Burlingame,Ann

Transcribed by: Katie Dvonch

Ann: As long as there’s no pictures.

Tye: Absolutely I promise, no pictures. So what we're doing is, um, we- two years ago, or two and a half years ago now, just before the pandemic hit, um, Jim Goul was leaving town. And I thought, I know nothing, uh like, about Cotuit history, and I thought, I want to sit down with him before he goes and get, uh, infused with a little bit of his wisdom and a few of his-

Phil: Did you know, Jim, do you know who…?

Ann: Slightly.

Phil: Yeah, OK. So he was big into-

Ann: Yes, oh, definitely. Yeah.

Tye: And so what he- Phil and I went over to see him. And he managed not to, we managed not to infect one another with this new pandemic, but he infected us with his obsession for Cotuit history. And so what we've been doing is, and, um, it's a crazy time to be doing this in the middle of the pandemic, but for the last two years, we've been doing interviews, informal interviews, with what we think are the smartest and most interesting people in town, and you were very high up on our list of this. And the- and what we're trying to do is answer one question more than anything. And that question is, and this is my bias: what makes Cotuit the most special place on the planet? And the- and we're talking to people who know Cotuit even longer- so Phil, has has been coming here for his life, but his life isn't as long as your life and you know it in an era when he didn't. And I'm-

Phil: In the offseason. I was born…

Tye: In the offseason. Yes. So we'd love to make it easy to start out with and just, if you wouldn't mind going back to telling us when you came here, and what brought you and or your family to Cotuit.

Ann: I came here as a new wife. I married into the Burlingame family, the Berlingames they’re here for years and years and years..

Phil: [unintelligible] before

Ann: Exactly.

Tye: Your husband's name was what?

Ann: [stutters]

Phil: Lee.

Ann: Lee Hallet Burlingame.

Tye: And any idea how many generations before Lee came here, who came here?

Ann: Pardon Burlingame is the first Burlingame that I know of that came.

Tye: And what relation is Pardon to Lee?

Ann: Probably… great, great grandfather maybe?

Tye: Wow.

Phil: So there were- there were several Pardon Austin Burlingames. Everybody had a site.

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: Each one had a son.

Ann: Right.

Phil: [unintelligible] the one you’re talking about goes back to the late 18th century.

Ann: Is the Pard- the Pardon Burlingame that I know of, they split. The family split and some went to Rhode Island and some went to California. Burlingame, California is part of…

Tye: Sure. Burlingame…

Ann: Yes. And the one in Rhode Island. I have not been in California but I have been in the area in Rhode Island where the Burlingame Park and what have you goes to.

Tye: Wow.. So you were coming into a family that was about as-

Ann: Yes. You never knew. There was another Burlingame or a name connected with Burlingame, marriages and what have you.

Tye: What year did you get married?

Ann: 1952. December 1952. Came down here, went to Florida for our honeymoon, and came back here in 1953 to live.

Tye: Wow. And where were you coming from then?

Ann: Quincy!

Tye: Quincy? Great.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: And so you come here from Quincy, you get married, and you come to, um, Cotuit into this house or one of the others?

Ann: The house on the corner.

Tye: The house on the corner.

Ann: The house on the corner. This was a cottage, a little cottage that Lee's mother gave us for a wedding gift.

Tye: Wow, nice gift.

Ann: And we’ve-

Phil: And Lee’s father had passed away at that point?

Ann: Yes. I- I never knew Joe, never knew Joe. He was a school teacher. He was a teacher at, um…

Phil: Milton.

Ann: Milton Academy.

Phil: Yep.

Ann: Yeah. And I guess he taught here-

Phil: Yeah I remember that.

Ann: At the high school.

Phil: So, and he, he was born here? He- was Joe born in that house?

Ann: They lived in Milton. Um, I can't be sure of that, Larry.

Phil: OK.

Ann: Not Larry, Phillip! Um, I really don't know.

Phil: OK.

Ann: My, my, my interest of family, and going back,family was not there for me. I was content with what I had. And…

Phil: Yeah, that's good.

Tye: How old were you when you came here?

Ann: 24.

Tye: 24. So you come here at age 24, having grown up in Quincy. And what was your, um take on Cotuit? Did you…

Ann: I loved it. I loved it. And and what brought me to that love, of course, was Lee, but Larry's, uh, Phillip’s grandmother… She was she was the only other person living in this area. Summer time, there were people around, but in wintertime, there was just me and the house across the street, which was incredible.

Tye: Wow, which was his grandmothers?

Ann: And that was his grandmother.

Tye: And she was here full time?

Phil: Yep.

Ann: She was just-

Phil: As was my grandfather in those days. Hedied in 65. Yeah.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: So did it feel isolated? Once everybody left after the summer?

Ann: Um, no, because I got pregnant right away. So I was busy with the baby! And from then on, yeah, I did- made friends with my church, people in the church came and I still have a very dear friend, um, that is part of the Dottridge family. I'm sure you know that. What it is, [unintelligible].

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: She she, I met her at the doctor's office. She was pregnant and I was pregnant and that's how we became very, very dear friends.

Phil: And she, she's been on our list, but we haven't been able to get her and and the girls. The girls don’t think she…

Ann: A-a, no, and you won’t. Not now,

Phil: It’s too bad.

Ann: It's- what a shame…

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Because she is the gal in the Hayden family. I was trying to think of who else- but those are the only two that I really knew of. Um…

Tye: So can I just ask you a quick question about the Hayden family?

Ann: Sure.

Tye: We talked to, um, Jane…

Ann: Buenoyama.

Tye: Right. At some length. The, um, and who else in the Hayden family that’s still around do you think we should be talking to?

Ann: Bob Hayden is still around. Cindy, Cindy is still around.

Phil: Yep.

Ann: And I don’t know whether, um…

Phil: Kathy?

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: She comes in the summer.

Ann: From California. She’s in California. Whether she’ll be here, I have no idea. She might be. I have no idea.

Phil: Yeah, I think we should definitely get to Bob.

Ann: Yes, yes. Oh, yeah [laughs].

Phil: We don’t want to have to ask you any questions…

Ann: Because, you know, you know where they lived? At the house on the corner. Bob Hayden.

Phil: He lived? Oh, for a little while. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: When he was- when his kids were little.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: So what was, um- Someday, I hope a lot of people who don't know old Cotuit, but know it today will be listening. When you think of- you've watched 70 years of changes in the village. When you think about what it was like when you came here… What was here that isn't? What is, um, what was the different feel for what Cotuit was then>

Ann: OK. Um, it has devel- to me it's developed into a rural, um, beautiful… It's, yeah, it's hometime, it's not… What do I want to say? It's not like a Miami that you'd go to Miami and what have you… This is, this is it. All the people that would come in the summertime are here year round, and their families have grown. So, um, but I have not- I've only come involved into the church family more than out there. Now maybe I will with the new church, I don't know, with the com- being more of a community. But this, the the dirt roads are not dirt roads anymore, they're all-

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Beautifully made, and and and it's just- it's the kind of life that I'm thrilled I brought my kids into.

Tye: Wow.

Phil: So why don’t you paint the picture of 1952 Cotuit a little bit. What was, you know, you came here, what what what did you see? What did you do? What was, you know, what was it like in the winter?

Ann: Well, I'll tell ya, I was alone…

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Except bringing up the kids until they started to grow. Um, the area that I, I haven't moved anyplace. Here I am, from that corner to here. And, um, I've watched the growth, the development of making an area that was all all woods. Now it's streets here, there and everywhere.

Phil: Yeah, yeah, that’s interesting.

Ann: You know, being cl- being close to the beach was fabulous, because you could walk to the beach here and come back.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: But, um, it's- to me- it's just the growth of the of the surroundings. The Church, the Church used to be up on the co- the top of the hill, where the Masonic Lodge was now. That used to be the church.

Tye: What was, um, your husband’s business?

Ann: He was a carpenter. He worked at the Cotuit Oyster Company when I first got married. And then he went in it was a carpenter.

Tye: Doing it on his own?

Ann: No, he was, um, Mr. Williams, from Osterville and Centreville.

Tye: And when you say alone, um, was that, uh, in the winter when people had left, or did you feel like it was really quiet and alone all summer too really?

Ann: All the time. But I didn't feel- I wasn't upset or afraid. It was just… I’ll tell you, I was very busy when I was in high school and what have you, with my dancing and and singing. So I was not out there being sociable. [laughs] I guess, I guess that's the word: sociable. I was very busy with my- with my own, what I was doing. And so when I was down here, I it- I never felt alone. Never was afraid of being alone. Um, and I had my church.

Tye: Let me ask, um, and you can say no to answering any questions that we ask obviously. Um, how did you- Quincy is a long way from Cotuit. How did you meet your husband?

Ann: His cousin married one of my best friends in Quincy. They- we all live together. I mean, we together- we were all there as residents up and Quinsey. They got married and his cousin asked him, Lee, to be one of his ushers, and I was a bridesmaid. That's how we met.

Tye: Crazy.

Ann: And Lee went into the service very shortly after that, and he was gone for two years.

Phil: Oh, what did he do in the service?

Ann: He was he was in the medical end of it. He was not medically educated, but he was in the med- you know, I don't know what it was called. He was the sergeant.

Phil: And where was he stationed?

Ann: He was stationed in Texas, and then went overseas. He was overseas, he was over in Germany.

Phil: Oh, in Germany, OK.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: You liked him enough that two long years...

Ann: That wrote back- wrote back daily. In fact, it was very strange because evidently, his mother had kept, because she was living here, and kept all his letters that I had sent too. And when we cleaned up one of the closets after we were married and living up there, there was all my leathers.

Phil: Oh, wow.

Ann: We burnt ‘em! Bye bye! [everyone laughs]

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: That's romantic.

Ann: Yeah, it was. It was. And it lasted for 44 years.

Tye: Wow.

Ann: Yep. And my mother and father came down here. And and bought a house around the corner and lived down here.

Phil: Just to be near you back on Nickerson?

Ann: Right around the corner.

Phil: OK.

Ann: Yeah. Fran Schmitz. Do you remember where Fran Schmitz’s house was around the corner?

Phil: I didn't know they lived back here. They lived in a few different places.

Ann: Yeah. They bought the house from us.

Phil: I see.

Ann: My mother died first and then my dad died. But, um, yeah, they moved down. And then my sister came down.

Tye: Moved here?

Ann: Moved here, and they were living house next to- I don't know who lives in that house now. But the house next door?

Phil: The green house?

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: Oh.

Ann: They live there.

Tye: Geez.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: You started a trend here?

Ann: I did.

Phil: And you said- you said you socialized with the church after you had your kids.

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: And then my grandmother, would you guys get together for coffee?

Ann: All the time, all the time.

Phil: Yeah.

Phil: Because I remember a lot of back and forth in the summer but had no visibility into…

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: What was, you know…

Ann: Your mom- your grandmother was traveling a lot too, in wintertime.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I mean, this was their stay away. A stay home. But- they were gone.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Pa, he was here. That's how I knew him.

Phil: Yeah, yeah yeah, my grandfather.

Ann: He was here, there and, everywhere traveling for his cigars and what have you, so it wasn't a daily, daily, daily, daily…

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: All winter long. It was here, there and- but they'd always come back to Cotuit.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And that's- yeah, yeah.

Tye: So did- the way you're describing what life was like here and the world of the church and a few friends, um, depending on an Outlook, you could either say, jeez, that was a wonderful, rural way of living in America, or it was lonely. Was it great or lonely?

Ann: It was great.

Phil: It was great.

Ann: It was great. Yeah. And as the kids grew up, that's where we spread it a little bit more with the kids in school staying at friends or what have you, you know. But the- I can remember when I first moved down here, that the post office and, do you remember at all where the post office was and the barber shop?

Phil: Oh, I do.

Ann: And there were grocery stores?

Phil: I don't- I don’t remember.

Ann: OK.

Phil: But I certainly… right…

Ann: Yeah, yeah. And the school, my kids, not my kids, but my sister's kids- because her kids were older- the school was a three, three story school with the post offices is now. That moved, so I've watched that all change around. And Mr. Vieira had the post- uh, had, um, the barbershop. Vicki…

Phil: Vicki’s father?

Ann: Vicki's dad. Yeah, yeah.

Tye: And most places, if you were to describe what you described at the beginning, on how there are more roads, and more houses and more people, and yet, normally, that means you get more barbershops and you get more grocery stores and you get more- all kinds of things. And all of that stuff has gone away. You’ve just got more people and nothing.

Ann: It- it never, we never developed into that commercial end of it.

Tye: Is that a good thing?

Ann: Yes.

Tye: Ah.

Ann: Very definitely. I do. I mean, I felt, and the kids were happy as like clams here! Because there was always- there was a school here. Do you remember the- no, you wouldn’t know. There was a school up where the ball- ball fields…

Phil: Right.

Ann: There was a school.

Phil: But that was before you, before your time?

Ann: It sure was.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: So the kids, I mean, they'd get on the bus and go to school…

Phil: Yep.

Ann: And they were content doing that.

Tye: Take the bus from here?

Ann: They’s take a bus ride at the end of the street.

Tye: [unintelligible] Main Street.

Phil: No, [unintelligible]

Ann: [unintelligible] Yeah.

Tye: Good. So after, so they had a grammar school here?

Ann: Yes.

Tye: And then they’d go to Barnstable?

Ann: Right.

Tye: Middle school or just high school?

Ann: There was, ah, oh god, Phillip?

Phil: I think they went to the junior high in Barnstable.

Ann: Yeah, then junior high and then high school. Right. But they were both in- high school was in Hyannis?

Phil: Yeah, I think the junior high…

Ann: I’m trying to think, yeah, and the Hyannis was there too.

Tye: So you were shopping for a house full of kids and your husband and you… where did all of that happen? At the co op? Where did you go?

Ann: Well, let’s see. Osterville had a Stop and Shop.

Phil: A&P.

Ann: Oh, A&P, yeah. Did a lot there.

Tye: Too expensive to shop here? Or just not enough stuff or what?

Ann: There wasn’t enough. Yeah and I was always content if Lee would want to, um, go here, there or everywhere to shop [unintelligible]. He was the boss. Not me.

Tye: Did you have more than one car?

Ann: No, just the one car.

Tye: So during the day…

Ann: Did a lot of walking. Lot of walking, which I cannot do now. Which I miss terribly. But hey, I’m here.

Phil: Yeah, I remember him coming home from work. Pretty much 5 o’clock, 5:30. Craig- Craig always being at the end of the strip waiting for him.

Ann: Yep.

Phil: That he was sort of classic nine to five to come home for dinner.

Ann: Nine to five. Yep.

Tye: And, um, it was safe to let the kids go anywhere they wanted to in town? No worries about that kind of thing?

Ann: None.

Phil: What did they do to keep themselves occupied?

Ann: Well, Sherry was the athlete.

Phil: Yep.

Ann: Cindy was the artist.

Phil: Yep.

Ann: And Craig was the one with the brains. So they were very content. Doing what, you know, Sherry was here, there and everywhere. Cindy was being the artist.

Tye: Are Cindy or Sherry still around here?

Ann: Yes.

Tye: They are. Full time?

Ann: Full time. Cindy is right next door. She's the artist.

Tye: Great. And where’s Sherry?

Ann: And Sherry is down in Dennis and she works. She's a retired school teacher. And she works at at Agway which is…

Tye: Sure.

Ann: Um, Florist and what have you. And she has a partner. Cindy's married, no children. So I'm not a grandmother, which I would love to have been, but I'm not, so all the little kids that are at the church and what have you.

Tye: Are your grandkids.

Ann: Here I am. Yeah. But it was- it's a, it's a family. Well, we had judges remember judge night? We've had judges and, um, let’s see… What was his name? I’m trying to think.

Phil: The congressman, Gifford?

Ann: Gifford, yeah. And I don't know, but I'm sure there are others that are high in the society. But I, I'm content to be right here. And meeting the meeting- when I met people it was when [unintelligible] had her parties and then that's where all these people came, not…

Phil: Yeah, that’s what my grandmother, [unintelligible] the entertainer.

Ann: Yeah, she was. Fabulous. But there aren’t many of them left.

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: That was the Sunday game as you described.

Phil: Well, there was that but, you know, I told Larry that that we had to dress up for dinner at mid-midday dinner on Sundays. And, uh, but she threw a lot of parties.

Ann: A lot of parties.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And she had a- she had a gentleman, and that a character, Mr. Gosha.

Phil: Well, I was going to bring that up, yeah, to talk about him.

Ann: Oh he is- he was the most incredible man. He had lost his- I don't know all of it Philip- but he was an incredible man and he had his goats- two goats. But he planted by the moon. All his planting that he did for your grandmother- she had a fabulous garden. And he did all the planting at moon time and it wasn't sunshine. He believed by the moon. But he was- had a long beard. And he was- after his wife died- I never knew- this happened way before I got here, um, any money whatsoever he got because he had eggs. He had chickens and what have you right around the corner, now that house is gorgeous but, where he lived… Anyway, all the money went to his church, he never had any money. So his clothes- he was- I can't say that he was in rags because he wasn't. But, um, he has as- in the wintertime he just have a burlap bag. A fur coat or what have you. And he- and my kids would run. When he came, he loved the kids, but the kids didn't like Mr. Gosha.

Phil: He was a little scary.

Ann: Because he was a scary, older man. So my kids would run. Cindy would tell you, my kids would run.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Ann: He adored the kids.

Phil: We have a picture of him somewhere.

Ann: Do you really?

Phil: I’ll try, I’ll try to find it for you. Larry, Larry I think has one. But yeah, I think he’s- you know, he always wore like blue jean overalls.

Ann: Oh, yeah.

Phil: You know, with the straps, those overalls..

Ann: And clean!

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: He was clean, but it was just his appearance that scared the kids.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And he’d always have, he’d always have his pitcher or bucket- pitcher it was, of warm goats milk, and my kids would die. So we never grew up, or they never grew up on goat milk [laughs]. But he’d come down, he’d come walking down, god love him. And we had another gentleman…

Phil: I wonder if it’s who I was going to ask you about.

Ann: Ask me.

Phil: Al Moddes?

Ann: No, Al was the one that found him.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Al was the one that died- didn't die, but collapsed out here. But he was the one that found Mr. Gosha because he looked out for Mr. Gosha. Because he was- Mr. Gosha had a pump where he pumped his water. I mean, the house.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I only went in the- what you would call the kitchen door.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I didn't go any further. So I mean, I- I didn't want to and I wasn't interested. As long as he was OK, I would go there get eggs maybe from him. But, um, he was out pumping his water where he died. It was right over the pump.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: When Mr. Gosha found him.

Phil: But I think, I think Al helped with the gardening too or…

Ann: It could be, it could very good very well be. But that wasn't the one. I'm sorry that the names do not come back to me.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Ann: Oh, who was, who was the… When the Coop had the real grocery store and had the meat.

Phil: Yeah. Oh, [stutters] there was a butcher.

Ann: Yes.

Phil: Lou? Lou…

Ann: And he had- he had…

Phil: So [stutters] the Crockers ran it. Milton Crocker ran it.

Ann: Yes.   
  
Phil: And Harry.

Ann: Harry.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Yes.

Phil: And then there was a butcher called Lou. There were other butchers as well.

Ann: I’m trying to think of his last name because he had the son. He had the one son. Oh god, that’s awful. Not- but I don’t, I can’t remember the name. Um, that was in a wagon all the time.

Phil: Oh, so, so, so Wendell Nickerson’s son Foster Nickerson.

Ann: Foster!

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: No. Foster came from Main Street here.

Phil: Yeah, so not Foster.

Ann: No, Foster used to go around in his little cart and he’d have greeting cards, or did you need this or do that? And he’d come out here and he’d squeeze the horn on his- you know, here I am. And he had trouble talking, but he’d- oh god, he’d come around. Now this was a gentleman that had, I’m not sure what the disease was, but he was always in a…

Phil: A wagon of some sort?

Ann: It was, it was- he was never out around.

Phil: OK.

Ann: They had to carry him wherever he went. His arms and legs were not.. But he-

Phil: Ah OK, I didn’t know about that.

Ann: He was, he was a delightful gentleman, gentleman. I guess you'd call him a gentleman. Um, but he was terribly handicapped. And, um, he'd have thought- we'd go to the house and see him.

Tye: Somebody told us about him and that they would wheeled him around town, and um…

Ann: They'd be- yes. He would go around but he would, he was not able.

Phil: [unintelligible]

Ann: I can see… What the heck was his name? I’m sorry. That disturbs me when I can’t remember names. But he was…

Tye: The people took care of one another.

Ann: Oh, yes.

Tye: Oh, wow. Anybody else you remember like that? Who, um, was unusual and everybody in town…?

Ann: Bob Hayden.

Phil: Bob senior, yes.

Ann: Bob senior. He had- what we used to call the junk up on 28.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Where you could go- anything. Because I used to direct shows there, and we’d always go for scenery for our shows, and he had anything and everything up there, and he loved to play the trumpet. And he was a character, a character.

Tye: So this is the one- Jane, what relation, was that her father?

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Yes.

Tye: So she was describing, he wan an incredible fan of jazz and of Louis Armstrong.

Ann: Yes, yes, and the trumpet.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Ann: He was the trumpet player. He loved his trumpet. In fact, he’d play, um, the shows once in a while. [phone rings]

Tye: Do you want to take that?

Ann: Nope. Um, he loved his music. Oh my god, he loved his music. But he loved to have all this stuff around, and he knew where everything was too.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I mean, you’d go in and it wasn’t just the building that was loaded with stuff, but it was the yard. I mean, it was where the Stop and Shop is.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And that whole area where the stores are was all that…

Phil: Treasure, Treasure Island.

Ann: That was it, Philip! Treasure Island, you’re right.

Tye: I love people who have, um, junk operations. You look at them and you think, jeez, it’s just a bunch of stuff strewn around. But they know where everything is…

Ann: He knew, he knew where every- because I’d be looking for something… Bob, I kinda need something…

Tye: Over there!

Ann: Go way down, way down… [laughs] Yeah.

Phil: Did you know Mr. Post? Do you know what I’m talking about? Old. He was very old when I was a kid. And he would just- walk down Main Street.

Ann: Right in the middle! Yes.

Phil: And, and, he would walk at about a half a mile an hour.

Ann: Yes, but he was always in the middle of the street.

Phil: I think he was, you know, 90 then. And…

Ann: You’re right.

Phil: And I just, I just remember, but I don’t know anything about him.

Ann: I don’t know anything about him either. But he always had- he had a briefcase or something he was carrying. But he’d always go in the middle of the street, and you knew who it was. So you just waited, or you’d go around him. I mean, yeah. Yeah. I don’t, I don’t know any background for that.

Phil: Ah, I thought you might. Maybe he was in the church or something, you might’ve known him.

Ann: No.

Tye: Any… So, you were talking about the church and how close you were to church life and it was to your life. Any ministers you remember that we should hear about, anybody who was really…?

Ann: Ah, John was the one that I knew. He was a fabulous minister. Um, we always called him Father John. It was John Smith, and Shirley Smith and the two daughters, two daughters-three daughters, two- 3 daughters. But I can't remember, I was not here, I was going with Craig. No, I was going with Lee when Dr. Kraft was here, but I did not know him.

Phil: Yep.

Ann: I had wo- when Lee was in the service, I used to come down here and visit with Ines.

Phil: His mother?

Ann: Yes. And, but I when I went to church, I was just going to church.

Phil: Yep.

Ann: I did not know him at all. And then Father John came along and then there was… He was the only one that I was close to as far as, um, personality wise.

Phil: Did he live in the, in the parsonage? Where, where Angie lives now?

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: So thats all- that’s been a long time. Yeah.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: Did you get married in that church?

Ann: Did I get married in church?

Tye: In that church?

Ann: Got married in Quincy.

Tye: Oh, you did?

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: Ah, OK, ah. Makes sense. What else- so we asked you questions, sort of steering the conversation in a certain way. What do you- if you had, um, young kids from the church or from anywhere, and you were trying to tell: this is my favorite story in my long time in Cotuit. This is something that nobody else would know about.

Ann: Oh, god, I don't think I- I don't think I have anything like that. What I did was I got into the choir- I sing. So I got into the choir, and then, um, the Church used to do variety star shows. And it stopped for a year and then I- or a couple of years- and then I took over and for about 10 years. I was director of the shows that we had down- very successful, thank you. Um, no.

Phil: You do the shows at the church or would you [unintelligible]?

Ann: No, Freedom Hall.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: Boy, those were big shows.

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: What were, what were some of the kinds of things you were putting on?

Ann: We had- I’ve always had- god- I only- did I keep it? I kept folders for a long time- programs for a long time. I'm not even sure where they are. But, um, there was all the people that wanted to be involved and have a good time.

Phil: Musicals? Musicals, typically?

Ann: Of course they were musicals.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Yeah. Yup. Um, The Dottridges- Walter, Spike, Dottridge…

Phil: Yeah, who was on our list.

Ann: Oh, you didn't get to see him either?

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: You mean, I'm the only one living for crying out loud. Oh, god. Um, we had other people that came eventually. But, uh, no, the kids wanted to be in it.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: That we had to…

Phil: So it was typical variety show?

Ann: Variety show.

Phil: Broadway?

Ann: Broadway, yeah. Only- only Marian Rebello and I.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: It’s too bad that she’s not here.

Phil: Well, why don’t you tell us more about her since she was such a buddy of yours.

Ann: Well, she was a good buddy. Oh, and- like I said, I met her at the Dottridges. We were both pregnant at Cheryl and Nancy. Cheryl and Nancy are about…

Phil: Cheryl was born in 55. Is that right?

Ann: [laughs] I’m glad you know! I can’t, I can’t remember.

Phil: OK, well how many years older than Cindy is she?

Ann: Let’s see. Cindy has just turned 65.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And she was [stutters] 68 maybe.

Phil: Yeah, OK, so 54 maybe she was born. Yeah. And so you and Marian had kids the same age?

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: And you…

Ann: And watched our little ones grow. And then they went to kindergarten. She was married to Manny Rebello, who was very involved in the Cavaliers.

Phil: Oh that’s right. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Tye: Were the Cavaliers here the whole time you’ve been here?

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: They were.

Ann: In fact, Lee was in- he, way back when Cavaliers was… I don't even know if it was called the Cavaliers. But he was part of all the team. Way back…

Phil: He played, huh?

Ann: He played for a while. Yeah.

Phil: I knew Harry Crocker played.

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: He played for a while but not- I’m the sports person in the family.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And Sherry took after me. My father was a- was a, uh, designer of bakeries.

Phil: Oh, interesting.

Ann: The artwork, or the artists part of it. Cindy came after my dad.

Phil: Ah, OK, interesting. Yeah.

Ann: Yeah, and I don’t know where I came from. Um, and my background was music and dance.

Phil: So Lee, Lee was, uh- certainly Lee's father was a big sailor.

Ann: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

Phil: And Lee sails [unintelligible] with my father. Wha- I always wondered why he just, you know, he- I never saw him near the water. Why did he…?

Ann: Well, yeah, I think I had a lot to do with that.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I’m not like… I was, I was very afraid of the water.

Phil: I see, OK.

Ann: And so his wife (HA!) would take the kid- we’d take the kids to the water, but not- I would not get on a boat.

Phil: OK. So,

Ann: And he kind of went along with me.

Phil: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ann: And that’s where the sailing stopped.

Phil: Yeah. Got it.

Ann: Yeah. He did not go, “Yes!” He, uh, his dad was quite- I never met his dad. Which, I’m sorry about that, I really felt bad.

Phil: As I understand it from Larry, he used to get hired, uh, as a professional Skipper in Wianno.

Ann: Yes.

Phil: That’s sort of a normal thing, the wealthy families in Wianno would hire, would hire skippers.

Ann: And I think Lee went with his dad, a couple- you know, not, not regularly, but periodically would go with his dad, when he did that.

Phil: Yeah, yeah. Larry talks about going out, I guess, uh, Joe built a little sloop or something that LEe had, and Larry talks about going out. And I think it was before Larry knew what he was doing. They were probably seven or eight years old, and we fell overboard, and Larry just barely figured out how to bring it around and pick them up.

Ann: Yeah, yeah.

Phil: So they were definitely- they were definitely active.

Ann: It it- yes. And those kinds of stories I never heard from Lee. I mean, he didn't talk about- his growing up.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I [stutters] it was difficult for me because I came from a family that… My dad was very, how do I want to say this now and say it, you know… It was a family- it was a family, a close knit family and… Joe was a teacher, I never knew him. And I don’t know what kind of teacher. I guess he was an excellent teacher because he was at, um, the Milton Academy and then he was down here and well, well known in the sailing end of it. No, what was I going to tell you? I don’t know. But they never- Lee wasn’t, didn’t know what it was like to have a birthday party.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: And we’re still celebrating birthdays. When birthday come around, we have a party. And I learned that from his mother- his mother never did that. Ines never did that. But Ines was his second wife, did you know that?

Phil: No, I guess I didn’t know that.

Ann: Did you ever know Lee’s brother?

Phil: No, no. Richard, right?

Ann: Richard. You can have good memory, Philip. I wish I had part of it. Um, and and so Philip was kind of like the favorite.

Phil: Richard.

Ann: I mean, Richard.

Phil: Philip, too.

Ann: Philip, too. Richard was kind of like the favorite. And, um, but they just didn't seem to, from from what I watched, while Richard was still- because Richard lived in Florida.

Phil: OK, I didn't know that.

Ann: And, um, he had physical problems. I'm not sure just what it was. But they just never look looked like they hugged one another or did that sort of thing. I, you know, and that's- this family is a hug family. And, you know, except for when we had COVID.

Phil: Right.

Ann: And then it was this kind of, but, um. So it was hard to see that. And so it was hard to get it into Lee’s mind that, hey, it's a loving family, you know?

Tye: But you did?

Ann: But we did.

Phil: Yeah, wow. But not to leave anybody with the wrong impression. Lee, he was quite a character and funny and engaging and all that.

Ann: Oh my god. Lee, he was a fabulous storyteller. He would sit in that chair, well he was sitting in a chair. And he would have stories. He would- he's the one that could tell us because he had memories. Or he would tell about his dad.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: You know, or his- he didn’t... I'm not even sure… the parents, grandparents.

Phil: Oh, his grandparents?

Ann: Yeah, his grandparents.

Phil: So I think his grandfather was a captain.

Ann: Yeah. Speaking of captains…

Phil: [unintelligible] yeah.

Ann: I went looking. I don't know what to do with these. I have two logs.

Phil: Oh, wow.

Ann: Now I don't know whether they're a Wilson- please. They go back to 1814.

Phil: Well, I think you should think of the Historical Society.

Tye: God, they’re beautiful. Handwritten logs.

Ann: Yeah, but you know, you'd have to really, and this is his too. This is Captain Wilson's.

Phil: Huh.

Ann: But they go back to 18…

Phil: Well, they’re remarkable.

Ann: I would love to give them a to…. So you, Philip, you think that it should go to the Historic…?

Phil: Well…

Ann: Otherwise they're sitting here. They've been sitting here with me ever since Ines died. She had them.

Phil: This is, the the the penmanship is unbelievable.

Ann: Isn't that incredible?

Phil: Yeah, so I don’t know. I’ve never heard of it.

Ann: It comes from- no. It doesn't ring a bell. But why would she have had them?

Phil: I don't know.

Ann: Because high ground was known as where the ships came in. That's why it was called high ground.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: So the big ships used to come in but this- he's from Boston, I'm assuming it was from Boston.

Phil: Well, yeah. You know, the Historical Society would love to have them. So that would be my recommendation.

Ann: Oh, well then that’s what I’m… Are you a part of the Historical Society?

Tye: He is.

Phil: Yes.

Ann: Then you can take them.

Phil: OK, I will. And, you know, they’re expanding the building and part of it is to get a nice climate control to get more space and to get a climate controlled area for stuff like this.

Tye: It’d be fascinating to know, not just who he is, um, but how they ended up…

Ann: How they ended up here because Ines had them.

Tye: [unintelligible].

Ann: So I'm assuming that Joe must have had them.

Phil: Yeah, probably.

Ann: And I…And my brain is saying he must have been a captain that came in to high ground from Boston, because these are all- he- the dates are Boston.

Phil: That's amazing.

Tye: Alright.

Ann: Take them with you.

Phil: Alright.

Ann: Please.

Phil: Alright.

Ann: Um.

Phil: I will make sure they’re well cared for.

Ann: Yeah yeah, it is something that somebody- I is no connection that I know of, with the Burlingame family.

Phil: Huh. Well, you know, it’s possible that Joe’s father, who I think was Richard…

Ann: I can’t even- I don’t even know that.

Phil: I think he as- I think I have that right. But anyways, but his father, who was a captain I think, lived in that house. I might be wrong because that was- that's the Richard Handy house.

Ann: The Handys!

Phil: Yeah, so the Handys are in that house and there was a handy daughter who married, uh, a Burlingame- James, James Burlingame. I think that's Joe's father's, James Burlingame. Somebody's, somebody's…

Ann: Alarm.

Phil: But it's possible that, you know, before he was a captain he shipped out with Captain Wilson, maybe, who knows. It's really interesting.

Ann: Yes, and we have no way to know. Do we have a way of knowing?

Tye: We do have ways of knowing. And I think that- the that, um, some smart historian at the society or Phil will figure out that there is a connection of the…

Phil: Yeah [unintelligible].

Tye: One of the wonderful things about, um, the, uh, internet is that you can make these kinds of connections if you've ever thought the, um…

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: There is a, uh… The bad thing is that he’s got a common enough name that will be…

Phil: Right, right.

Tye: Difficult to, uh…

Phil: Right.

Tye: But-

Phil: There are a lot of Joe Wilsons. But yeah, super interesting. Wow, these are incredible.

Tye: So-

Ann: I’ve just been keeping them. It’s amazing that I kept them.

Tye: So it's amazing that you kept them. It's amazing that they're in as good a shape as they are. I would be worried that, um, those are- just keeping them in anybody's home that the air alone would sort of … We're talking about 150 year old, uh, ones there, but they look beautiful.

Phil: 200.

Tye: 200 year old.

Phil: 210.

Tye: Wow.

Phil: Yeah, this one goes back to 18…

Ann: 14, 1814.

Phil: 1824.

Ann: 1824.

Phil: So 198 years old.

Tye: That’s incredible.

Ann: And they kept them. I mean, how can you take… Can you see anybody taking the time to?

Tye: Do that.

Phil: Oh my goodness.

Ann: Ha!

Phil: On a ship that’s pitching around. Yeah, they’re very much…

Tye: Or maybe that’s what you do when you come in from the, um, [unintelligible]

Phil: I think so.

Tye: I bet they probably were.

Phil: Wow.

Tye: And I bet the ships didn’t come in.

Phil: Wow, super interesting.

Tye: So, um.

Phil: We haven’t asked the special question.

Ann: Oh, ask.

Phil: [laughs]. It’s your question, go.

Tye: So, the, um, the question that we started with, which is, um, the, it strikes me that you have, um, if you were trying to describe to somebody who had never been to Cotuit, what it is that really makes this place so different and special, more special than other places on the cape or anywhere else?

Ann: Well, I'll tell you, it's more special, it was more special way back than it is now. Because it's developed- the development, the people are fabulous, but the development of, of, um the areas, the houses, that's…

Tye: Too many people? Or too fancy? Or what?

Ann: Well, it's not too fancy, because you can go down one street and they're being glorious, and you can go down another street and they called the Kellyville, remember when it was called Kellyville?

Phil: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ann: It's a development of many, many, many different kinds.

Tye: Yep. So what is it that makes it less special than it was?

Ann: What makes it, to me personally, and not for some, is the, the noise, the cars.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: In fact, sitting with you after, after you left I said, you know, I should keep a keep a chart because I won't do computers. So- of the number of cars that go up this-

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: They can come out here and they can come out onto school street, but that's the only two ways from the development and- there is no… they're just they're going constantly, constantly

Phil: And it used to be almost literally none.

Ann: And you, you’d say, oh my god that goes a car.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Tye: Wow.

Ann: And this was dirt out here.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And and I used- they used to cut through. So that lot there was a separate lot, and they used to come down in the dirt and the sun and the dust and what have you- come through almost to where the- my car is parked.

Phil: Right, yeah.

Ann: And they cut through and, um, I was thrilled to death when that was now paved because the dust and what have you.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: But it's it's grown too much. It's grown too much. And people love it down here and that's why they've developed down here.

Phil: Yeah. So what was special in 1952?

Ann: Well, I lived in the city. And I missed… Oh, let's see, what can I say. I missed the activity that went on all the time when you were in the city, and coming down here that- but then I grew to love it.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: So that when it got to be activity, I found it was noisy and you know, leave me alone. I was, I was not the social butterfly.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I loved to be here in my home, up there in my home. That's where I used to- live. That's the only thing I did not like.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I can tell. I lived and came down and there was no heat in that corner house and we had to have the kerosene. Lee would fill the kerosene. That sounds terrible. Doesn't it sound like the eighteen hundreds? Um, and the fireplace would go. We had electricity, but the heating wasn’t there. And then we'd come out and then we'd be there in the winter. And then there was a cottage, which is now the house next door, um, that Ines rented. I don't know how long- I don't know how long the cottage was there. And I'd have to clean that and then get it ready and it would be rented for the summer. And we would live in the winter and in- in the…

Phil: So you’d live- you would live in the cottage in the summer and the big house would be rented in the summer. Is that right?

Ann: Both, both times! Then there was this cottage and we'd come to this cottage. This was a cottage…

Phil: I see, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ann: And we'd come to this cottage. And that's when we rented out the house.

Phil: Right, because that’s that’s where I remember as a kid- coming here.

Tye: So how many times a year would you say you would go into Boston?

Ann: I would go back to see my folks.

Tye: In Quincy?

Ann: Until they moved here.

Tye: Yeah.

Ann: Yeah, no, no, I was never… I was very very content to be right here.

Tye: So this was like an island?

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: There was no need to go out.

Ann: Yeah. You didn’t have to go anywhere. No, I just- and I still feel- I’m content.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: I don’t have to be anywhere.

Tye: Me too [everyone laughs].

Ann: Yeah.

Tye: You get spoiled here.

Phil: So we’re coming up on an hour, but I’ll be selfish. What do you remember of my grandfather?

Ann: You know what? I gotta tell ya, Philip. I can remember- this is not very pleasant.

Phil: Oh, great. Glad I asked [laughs].

Ann: I know- what I remember about your grandfather. He had a very loud voice.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And he loved to argue with your grandmother.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And living in the cottage in the summertime, not so much in the winter because he was here, there and everywhere.

Phil: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ann: But, but, I can hear them arguing.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: And I can hear him- his voice just went through this hole.

Phil: [laughs]

Ann: And his cigar, his cigar. But he- personally- if he was standing here… you know...

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: But your mama- um, your grandmother, I adored her. Adored. She was just…

Tye: So what you just said suggests that people in a small village, and with not the soundproofing that we have today, it somebody was having an argument the neighbors would hear it.

Ann: You bet.

Phil: Especially if it was my grandfather on one side. [laughs]

Ann: And I mean, they they argued. They argued. It didn’t last very long because he would get in the car and go. But, I don’t know. And we didn’t listen too much as to what they were arguing about.

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: It just, oh, [unintelligible]’s going with Dodens. We always called her Dodens, loved your Dodens.

Phil: Do you know where that came from?

Ann: No.

Phil: That was Bill Peck. Couldn’t pronounce Mrs. Odense, so he said Dodense.

Ann: Really?

Phil: Yeah, yeah.

Ann: Captain Scratch.

Phil: What?

Ann: Captain Scratch. You didn’t know?

Phil: No.

Ann: Oh, no. That was Landon Peck, yeah.

Phil: He was called Captain Scratch?

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: Oh, I never heard that.

Ann: Never heard that. Let’s see, who can you talk to about that.

Phil: Well, Larry might know.

Ann: Yeah, ask him.

Phil: Funny, funny.

Ann: Yeah. But, this is the place, this is the place to come to if you’re… To me, if you’re having problems, um, physically, mentally, this is the place to be. Quiet, you’re not bothered. We did have a murder here. Did you know about that?

Tye: What was that?

Phil: The Lloyds.

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Did they ever find out who did that? Never found…

Phil: Unsolved. I've heard people think they know the answer, but I've never heard any speculation.

Tye: Who was killed?

Phil: Um, his name was Brad. Do you remember his last name? No, asking the wrong person.

Ann: You are, you are.

Tye: [unintelligible]

Phil: The caretaker. Yeah, in the winter. In the offseason he was shot. I can't remember his last name. But yeah, that was probably, jeez, in the 70s do you think?

Ann: Yeah.

Phil: Yeah.

Ann: Never, never. I never heard of… People though it was this one or though it was that one that did it but…

Phil: Yep.

Tye: Hey, if it happened here in the winter, it would be tough to, uh…

Phil: Especially, especially down there.

Tye: Right.

Phil: There was literally nobody.

Ann: Yeah, there was nobody down there.

Tye: In the days when, um, in the days we’re talking about, did the Lloyds and the Westins, did they mix with regular people?

Ann: Oh, wait a minute. Now let's not use quote unquote regular people. [laughs] They were upper class. I mean, they were really classy people. They were- I only came to them- didn't go to them or anything- knew of them. And that was always top notch. You know, but they never- I mean, the only, the only person that I can really say that was well known, um… and he came to the church, he’d come to the church, and he just died and I can't think of his name. He was the one that was involved with all the fireworks that they did in Boston.

Tye: Oh, well, well, David Mugar?

Ann: Yes he used to come to the- he was here.

Tye: Sure.

Ann: And he'd come into into the church, a delightful, delightful man. But other than that, I don't think any of them. Now, they might have been involved financially. I don't know. It’s an- I- see I was not that… I was very content to be in my home.

Phill: Well, and they were more summer folks.

Ann: Yes of course. But Are any of them here year round now Philip? Are there any of them?

Phil: yeah, some of the Lloyd family are here year round. And Vicki Wesson who’s now Vicki Hope, uh, is here year round.

Ann: See, but I don’t know any of them. We don’t see any of them.

Phil: Yeah.

Tye: Here, within the church…

Ann: Within the, within the, uh… where I live, what I do. I don’t entertain.

Phil: Well you’ve been very entertaining today.

Ann: Oh. Yeah, but I didn’t give you any coffee or donuts or anything.

Phil: Oh, that’s OK. No, that’s OK.

Tye: This has been perfect. This is, um, I had high expectations and you’ve met every one.

Ann: Oh god almighty. Um….

Phil: Do you have a plastic bag I could put these in?