST BREEZE. AND OF COURSE, COTUIT WAS HOT - HOT - COTUIT. TEN DEGREES HOTTER IN THE SUMMER.

SAWYER: THAT OLD IDEA STILL PERSISTS. WE USED TO RUN ACROSS IT WHEN WE WERE IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE. WE'D SAY WE'VE GOT A NICE PLACE IN COTUIT. NO, NO I HEAR THAT COTUIT IS HOT. TRUE! NO SOUTHWEST IN COTUIT. NO BUT LOADS OF SOUTH ACCESS. THE ONE VERY FORTUNATE ABOUT THE WAY THIS SHORELINE IS, IS THAT YOU HIT RIGHT INTO THE SOUTH. AND IF YOU ARE ENOUGH EAST OF THE NEXT PIECE BELOW YOU, SOUTHWEST, YOU'RE GETTING THE SOUTHWEST BREEZE AND YOU'RE GETTING IT ON ALL THESE BLUFFS IN COTUIT WHEREVER THEY ARE YOU GET THE SOUTHWEST BREEZE.

PRETTY GOOD TO BE PROTECTED FROM SOME OF THE NORTHEASTERS. AND YOU CAN LOOK ALL THE WAY UP THE BAY, ALL THE WAY UP TO OSTERVILLE, TOO.

MACLELLAN: YES, THAT HOUSE THAT YOU SEE WAY UP BEYOND THE BLUE STRETCH AT THE NARROWS THERE, WHICH DOESN'T FREEZE MUCH, THAT'S ON THE OSTERVILLE SIDE.

PECK: OH, IT'S MARVELOUS, I WOULD NEVER LEAVE THIS ROOM.

SAWYER: WELL, WE NEVER LEAVE VERY MUCH, UNLESS WE HAVE TO. CONFIRMED COTUITERS.

MACLELLAN: MY AFFECTION FOR COTUIT GOES WAY BACK TO THE FACT THAT WHEN I FIRST STARTED IN BUSINESS, ON MY OWN HERE, IT WAS THE COTUIT PEOPLE WHO WERE THE MOST CORDIAL, TO ME, PERSONALLY. I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN IT.

PECK: SO YOU STARTED OUT IN BUSINESS IN COTUIT?

MACLELLAN: WELL, I - WELL, NO, BUT I DID START AND IT DID INCLUDE COTUIT, ALTHOUGH I WAS LIVING IN OSTERVILLE, MY OFFICE WAS IN OSTERVILLE. I HAD ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF IT, AND AS I SAY, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ALWAYS SO NICE. I BECAME FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE LIKE THE ALMYS, PARTICULARLY. CHARLES WAS A PARTNER OF MINE IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THIS PROPERTY, A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN THE WHOLE POINT WAS ALL TOGETHER.

SO THAT I HAD A GREAT AFFECTION FOR THE PEOPLE. AND IT WAS THE SAME WAY WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN BUSINESS OVER HERE, LIKE THE RYDERS AND PEOPLE LIKE THAT, ALWAYS CORDIAL. IT WAS A BIG, IT WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE THAN THE OSTERVILLE ONE. I'M NOT CRITICAL OF THE OSTERVILLE - BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT. STILL IS, STILL IS.

PECK: AT ONE TIME YOU WERE PART OWNER OF THE COTUIT OYSTER COMPANY. WAS THAT WITH CHARLES ALMY TOO?

MACLELLAN: I WASN'T A PART OWNER OF THE COTUIT OYSTER COMPANY.

PECK: OH, YOU WEREN'T.

MACLELLAN: NO, THAT WAS MY UNCLE. HE WAS VERY -

SAWYER: WELL, BETTY MEANS THE ONE WITH MR. SMITH AND THE LITTLE - COTUIT OYSTER -

PECK: MR STOOKEY, MR. SMITH.

SAWYER: YES.

MACLELLAN: OH, I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT. WELL, THAT WAS REALLY MR. ALMY - MR. STOOKEY-

SAWYER: MR. BILL, MR. STOOKEY AND MR. SMITH.

MACLELLAN: MR. SMITH, MOSTLY, WAS THE MOST INTERESTED.

SAWYER: ANDY POST, ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WERE INVOLVED THERE. BUT THAT WAS WHEN WE JUST TRIED TO BE SURE IT DIDN'T DIE. SO MANY THINGS THAT HELEN'S TRIED TO DO TO PRESERVE WHAT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS CHARACTERISTIC AND IMPORTANT AND LOVELY.

MACLELLAN: WELL, IT WAS A VERY INTERESTING SITUATION THERE. AS YOU GO DOWN LITTLE RIVER ROAD TO THE SHORE, AND YOU PASS THE HITCHCOCK PLACE AND SO ON, AND GET DOWN INTO WHAT WAS THE PROPERTY IMMEDIATELY BEHIND THOSE SHANTIES, ONE OF THE THINGS THE SMITHS DID WHEN THEY GOT THERE WAS THAT YOU WERE PERFECTLY SURE IT WASN'T GOING TO GO INTO THE HANDS OF SOMEBODY WHO WAS GOING TO PUT IN A WHOLE BUNCH OF LITTLE HOUSES.

SO THAT, I THINK WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE IN THE TENDER LOVING CARE THAT MOST OF OUR OWNERS HAVE APPLIED TO, NOT ONLY THEIR OWN HOLDINGS, BUT WHATEVER THEY COULD DO TO PROTECT THE ENTIRE AREA OR THEIR PARTICULAR NEIGHBORHOOD. WITH THE RESULT THAT I THINK - THAT THE WEST END OF CENTERVILLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE WEST END OF CENTERVILLE - NOT WHEN YOU GET DOWN OVER TOWARD HYANNISPORT AND OSTERVILLE AND COTUIT, HAVE A KIND OF PROTECTIVE AFFECTION ON THE

PART OF THEIR OWNERS THAT I DON'T FIND - EXCEPT FOR BARNSTABLE, I THINK BARNSTABLE AND SANDWICH HAVE IT - PART OF YARMOUTHPORT. BUT NOT SUCH BIG AREAS, YOU SEE. HERE, THERE WAS THAT AFFECTION SPREAD OVER SUCH A WIDE AREA THAT IT WAS WHAT NOURISHED THE COMMUNITY, BECAUSE SOMEBODY BOUGHT, AND THEIR FRIENDS CAME - AND THAT GOES WAY BACK INTO THE 60'S, THE LAST CENTURY. IT WAS A DEVOTED LOVE.

AND THERE WAS ALWAYS THE FIGHT - I DON'T KNOW AS I'D BRING THIS UP IN A THING OF THIS KIND, PERHAPS. BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS THE FIGHT BETWEEN INTERESTS IN ANY COMMUNITY, NOT ONLY TRUE OF COTUIT, TRUE OF ALL OF CAPE VILLAGES, THAT SOMEBODY WITH A DEVELOPMENT INSTINCT OF PERHAPS WHAT WE ALL THINK OF AS THE 'WRONG KIND', FAIRLY OR UNFAIRLY.

FOR INSTANCE, THEY WANTED TO HAVE A STREET CAR LINE COMING. MY FAMILY, AS FAR BACK AS WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, LIKED TO GET HERE BECAUSE - YOU LEFT THE STREETCARS. THEY NEVER GOT ANY FARTHER THAN BUZZARDS BAY! IT WAS SOMETHING TO SAY! NO STREETCARS ON CAPE COD! BUT, I FOUND HERE, IN SOME OF THE OLD PAPERS, ALL THE PLANS FOR A STREETCAR LINE FROM SANDWICH TO COTUIT. IT NEVER GOT BUILT, BUT IT WAS CONSIDERED, SERIOUSLY!

PECK: WELL, HOW DO YOU FEEL -

MACLELLAN: AS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT!

PECK: TRAINS AND STREET CARS ARE DIFFERENT, BUT -

MACLELLAN: WELL, I MISS THE TRAIN TERRIBLY, OH I'D GIVE ANYTHING IF WELL, I THINK THE TRAIN SITUATION IS NOT ONLY A CAPE PHENOMENON. THIS IS GOING ON IN MANY, MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

SAWYER: OH, THERE WAS SOMETHING SO LOVELY ABOUT GOING TO MEET THE NEW YORK TRAIN, AND MEET YOUR FRIENDS THAT CAME DOWN FROM BOSTON ON THE TRAIN. COMING DOWN YOURSELF ON THE TRAIN. I THINK THERE'S A ROMANCE ABOUT TRAINS THAT NEVER WILL BE ABOUT ROUTE 3.

PECK: WHEN I GO TO NEW YORK, NOW, I GO BY TRAIN OR GO TO WASHINGTON.

MACLELLAN: I REMEMBER ONE SPRING COLLEGE WEEKEND WHEN I WAS STILL IN SCHOOL, COMING DOWN WITH A GROUP OF GALS FROM WELLESLEY,

THIS IS WHEN I WAS LIVING IN AUNT NELLIE'S OLD HOUSE DOWN THERE IN WEST BAY ROAD IN OSTERVILLE - AND WE WENT OUT TO THE CAN BUOY WITH ONE OF THE CROSBYS ON A DAY IN SPRING THAT WAS JUST DECEPTIVELY MILD AND SO WE WERE SAYING - YOU KNOW, EIGHT OR NINE GIRLS WITH ME, DON'T YOU THINK ONE OF US COULD GET SICK AND WE COULD GET SO WE'DE HAVE TO STAY.

WELL, THE NEXT MORNING WE COULDN'T GET OUT, BECAUSE THERE WAS THIS TERRIFIC LATE SPRING BLIZZARD.

SAWYER: OH MY, TEN INCHES OF SNOW.

MACLELLAN: WE WERE REALLY MAROONED, AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE IT UP NORTH OF HERE, SO WHEN WE GOT BACK TO COLLEGE THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF - WELL, YOU KNOW, THE BUSINESS, THIS CROWD WENT DOWN THERE AND THEY STAYED! WE DIDN'T GET ANY SUCH LONG VACATION AS THAT.

PECK: CAPE COD SNOW.

MACLELLAN: SO THERE HAVE BEEN BLIZZARDS, BEFORE THE ONE OF 78.

PECK: YES. SO YOU HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN PROTECTING PROPERTY OVER THE YEARS.

MACLELLAN: WELL, WE'VE TRIED TO.

PECK: YOU AND CHARLES ALMY WERE ABLE TO BUY SOME PROPERTIES. WERE THERE OTHER PROPERTIES THAT, BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE - OR DID YOU HAVE OTHER PEOPLE WHO WOULD BUY A PIECE OF PROPERTY TO HOLD ON TILL THE RIGHT -

MACLELLAN: WELL, I THINK COTUIT'S BEEN LUCKY IN THIS, ALL THROUGH THE YEARS. BUT I'M, OF COURSE, IT'S BEEN A FETISH WITH US, I MEAN IN A REAL MATTER OF POLICY, BOTH HERE AND IN OSTERVILLE. OF COURSE, THE STRIP THAT BELONGS IN THE PRECINCT OF MARSTONS MILLS COMES DOWN INTO NORTH BAY ANYWAY. YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THAT WHOLE SEMICIRCLE IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ANY PART OF IT. YOU CAN'T DO ONLY PART OF IT.

SAWYER: I THINK THE THING THAT REALLY MADE YOU DECIDE THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THIS PARTICULAR SECTION, THIS AREA HERE WHICH THEY CALL 'THE HOMESTEAD PIECE' WHERE THIS HOUSE IS, WAS THE FACT

THAT WHEN YOU WERE SHOWING THE PROPERTY WITH THE IDEA OF SELLING THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF IT THEN. YOU HAD A MAN, I THINK FROM TEXAS, AND HE CAME AND LOOKED AT IT AND SAID WELL, IT'S NICE, COURSE THE FIRST THING I'D DO IS GET RID OF ALL THE TREES. AND HELEN SAID SHE THOUGHT SHE WOULD JUST DROP IN HER TRACKS BECAUSE THE THOUGHT OF TAKING DOWN THOSE FABULOUS TREES - BECAUSE ONE OF THE THINGS, WE'VE LOST MANY OF THEM WE COULDN'T HELP THROUGH THE HURRICANES THAT WE'VE HAD SINCE THEN - BUT AT THAT TIME, THERE WERE PERFECTLY BEAUTIFUL TREES STILL STANDING.

MACLELLAN: I REFUSED TO LET -

SAWYER: THERE ARE, OF COURSE, A GREAT MANY STILL STANDING, MR. ROTHRIE USED TO SAY THAT IT WAS REALLY A LITTLE ARBORETUM, THERE WERE SO MANY DIFFERENT VARIETIES THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN AND CAREFULLY NUTURED. THE STORY GOES, AND I THINK HARRIET (CABOT) HAS BORNE ME OUT IN THIS, THAT THE LOWELLS BROUGHT BACK FROM ENGLAND LITTLE SEEDLING FIR TREES IN THEIR STATEROOM WATERGLASS AND THAT THEY WERE THE ONES THAT HAVE SEEDED IN AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OTHER FIRS THAT ARE HERE ON THE PROPERTY.

SO SHE WAS SO DISHEARTENED BY THIS MAN AND THE THOUGHT THAT SOMEBODY MIGHT DO SUCH A DREADFUL THING TO SUCH A LOVELY PIECE OF PROPERTY, SHE DECIDED THEN SHE'D ASK MR. ALMY IF HE WOULD THINK SHE WAS CRAZY IF SHE TRIED TO HOLD ONTO IT HERSELF AND HE THOUGHT SHE'D PROBABLY THINK IT WAS ONE OF THE WISEST THINGS SHE EVER DID. AND IT WAS.

MACLELLAN: YES. WELL, CHARLES WAS VERY, VERY GOOD TO BE AFFILIATED WITH, WONDERFUL.

SAWYER: WHEN SHE FIRST BROUGHT ME OVER TO LOOK AT IT AND SAID, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF WE, IF I TRIED TO TAKE THIS OVER? I SAID, FOR WHAT PURPOSE. SHE SAID, WELL, I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT MAYBE TO LIVE IN SOMETIME. I SAID, OH, MY WORD, WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY! HOW COULD WE EVER DO IT? IT'S SO ENORMOUS. OF COURSE, WITH THE LENGTH OF THE HOUSE, IF YOU CAN VISUALIZE IT WITH THE GOODALE HOUSE ADDED TO IT, PLUS A TREMENDOUS ICE PIT WHICH HAD A ROOF OVER IT, PLUS A TREMENDOUS WOOD SHED. IT LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE A RED - ALL PAINTED RED - LIKE A RED TRAIN OF CARS! AND THE THOUGHT OF TRYING TO LIVE IN IT OR FURNISH IT OR ANYTHING JUST SEEMED APPALLING TO ME.



MACLELLAN: WELL, THE LAST CAR WAS A VERY EXTENSIVE PRIVY!

SAWYER: YES, THERE WAS A VERY NICE ONE.

MACLELLAN: SECTION FOR CHILDREN, LITTLE SEATS, LITTLE HOLES - WONDERFUL.

SAWYER: I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS SAYING SOMETHING, THAT WASN'T TOO COMPLIMENTARY, I GUESS, ABOUT IT, ONE OF THE CARPENTERS SAID YOU DON'T HALF APPRECIATE THE WORKMANSIP THAT WENT INTO THAT. AND IT WAS, OF COURSE, BEAUTIFULLY MADE. IT WASN'T MY IDEA. THE PLACE WAS REALLY QUITE SHORT ON PLUMBING. THERE WAS STILL AN IRON SINK WHEN WE TOOK IT OVER.

MACLELLAN: YES, THE ONLY THING WE HAD - WE STILL HAVE THAT CRAZY FOOTBATH UP THERE IN THE BACK HALL.

SAWYER: YES, THERE WERE FOOTBATHS. THE KIND, WELL, BIDET, REALLY, THAT LOOKED LIKE A HAT YOU KNOW.

PECK: I REMEMBER THOSE. I THINK THE FIRST TIME I SAW ONE WAS IN THIS HOUSE.

SAWYER: WELL, THEY WERE FOND OF - DIFFERENTLY YOU KNOW. I CAN REMEMBER SO WELL AS A CHILD WHEN WE WENT TO THE LITTLE CAMP THAT WE HAD UP IN THE FOOTHILLS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND IT WAS A JOY TO US TO LIVE IN A DIFFERENT WAY IN THE SUMMER AND THEN TO COME BACK TO CARPETS AND RUNNING HOT WATER AND ALL THE CONVENIENCES. THEY SEEMED WONDERFUL WHEN WE CAME BACK TO THEM. BUT NOWADAYS PEOPLE, AT LEAST OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PEOPLE LOOKING FOR HOUSES TO RENT, EVEN FOR TWO MONTHS OR ONE MONTH WANTED EVERYTHING THAT THEY HAD AT HOME, EVERYTHING. EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.

MACLELLAN: OH WELL, THAT'S CHARACTERISTIC OF EVERY RESORT TODAY.

PECK: THIS WAS BUILT FOR A SUMMER HOUSE?

SAWYER: YES.

PECK: YOU PUT HEAT IN IT?

SAWYER: YES, HARRIET (CABOT) SAYS THAT SHE CAN REMEMBER COMING DOWN CHRISTMASES AND SHE REMEMBERS RED CARPETS EVERYWHERE, AND

STOVES. AND OF COURSE, MOST OF THESE FIREPLACES COULD HAVE HAD STOVES. THERE WERE EIGHT FIREPLACES IN THE HOUSE, AND THEY COULD HAVE HAD A STOVE PUT IN THEM. BEEN REASONABLY COMFORTABLE, I SUPPOSE, BUT WITHOUT STORM WINDOWS AND WITHOUT ANY INSULATION?

PECK: THERE ARE SOME LOVELY OLD TILES IN THE PLACE.

MACLELLAN: WELL, THE TILES IN THE LIVING ROOM ARE REALLY OF IMMENSE VALUE BECAUSE THEY ARE ENGLISH TILES, NOT DUTCH TILES AND THEY ARE SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL.

SAWYER: WELL, IT'S BEEN A GREAT JOY TO DO IT. WE DID IT VERY, VERY SLOWLY. FOR YEARS WE DIDN'T HAVE PAINT OR PAPER. WE WERE JUST CONTENT. WE WERE SO AFRAID WE'D MAKE A MISTAKE.

PECK: WELL, OF COURSE, YOU SEPARATED THE HOUSE. YOU'RE NOT LIVING IN THAT WHOLE LONG RED TRAIN ANYMORE.

SAWYER: NO, OH NO. WELL, AT FIRST WE THOUGHT, WELL WE CAN'T USE IT ALL, AND IT WOULD BE VERY NICE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE SOME OF OUR FRIENDS, EVEN NOT FRIENDS COME AND STAY IN THE WING, AS WE CALL IT. IF IT WERE ONLY SUITABLY FIXED UP. WE DON'T NEED THAT OLD SUMMER KITCHEN. WE DON'T NEED THAT LAUNDRY. WE DON'T NEED THOSE THREE BATHHOUSES OR THAT WALK IN ICE BOX WHICH WAS JUST LIKE A STORE WITH A GREAT THICK DOOR.

AND WE COULD - AND UPSTAIRS - ALL THOSE LITTLE TINY CUBICLES OF ROOMS, SIX OF THEM FOR SERVICE AND NO BATH. IF WE FIXED IT OVER FOR A GUEST WING, EVEN IF IT WERE STILL HITCHED ON TO THE HOUSE THAT WOULD CUT DOWN A LOT ON WHAT IT WAS AND BRING IN A LITTLE INCOME. SO WE DID THAT. PROBABLY THAT WAS A WASTED STEP, IN A WAY. BECAUSE THEN, IN 1950- THAT WAS IN 50 AND SIX YEARS LATER WE DECIDED THAT WE JUST MUST SOMEHOW MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO STAY HERE ALL THE TIME. THINGS WERE NOT EASY TO LIVE ALL IN THE OFFICE THEN, IT WAS TOO THICK AND CROWDED.

AND TO GO BACK EACH FALL AND COME OVER EACH SPRING JUST DIDN'T SEEM WHAT WE WANTED TO DO. BUT WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT MAKING RADICAL CHANGE. SO WE DECIDED TO TAKE THE PLUNGE, CUT OFF THE WING AND MOVE IT AND HOPEFULLY FIND SOMEBODY NICE. BUT THE GOODALES HAD MET MRS. ROTHRIE ON SOME CRUISE AND THEY HAD SAID THEY WANTED TO MOVE FROM DANIEL'S ISLAND IF THEY COULD, BECAUSE

THEY WANTED TO LOOK TO RETIREMENT IN A LITTLE LESS REMOTE SPOT. AND SO, THEY KEPT ASKING HER, WHEN ARE 'THE GIRLS' (LAUGHING\_ GOING TO MAKE THAT MOVE. SO WHEN WE FINALLY STARTED, THEY GOT IN TOUCH WITH US AND KEPT IN TOUCH WHILE IT WAS BEING DONE AND MADE SOME VERY, VERY HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS. WE TRIED TO FOLLOW EVERY SUGGESTION, BECAUSE BY THEN WE LIKED THEM SO MUCH WE HOPED AGAINST HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BUY IT.

AND SO -

PECK: BUT YOU DID ALL THIS ON YOUR OWN, -

SAWYER: YES.

PECK: WITH THEM SOMEWHAT IN MIND, TO SATISFY THE BUYER.

SAWYER: YES, HOPING THAT THEY WOULD LIKE IT WELL ENOUGH WHEN IT WAS DONE, TO BUY IT. BUT YES, WE DID IT ON OUR OWN. AND IT WAS FASCINATING TO SEE THE MOVING JOB. OF COURSE, THEY HAVE A BEAUTIFUL CELLAR. WE DON'T. WE JUST HAVE A LITTLE OLD CAPE COD ROUND CELLAR FOR THE HEATER, AND A CRAWL SPACE. BUT THEY HAVE A BEAUTIFUL CELLAR. AND WHEN THEY MOVED THE THING, THEY HAD TO MOVE IT AND TURN IT A QUARTER TURN AND WHEN THEY DROPPED THE PLUMB LINES THEY WERE EXACTLY OVER THE CORNERS WHERE THEY MEANT TO BE!

MACLELLAN: IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL JOB.

SAWYER: WE JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. AND THEY DIDN'T SACRIFICE ANY TREES. THERE WERE A FEW CEDARS THAT WERE MOVED, TO ANOTHER SPOT, BUT THEY DIDN'T TAKE DOWN ANY.

PECK: WELL DID YOU BRING OUT THE DRAWINGS, GUY LOWELLS DRAWINGS, WHEN YOU STARTED TO DO THIS?

SAWYER: NO, I DON'T KNOW THAT WE DID. MR. BARNARD, SR., WAS VERY HELPFUL. HE HAD MADE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT WE COULD DO.

PECK: THIS WAS JOHN BARNARD, THE ARCHITECT?

SAWYER: YES, THE FATHER OF THE PRESENT JOHN. AND HE HAD DONE A VERY NICE - IDEA OF WHAT WE COULD DO, ELIMINATING THE WING

ENTIRELY. BUT IT JUST SEEMED A DREADFUL WASTE, BECAUSE IT WAS WELL-BUILT AND WE JUST COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF JUST DESTROYING IT. THIS HOUSE WOULD HAVE LOOKED BETTER DONE THE WAY HE DESIGNED IT. BUT, IT'S LOVELY TO HAVE NICE NEIGHBORS AND IT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO BE ABLE TO SELL THAT PART OF IT AND TO PUT HEAT IN THIS HOUSE AND SOME STORM WINDOWS, AND WONDERFUL TO BE ABLE TO BE HERE ALL OF THE TIME.

PECK: SO IT WAS POSSIBLE TO MAKE TWO HOUSES AND HAVE ENOUGH PROPERTY FOR EACH THAT YOU DON'T FEEL THAT CLOSE, EVEN THOUGH THE HOUSE IS -

SAWYER: NO, OF COURSE IT IS CLOSE, BUT IT ISN'T ANYTHING BUT A PLEASURE. AND IN THE SUMMER WHEN ALL THE LEAVES ARE OUT ON THE TREES THAT ARE BETWEEN US AND THE FOLIAGE IS OUT ON THE SHRUBBERY, WE ARE NOT EVEN AWARE OF THEM. AND IN THE WINTER IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THEM A LITTLE BETTER, AND TO SEE THE LIGHTS, AND SO ON. VERY PLEASANT.

PECK: AND FEEL THE COMPANY, AND THE PROTECTION FOR EACH OTHER.

MACLELLAN: WELL THEY'RE JUST AS STRONG, DEVOTED, LOVERS OF THE PROPERTY AS WE ARE. SO THAT WE FEEL VERY FORTUNATE IN THAT.

PECK: HOW MUCH PROPERTY DO YOU HAVE NOW WITH THIS HOUSE?

MACLELLAN: FIVE ACRES.

SAWYER: ABOUT FIVE ACRES, YES. OF COURSE, A LOT OF IT IS IN THE WOODSY PART. IN THIS BIG FIELD OUT HERE WHICH WOULD BE A SHAME TO DO ANYTHING WITH, BECAUSE THEN YOU'D RUIN THIS PROPERTY MORE THAN WOULD BE WORTH IT. OF COURSE, THERE ISN'T ANYTHING YOU COULD DO BETWEEN US AND THE GOODALES, THERE IS A MINIMUM THERE, DISTANCE.

MACLELLAN: WELL, ON WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY THE LOWELL PROPERTY, THERE ARE NOW, ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE SIX HOUSES. THAT'S RIGHT, ON THE SHORE.

PECK: OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I WAS FORGETTING ROTHRIES HOUSES.

MACLELLAN: BRIANS LIVE IN THE, -

SAWYER: AND THE TOWNSENDS.

MACLELLAN: IN WHAT WAS THE OLD STUDY AND THEN -

SAWYER: PLUS THE WHOLE GREAT BIG ADDITIONAL HOUSE ADDED TO IT. SO THE SAME PATTERN OF - WE ALWAYS WONDER WHEN WE LOOK AT ALL THE MANSARD ROOFS THAT THERE ARE IN COTUIT, WHETHER THIS LOWELL HOUSE IS THE FATHER OF THEM ALL. WHETHER IT STARTED IT.

MACLELLAN: I THINK IT DID.

SAWYER: BECAUSE A TWO STORY MANSARD IS NEVER A VERY, BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF ARCHITECTURE ACTUALLY. BUT IT DOES MAKE VERY EXCELLENT SECOND FLOOR ROOMS, OF COURSE. THE THREE STORY MANSARD ARE QUITE STUNNING, I THINK SOME OF THEM. SOME OF THEM IN CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS ARE VERY, VERY GOOD LOOKING. BUT THE TWO STORY KIND OF LOOKS A LITTLE BIT LIKE A HAT PULLED DOWN. BUT THERE ARE LOADS OF THEM. ALL THROUGH THE VILLAGE.

PECK: AND EACH ONE LOOKS SOMEWHAT OUT OF PLACE, I THINK.

SAWYER: YES. DON'T ANY OF THEM LOOK LIKE A TYPICAL CAPE COD THING, BUT THEY WERE, A PERIOD, I GUESS.

MACLELLAN: AND THEY DID GET AWAY FROM THE CRAMPED SECOND FLOOR, WHICH -

SAWYER: WE HAD AT AUNT NELLIE'S HOUSE, WHERE EVERY TIME YOU MOVED SUDDENLY, BANGED YOUR HEAD, YOU KNOW, ON THOSE SLOPING WALLS.

MACLELLAN: WELL, THAT WAS A FARMHOUSE THAT GREW, AND GREW AND GREW AND WAS BADLY DONE.

PECK: WHICH HOUSE WAS THIS?

SAWYER: WELL, IT'S THE HOUSE THAT THE ALLEN SWEENEYS HAVE NOW, THE FIRST HOUSE AFTER YOU PASS THE GOLF COURSE GOING DOWN WEST BAY ROAD ON THE LEFT. AND WE USED TO SIT ON THE PORCH IN THAT HOUSE AND LOOK RIGHT STRAIGHT AT WEST BAY WITHOUT ONE THING.

PECK: AND WHEN WAS THIS?

SAWYER: THAT WAS PROBABLY IN THE LATER TWENTIES AND EARLY THIRTIES. BEFORE ANY OF WINFIELD -

MACLELLAN: NOW IT'S ALL BUILT UP.

PECK: SO YOU CAME TO THE CAPE, BECAUSE OF YOUR AUNT? YOU CAME HERE TO VISIT?

SAWYER: NO, HELEN - IT WAS HELEN'S AUNT.

MACLELLAN: MY AUNT AND UNCLE. HE BOUGHT WHAT WE KNOW AS OYSTER HARBORS WITH THREE OTHER MEN. AND THAT WAS A LONG ARDUOUS THING OF GETTING TOGETHER, AND -

SAWYER: HE HAD THE HOUSE LONG BEFORE THE OYSTER HARBORS BUSINESS.

PECK: WHEN DID YOU COME TO THE CAPE, HELEN?

MACLELLAN: TO STAY?

PECK: WELL, YOU WEREN'T BORN HERE, SO DID YOU COME AS A CHILD?

MACLELLAN: NO, NO. WE CAME AS SUMMER PEOPLE FOR A LONG TIME WHEN I WAS LITTLE. I LIVED - MY FAMILY CAME FROM WESCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK AND THEN MY FATHER MOVED TO PROVIDENCE IN BUSINESS. THEN WE LIVED IN PROVIDENCE FOR TEN YEARS. BUT WE ALWAYS CAME TO THE CAPE. BUT THE OWNERSHIP OF THE CAPE WAS IN MY AUNT AND UNCLE. MY AUNT HELEN, FOR WHOM I WAS NAMED, ALWAYS CALLED AUNT NELLIE.

PECK: OH, I SEE. HELEN, DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHEN YOU WERE BORN?

MACLELLAN: 1895. FEBRUARY 2ND.

SAWYER: AND I WAS BORN IN 1894, DECEMBER 10TH. I'M TWO MONTHS OLDER THAN SHE IS.

MACLELLAN: SO WE'RE A COUPLE OF OLDIES.

SAWYER: BUT YOU CAME HERE, TO STAY, AFTER. YOU SEE WE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE WITH THE FIRST WORLD WAR. WE BOTH GRADUATED FROM

WELLESLEY, AND IN THE SAME CLASS, ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT KNOW EACH OTHER, PARTICULARLY, IN COLLEGE.

THEN HELEN CAME TO MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, WHICH IS WHERE I WAS BORN AND RAISED AND WHERE I WAS THEN TEACHING, AND WAS WORKING THERE IN THE SHOE FACTORY. EVERYBODY DID SOMETHING FOR THE WAR EFFORT.

MACLELLAN: IT WAS MORE THAN THAT, I NEEDED A JOB.

SAWYER: WELL, I KNOW. BUT IT WAS THE THING TO DO. TO DO, YOU KNOW, WOMEN GOING TO MEN'S JOBS, AND SO ON. I WAS TEACHING AND SHE WAS WORKING IN A SHOE FACTORY. BUT SHE LIVED WITH A, ONE OF MY CLOSEST AND OLDEST FRIENDS, SO, BECAUSE OF OUR GENERAL BACKGROUND WE GOT BETTER ACQUAINTED THEN. THEN WE USED TO COME DOWN OCCASIONALLY TO VISIT. BUT SHE WENT FROM THERE DOWN TO WEST VIRGINIA FOR A SPELL. THE SAME SHOE - NOT THE SAME COMPANY, BUT WITH ANOTHER SHOE COMPANY. THEN HER UNCLE WANTED HER TO COME BACK AND HELP HIM SELL OYSTER HARBORS. WHICH SHE DID. THEN, AFTER IT WAS SOLD BY SOMEBODY ELSE, ALAS, SHE STAYED ON AND WENT INTO BUSINESS THEN.

BUT I CAME DOWN SUMMERS FOR A GREAT DEAL AFTER MY FATHER DIED IN 1930. THEN ALL THE TIME FROM 1944 ON. SO I JUST GOT IN JUST ON THE WAVE OF THE LOWELL IDEA, YOU SEE. IT WAS JUST BEGINNING WHEN I GOT HERE, TO STAY. BUT I WAS NOT IN THE BUSINESS AT ALL, UNTIL 1956. IN FACT, IT WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I STIPULATED, THAT I WOULD COME DOWN BUT I WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BUSINESS. BUT I ATE MY WORDS WITH PLEASURE.

MACLELLAN: RIGHT. SHE'S NOW THE SENIOR PARTNER YOU MIGHT SAY. WELL, ANYWAY I THINK SO

SAWYER: VERY ENJOYABLE.

PECK: YOU ARE NO LONGER IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS. YOU SOLD - YOU DIDN'T SELL YOUR BUSINESS, YOU JUST RETIRED?

MACLELLAN: WELL, I NEVER FELT THAT I HAD A BUSINESS I WOULD SELL. WE STILL DO SOMETHING OCCASIONALLY WITH OLD CLIENTS AND I DON'T SEEK IT.

SAWYER: WE DON'T DRIVE OURSELVES AS WE DID. IF IT HAPPENS TO COME -