JACK MANIACI  
STEWART GOODWIN

TYE: Can you just say your name?

GOODWIN: Stew Goodwin.

TYE: Great. And we’re sitting here on—what date?—December 2nd.

ODENCE: 2023.

TYE: And Stew just showed Phil and me his copy of one of his seven books, which is New York in the 1940s and ‘50s.

GOODWIN: Yeah, this one I published myself. In any case, my father’s company had a box at Yankee Stadium, which I went to. I was a big Dodger fan, but I could go there for free and so I saw a lot of Yankees games.

TYE: Big New York Dodgers fan?

GOODWIN: I was a New York, Brooklyn Dodgers fan. I became an ex-Dodgers fan when they moved. But I saw Satchel Paige pitch on several occasions, both on the Indians and Browns, and I also collected autographs, and I remember going to the… I would go with some friends of mine to the hotels where they stayed, and they all went by train in those days, so they would stay next to… They were in the Biltmore or the Commodore and I remember meeting Satchel Paige in the lobby of the Commodore Hotel to get his autograph. He shook hands, and he was a gentleman.

ODENCE: And you were how old then?

GOODWIN: Oh boy, I was somewhere between 10 and 13, something like that.

ODENCE: Yeah.

GOODWIN: Then the other one was your book on Joe McCarthy. My mother was a Democrat and in 1952, she and India Edwards got together and organized Democrats for Eisenhower. And she took myself and my sister to the Republican National Convention in Chicago, where she was working, and they were organizing this effort. And we happened to be—I think it was the Blackstone Hotel but I’m not positive—on the same floor with the Wisconsin delegation, and my mother, who was a Democrat and hated everything Joe McCarthy stood for, nevertheless, there was a party going on and alcohol involved, she was there. So she would be going down to this, down the hall to the party that he threw every night in the Wisconsin delegation, and I would have to go—and I was 13 then—and extricate her late at night, or God knows how long she would stay, and… ‘Cause I’d say, you know, “You gotta get up early, you’ve got work to do tomorrow!” And so Joe McCarthy, who was a roaring drunk, he would run up and down the halls yelling and screaming at night. I could say I met him, as I was extracting my mother, he’d come up and put his arm around me, “Oh she doesn’t have to go home yet, does she?” and that. So I have… That’s my personal connection to you two.

TYE: So just want to say that in ‘52, know that Eisenhower was afraid enough that he would win the nomination narrowly or lose it narrowly that he bowed to McCarthy’s pressure that he had… Eisenhower delivered a speech, had prepared a speech he was ready to deliver, denouncing McCarthy for attacking the General Marshall and it’s a really horrific attack, and his political people convinced him to pocket the speech, never to give it, because he was worried that McCarthy would withdraw the support of the Wisconsin delegation, and it was one of the… So, I’m an Eisenhower fan for lots of things. One of the things that was his least proud moment was the way he dealt with McCarthy before he was the nominee and then as president waiting as long as he did to take him on, and I think that that’s intriguing because at the end of his life, for some reason—and I still don’t understand exactly why—I’d been applying to get McCarthy’s medical records from Bethesda Naval Hospital. And the way it works with medical records is after 50 years, if the government decides that somebody was enough of a public figure and it’s in the public interest, they can release those records. And I’d been asking everybody I knew, the head of the national archives and records, and the navy, and everybody, and nobody was paying any attention. And one day, my wife and I were taking the dog for a walk in the early morning, and we see an enormous brown box at the head of our driveway, and she says “Let’s check out what that is.” And I said, “It’ll be there when we get back.” We come back and it was somebody at some mid level of the military decided to release all of his medical records and what they showed was, during the years that he was a senator and was being treated at the naval hospital, he was drinking at the end the equivalent of a fifth of whiskey a day. So that drunk thing which everybody had observed for years, was there in black and white with his doctor saying that was exactly what he was doing.

GOODWIN: Well I hated Joe McCarthy at the time, not because of his politics so much ‘cause I was pretty young, but because of what he did with my mother, who was a constant trauma in my life. Anyway, that was the origin of my mother’s involvement in Democrats for Eisenhower. It was the origin, well she got together with Anna Murray two doors down, and they put together this program to put Ike on the sails of Cotuit skiffs.

ODENCE: Oh yeah, that famous picture.

GOODWIN: Yeah. So some people put elephants. Both of them were public relations people and politicians, and also big drinkers. But in any case they had a plan and they had the photographers lined up and everything, so to go to the Hyannis Regatta in ‘52, which we used to go to all the time.  
  
ODENCE: Yep, even in my time.

GOODWIN: You’d sail over and then the race would finish and then you’d sail into the harbor to the yacht club area, and so the Cotuit skiffs were supposed to sail in and then they’d have all their sails out and it would be “I like Ike”, you know, it’d be a big thing for Eisenhower. But, that was somewhat scuppered by the Jacksons, who were very ardent Democrats and big supporters of Stevenson, and so Eddie Garvey won the race, and they were able to sail in first, sort of blocking this great pro-Eisenhower type of thing.

TYE: So they didn’t have their own signs, but they could at least block.

ODENCE: No they did! They had the donkey.

GOODWIN: Yes, and later they were hosting Walter Reuther and his brother at one point, and I taught sailing to them and the bodyguards would come down. The yacht club was at the beach, at the Loop then, but I would sail number 26 even though we rented number four. I would sail number 26 and I would take them out sailing in 26, and they would wait on the… So they would come down with the kids and I would give them a sailing lesson and the bodyguards would wait on the beach, and I would deliver them. But I guess they assumed they were safe out in the water, that I wouldn’t tip them over or something.

ODENCE: Yeah. Well how wonderful that your grandson wins so many races in number 26 today?

GOODWIN: Yes, you know, and he surpassed everything I did and everything that also my two sons, you know, in 26. But in those days, there wasn’t a very big fleet. And Christopher, who now lives up in our place, went on to be a fairly big sailer both a Hotchkiss and at Boston University and, you know, but here there wasn’t much competition in those days. When I was sailing, there was… The fleets were as big as they were today. And even for the gimmick races, which they don’t get many people for now, but…

TYE: So, can we take you back for one second and just tell you the point of these interviews that we’re doing?  
  
GOODWIN: Yes.

TYE: So when Jim Gould was leaving town, it was the beginning of the Pandemic, and Phil and I were over in his backyard and everything was happening outdoors because of COVID. And he didn’t infect us with COVID, but he infected us with his obsession for Cotuit history. And we have been over the past three years trying to interview as many people as we can to get a feel for answering one simple question, which is “What makes this village the most special place on the planet?” And that is the bias we go into it with, and you have a long history here, and we would love to hear your stories maybe starting with: When was your family first introduced to Cotuit and why?

GOODWIN: 1942.

TYE: ‘42. Who was it and how did they end up here?  
  
GOODWIN: I don’t know who it was, but we ended up at the Pines and we rented…

ODENCE: From New York, you were living in New York?

GOODWIN: We lived in New York, well I lived in New York until I retired up here, but every summer since 1942, I’ve been here, for one time or another. And so we lived in the Pines, we rented a cottage at the Pines that was later owned by Bill Morse Jr. and we went to have dinner with him once and there were still sheets in it because we rented that house from the Pines from ‘42 through ‘45.

ODENCE: So it was one of the ones across on the western side of Ocean View.

GOODWIN: Right, and there were still sheets in the closet with the stenciled name “Goodwin” on it, ‘cause we rented for four years. But that’s how I first came here.

TYE: Did you come for a couple weeks, a month, the whole summer?

GOODWIN: Well we came the first time for a month, and we extended it to the summer. So we got to know… And I have a brochure from the Pines that goes back to that period. And it shows…

TYE: Any idea why they picked this village and that hotel?

GOODWIN: No. Somebody that they knew, I mean, if you read that book you’ll see my mother was in the entertainment… Both of them were basically in the entertainment business.

TYE: What aspect of the…?

GOODWIN: Well my mother was a journalist. She actually did the first television show ever in 1936 as a demonstration at NBC, and she was on television the first couple years of television with Eddie Albert and Hildegarde. And then she became… She was a publicist kind of involved in politics ‘cause she did well under Roosevelt, and in any case my father ran segments of Paramount and then ran what became—it was Channel 5 in those days—what became Fox, eventually. He ran that, which had originally been owned by Paramount to Dumont network.

ODENCE: Were they if they’re both working, were they back and forth to New York?

GOODWIN: No, he, my father, was working. My mother was here all the time, which was one of the issues developed. But anyway, so they—I don’t know who they knew Cotuit from, but they got recommended to go to the Pines. And we went to the Pines, we were there for four years, and eventually staying the whole summer, and we were there for the ‘44 hurricane, we were there for the V-E Day parade, which went up Ocean View, and I remember the Pines handed out instruments. I got a recorder, which the person in front of me stopped and, I think, jammed it into my mouth. I couldn’t talk for a week! Anyway, so the Pines was the first place.

ODENCE: And was that the era when Rita O’Neil was scooping ice cream there?

GOODWIN: Yes, and Sam Bidwell met his wife there, and Matt Getz comes right near us, every summer he comes up and spends a couple weeks there with John Bidwell Jr. who’s a friend of mine and I have his email address if you want to get in touch with him. Any case, yeah, so Rita was there, Sam Bidwell was there, lotta people were there. But, you know, we went down and down to the beach that was right next to Ms. Riley’s and watched the LSTs go by and watched them do a landing on the island. And later after the war was over I used to go with David Higgins, Reed’s older brother, and we would go looking for—he was big on looking for—arrowheads. And we would go over and we’d go to the island sometimes, and found arrowheads, but you could still see the barbed wire and the trenches that they’d dug for the landings. And upward where I live on Old Post Road, that was Camp Candoit was up there so, you know, if you went up there to visit people and Ruth Alamy became a good friend of my mother’s and I learned to sail from Sidner. You know, you had me get a pass to go up there. And if you went sailing, the Pines—we would go in the Pines catboat. They had a big catboat. And then their small Cotuit skiff, which that was the first skiff I ever sailed in, was what is now belongs to Don Law. It was the Pines’ skiff and they were all painted white, with white…

ODENCE: Yeah, they had several of them.

GOODWIN: Yeah, they had two skiffs and one—I don’t know what happened to the other skiff—and one big catboat, and then a slide that came down which was fantastic. But anyways so World War II here, got to see that, got to see the Africa Corps cleaning up after the 1944 hurricane as a young kid, you know, I was mesmerized by World War II, and to see the actual fabled members of the Africa Corps in downtown Cotuit was…

ODENCE: My dad remembered POWs as well cleaning up.

GOODWIN: Yeah, but that was it, that was the POW, the Africa Corps.

ODENCE: I’m sorry, of course, the German guys.

TYE: That must have been incredible, I mean, this was Rommel’s Africa Corps in downtown Cotuit cleaning up after hurricane

GOODWIN: Yes, 1944, your dad… And it reminded me that I was fortunate less than a month before he passed that I ran into Brownie, and we started reminiscing about the old days. I mean, Brownie and I have known each other for over 70 years.

TYE: Did a lot of people… I’m intrigued by the progression from the Pines to then coming and you’ll tell us about getting a house here but a lot of people I presume got their introduction to Cotuit and fell in love with it via the Pines and decided to buy here, and…

GOODWIN: Yeah.

TYE: When did your parents end up buying?

GOODWIN: My parents ended up buying in 19… at the end of 1945, they bought the house had been owned by the Whites, actually, but’s now owned by the Fioris right across from the Cotuit Inn. So we bought that house, and that was the last year, and I remember…

ODENCE: Was that the Washington Robins house, one south of the Gingerbread House?

GOODWIN: It was… Yes, we were right next door to the Gingerbread House. I never heard it called the Washington Robins house, but I don’t know. Right next door, and the Gingerbread House was the O’Keefes. Different O’Keefes than across on Oyster Harbors. They had six kids, and they would arrive in sequence, and we had a nice time with them, but…

TYE: So, you were here nonstop from then to now in terms of these summers at the beginning?

GOODWIN: Being here in the summers and I retired here, my wife and I retired here in 1989.

TYE: To Old Post?

GOODWIN: Yes.

TYE: Had you been living there…?  
  
GOODWIN: No, we bought the house. We retired, we decided to buy a house and move up here, and we bought the house and we moved into it. Bought the house from the Bidwells, John Bidwell Sr. who had some fantastic stories to tell about World War II, and about his family, but I’ve got the name of his son, ‘cause… The one thing about Cotuit when I first came here was that going all the way from the Cow Yard where Point Isabella all the way down to where the Lloyds lived in Popponesset, the whole thing was basically—except for the center of town area—was basically one family compound after another, and our area was the Bidwell-Alamy-Cobb family. But…

ODENCE: And then you had the Lowells.

GOODWIN: Yes, the Lowells, and it went down. Well, the Lowell-Barson group, then there were the other Lowells and President Lowell of Harvard, who lived in Mrs. McClellan’s house by the town dock, so you know… But I’m—you know—I have lots of stories ‘cause I’ve been here a long time and I see your portrait of Robert Kennedy there and one of the things that Brownie and I talked about is: Brownie played football for Hotchkiss. He was one year older than I was and I played for Choate, and so we met in the winters as well as a summer. But when we’d talk about the time twice we had… We would go over to the island and the Kennedys were always over at the island playing something, I mean usually they were playing some kind of sport, they would show up in the Honey Fitz. And we were over there one time and the Kennedys showed up and they were gonna have a touch football game, so they had us—asked us—if we wanna play, so we played.

TYE: So they showed up as a whole team…?  
  
GOODWIN: Well they showed up, it was a like a family outing, and the only person who didn’t play, I mean all his sisters and everybody played, Ethel played, but the only one who didn’t play was Jackie, who would sit over to the side on her blanket while everyone was playing. But Honey[?], he was the toughest, most physical of the whole bunch of them, and so anyway that was one of the things Brownie and I talked about, and also the time when the Grahams—’cause when Brownie came down here, he lived where the Sinclairs live in the house there. And then the Grahams rented it once. When we played touch football, Jack was a senator, he wasn’t a president, and when he became president, the Grahams were renting the Sinclair’s.

ODENCE: The *Washington Post* Grahams?

GOODWIN: Yes.

ODENCE: Ok.

GOODWIN: Rented the Sinclairs’ house. So the Yacht Club was at the Loop then, and I don’t know, we were down there, boats always pulled up on the beach, there was a part owned by the Baileys and whatever. And so the Honey Fitz pulls up to the end of the Baileys’ pier. And the Baileys’ pier was basically the yacht club pier and…

ODENCE: Which is now the Bendetsons’ pier.

GOODWIN: Right, and so we ran over there, so the president gets off with Jackie to visit the Grahams, and the secret service was there, but we were standing, you know, like right next to the pier, as you walk up and then you go up the stairs. And I mean we were two feet from the president when he went by, and he must have recognized us, or just being friendly, and he goes, “Hi, how you guys doing?”

ODENCE: From the football.

GOODWIN: From the football, yeah. Well Brownie and I were standing there, and Betty Wells, and I don’t know who else. So there was a lot of activity here and the original—’cause some of the original people whose family started there, Cotuit, in those days, who were professors from Harvard down in this part of Cotuit there was a lot of professors from Harvard.

TYE: Drawn in by Lowell or preceding Lowell?

GOODWIN: I guess drawn here by Lowell, but the B. B. Davises who were around here and the Dunnings and all of them, that family was just next door to you.

ODENCE: Townsends.[?]

GOODWIN: Townsends[?], yeah, and they were all from the Harvard contingent, and there was a Corning glass contingent, which was the Sinclairs, the Pearsons, and then there was a Cleveland contingent, which was there were Egans, who lived across the street from us on Main Street, the Bedurthas.

ODENCE: I think that came through the Pines, mostly.

GOODWIN: Yes, they did come there from the Pines. So, I mean, Cotuit’s been a fascinating place.

TYE: Can I take you back just for one second to the Grahams? I’m intrigued by… Were they here for a long time and was it in the days when Phil was alive…?  
  
GOODWIN: Yes, Phil was alive.

TYE: And were they here for long?

GOODWIN: They were here for several years, I don’t know exactly how long, but I know that Lally Graham… Sally Ropes, now Hinkle, and I met when we were two. You know, so Sally and I have known each other for our entire lives. Both of the Ropeses, particularly Chaisy and Ed, were big drinkers along with a number of others, so my mother was always hanging out with them. And they would go antiquing and do stuff like that but drinking all night and having parties and everything. And Sally’s… I think it was Ann but I’m not sure whether it was Nina or not, but Lally Graham was a good friend of theirs and she was around for quite a while, had a very interesting, like a sort of hoarse, foghorn type voice, but she’s the one I guess she’s now Lally Weymouth, and they were the ones who sold the *Washington Post*, my wife is reading that book.

TYE: Reading Katherine’s book or reading the book on the sale of…?  
  
GOODWIN: Reading the book about the *Washington Post* by the editor.

TYE: So, yes, he was at the *Globe* when we met, Martin Baron.

GOODWIN: Yes, but anyway, Lally Graham was here for quite some time, and I don’t know how much of that time she was here with her family or with somebody else.

ODENCE: It’s so funny, we’ve talked to forty people and never heard that the Grahams were here.

TYE: And Lally Graham’s… So I think there’s a…

ODENCE: Including Sally Ropes never mentioned it, so.

TYE: So now it’s sold to, as you know, to Bezos, and one of the saddest things in journalism is that they’re now laying off 150 people, the wealthiest or the second wealthiest man in the world is laying of 150 people of the *Washington Post*, and the Graham’s selling it is a tragedy, but that must have been so incredible, ‘cause there was nobody that Jack Kennedy wined and dined and charmed more than the Graham family.

GOODWIN: That’s why they were here, visiting! They were right there, right down… The president was here visiting the Grahams right down the street from you, where you are. I don’t know, my mother was a journalist and I remember during the 1944 hurricane, when we were at the Pines, we had staying with us her old professor from the University of Washington school of journalism. And he was there the night the hurricane hit, and—yeah—it came and it was just so scary because it hit at night and trees were falling down all over the place.

TYE: You were here the night the hurricane hit?

GOODWIN: Yes.

TYE: You remember trees falling down. What do you remember of waking up the next day and the… What did it look like, a transformed landscape?

GOODWIN: Yes, and then that was when we went down, you know, down the street to downtown and that’s where the Africa Corps was cleaning up. But different from other hurricanes that hit. I remember Hurricane Carol in ‘54, which really destroyed the fleet of the skiffs. The ‘44 hurricane got trees, and there were places that had been surrounded by trees, or that had been full of trees, that were down.

TYE: I’m sorry to keep interrupting.

GOODWIN: That’s alright.

TYE: When you say “got trees,” did it actually uproot the trees or just knock down big branches?

GOODWIN: Both.

TYE: Both, it had uprooted trees?  
  
GOODWIN: Oh yes.

TYE: Wow.

GOODWIN: Right around here, the Davises who were right next door to down the street from you, there’s no—you can see their house—there’s no trees around it. And they said that they woke up the next day and all the trees were down everywhere.

TYE: And were they damaging the houses? If trees were being uprooted do you think they’d be falling on houses?

GOODWIN: Yeah I don’t have any memory of seeing houses that were destroyed, but then I was reasonably young at that time. But I remember listening to it at night and it was really scary. And because the wind is howling, and you could hear things falling, and it was dark, you know. And I was five years old. So that was scary. ‘54 I remember, because I was here and we had sold our house because my parents got divorced and I was staying with the Pecks down on Piney Road, and that… I remember, the night before, going out with Julia Bibi[?], we were thirteen, and we were down the Loop the night before, and so I walked up the hill to take her back home and we’re all covered with sand, and Mrs. Bibi[?] looks out at me and says, “I’ll take care of you tomorrow.” And tomorrow the hurricane hit, so I never got taken care of, but there I remember we were down trying to save boats. And I remember I was wearing my Dodger warm-up jacket and it was… And you could feel the sting of the tops of the waves were just whisked away and it’d come down, and as you… ‘Cause we were all on bicycles, and as you rode down Ocean View Avenue, there were balls of fire this big going up and down the lines, and you know, I mean normally today’s protective parents they wouldn’t have let anybody go out, but we were out trying to save boats, and I don’t know if you’ve seen pictures, but the thought was you pulled the boats that were anchored at the Loop and you pull ‘em up the bank and that would save ‘em and they tied ‘em to the stanchions at the top coming down the hill. Well it wasn’t ‘cause the tide came in and the wind came in and they got smashed along the bank. And we were engaged in trying to save Billy Sinclair Sr. which was coming in and it was about to come in and go on the jetty, and so he was fearless. He swam out and put a line around it and he had a whole bunch of us standing on the beach who were trying to hold it and keep it away from the breakwaters. But my boat, which was number four at that time ‘cause we rented that, was in Nina Harbor[?]. Mike Abramovitz’s boat was right next door, was moored right next to mine. His tipped over and was carried away, was down the narrow somewhere.

ODENCE: And yours was fine?

GOODWIN: Mine was fine. Everything was destroyed, you know, all the boats were destroyed, which is amazing. But, no I… Back in the old days—I won’t bore you with all the stories of who I crewed for, and the different boats—I do have one, when I was talking to Brownie. Brownie was a little annoyed at your dad, because when he wrote up the thing on the Tansy Bitters II, he didn’t mention the great success that Brownie had sailing it! And Brownie, who was the youngest winner of the club championships, and also the oldest winner of the club championships I do believe…

ODENCE: He told me he wasn’t the youngest. I interviewed him in March and I said, “and of course you were the youngest,” he goes, “No, God damn it, no I wasn’t, and John Wood, I think, was younger.” Yeah, but he was pretty young, anyway.

GOODWIN: In any case, he was saying, “I don’t know why they didn’t put down…” because I crewed for him in the Tansy Bitters, which was Garvey’s boat, but Garvey didn’t use it, certainly not for the junior and senior series, because seniors couldn’t race then. And then the weekend that, you know… But yeah all kinds of things going on, different boats, all kinds of things. Your dad had a great picture of Nancy McSweeney and the Dixie, sitting on the backseat of the Dixie, and she would sail it with her hand over, and you can look at the picture in the book.

ODENCE: Which you’re not supposed to do.

GOODWIN: No, but the Dixie was the fastest Butler that was ever built, and neither Nancy nor Brenda McSweeney knew how to sail very much, but you would… I can’t believe how frustrating it was! You’re sailing along and here comes 44 and here’s one of the McSweeneys sitting in the backseat with their arm over it and the thing would be going by like you were standing still, and they were, you know… But heard all kinds of things about that.

TYE: So you’ve had an 80 year lens into Cotuit.

GOODWIN: Correct.

TYE: And clearly a different place, and yet, I presume in a lot of ways a similar place to when you… When you look at the ways that Cotuit has changed, what are the things that you miss that are gone, what are the things that you’re glad that were preserved?  
  
GOODWIN: Well I would say that one of the things that Cotuit did that was very smart is it kept all the businesses basically and restaurants and everything out onto Route 28. So if you go down Main Street and Ocean View, there’s a great deal of similarity with what used to be. What do I miss? Well, I don’t know whether I miss it or not, but in the downtown area where you have now the Kettle Ho’, it used to be Anne’s Sandwich Shop, and then you go and then the architect's office right next… But it used to be a row of buildings, stores, there was a barbershop, there was a post office.

ODENCE: Yep.

GOODWIN: And they were around there, Walter Scudder had his…

ODENCE: Service station.  
  
GOODWIN: Service station across the street, you know, and then the school was up where the post office is now. I mean the downtown area of Cotuit has changed and I’m not sure whether I miss it or not but it’s certainly noticeable. And, you know, I remember going out and Bucky Botello was a good friend of my father’s, and there was no Botello’s, he was just a carpenter, but he had in one of those wooden Chris-Craft speedboats, I remember, and he moored it right in front of our house, and he would… And so we’d come down and he’d take us for rides in his Chris-Craft speedboat, and that was a great thought in those days. And there were a lot of characters, a lot of people that I miss, I mean, the sailing. We’ve now recovered, the yacht club is recovered to where it was in terms of fleet size, because I remember fleet size, but having some of these characters that used to sail. Don Bramley, who I used to crew for. He would head his boat the Bill. It’s gray, he dry sailed it. He only sailed in formal series and maybe one of the other was, and he would bring it down and put it in just for the—at the Loop—just for the race, and I remember crewing for him and he had a rusty nail in the centerboard, but he was a super sailer. And I was an ok sailer, but there were a lot of people of my age who were better, Lee Wesson, Brownie, you know, lots of people. And so I didn’t win to the degree that my sons did, or certainly not that my grandson did. I took him out for his first sail when he was one, and he’s loved it ever since. I learned how to sail in number two, Sidner taught me how to sail. And Sam is remaking…

ODENCE: Yeah, I’ve seen some pictures, it’s in your barn right?

GOODWIN: Well no, ‘cause his parents had bought a house, it’s up on Whitmar, and it’s in the garage up there. But anyway, I mean, I used to sail. The Wadsworths had, you know, the houses that have replaced the big houses that were there, I guess I miss the old big houses as opposed to the new big houses. If you go down Cordwood Road and that peninsula that sticks out from Cordwood Road and the Pipers’ houses and everything, that used to be the Wadsworths’.

ODENCE: Right, if you’re going towards North Bay just before you get to the narrows up on that.

GOODWIN: Right, and the Wadsworth House was stucco, big with a red tiled roof, and they had very…

ODENCE: It had a name.

GOODWIN: Yeah, it was Spanish. And it had Spanish furniture inside, very heavy wood furniture, and that’s when everybody sponsored championship series races and they would have luncheons after all those races, and the Wadsworths would give a lunch.

ODENCE: Tecumseh, or something like that?

GOODWIN: I don’t know what it was.

TYE: Can I take you back to your bio a little? For the record. And these will go in the website at the historical society and then someday Phil and I may write a magazine piece or do something on that history of Cotuit. Can you take us back? You grew up in New York, went to Hotchkiss.

GOODWIN: No, I went to Choate, Brownie went to Hotchkiss.

TYE: Oh you went to Choate. So you were the Choate side of the Hotchkiss-Chote. And then where did you…?

GOODWIN: Then I went to Harvard. Then I was in ROTC at Harvard and then I went into the military, and when I came out of the military… In the time that I was at Harvard, that’s when I met Margo, and when she was at Northwestern, so when I got out of the military we were married, 1964.

ODENCE: Well not to put too fine a point on it, but Harvard and Northwestern aren’t that close to each other.

GOODWIN: No. She was… Summer that I was doing the summer camp for ROTC, she was taking a course at Harvard summers program and I was fixed up… One of my classmates was fixed up with her twin sister, Margo’s twin sister who was there, and said well she wouldn’t go out with this guy unless her twin sister was fixed up. So I got fixed up with Margo, so that’s how we met, and actually during that period we came down to… We spent a weekend on the Cape, came down to stay with the Ropeses, and I went out sailing in the 26 and she was waiting for me to come back. So I was in the army…

TYE: Any Vietnam?

GOODWIN: What?

TYE: Any Vietnam service during that you were in?

GOODWIN: Yes. Well I was in a specialized unit in connected with the fifth infantry division mechanized, so I was in charge of—became—because I had majored in Russian history, they decided I would make a good G-2 person instead of a—I went through the armorage school, but instead of commanding a tank, I would be in intelligence, and I learned some things about, in fact, the first drone was being tested down in Fort Wachuka and I went down to do that, but I learned something about handling the aircraft, surveillance aircraft that we had, the Mohawks. And I spent some time, I think it was six weeks, in Vietnam teaching the South Vietnamese how to use some of these techniques and the ground radar that we had in our unit, so I was on TBY over there for a period of time. Enough time to get shot at a few times. And then I came back. I did advise the Israeli—I don’t know, I’ve been thinking about it a lot lately—military on some things that they needed to do to get ready for what turned out to be the 1967 war. And then I went to business school, Columbia Business School, and then went to work on Wall Street, and I was in Wall Street for 35 years. I worked for Cyrus J. Lawrence, I worked for… I was a partner of Warburg Pincus, and then I started my own firm that dealt with international investments, and I had investments in various places in the world. Anyway, then I retired, I came here, decided I wanted to write books, and got involved in local business and everything.

TYE: Was there any question when you retired that this would be the place you wanted…

GOODWIN: Oh no, because we came here every summer, and in fact we rented the red house down the road from here and we rented another house right—we called it the grey house—just down next to Nickerson there.

ODENCE: Which one was that? Nickerson Road?

GOODWIN: Yeah.

ODENCE: Oh, ok.

GOODWIN: It was the next house north of Nickerson. And so our kids grew up in Cotuit and sailing in Cotuit and everything, and so there was never a question that we wanted to be here full time. My wife wanted a garden, I wanted some place next to the water, so we ended up with both. So we bought the place and retired in 1989.

TYE: Where on Old Post Road?

GOODWIN: 801 Old Post Road. We’re… Well, we’re the first house as you go into what they call the Cow Yard, the last bay before North Bay.

TYE: Near Don Law?

GOODWIN: Well, near. We’re about as close to Don Law as you are to where Anna Murray used to live. He lived down the road from us a ways. He’s on the other side of Cordwood Road, we’re up the hill.

ODENCE: Yeah, you’re a third of a mile, something like that.

GOODWIN: Less, I don’t know, something. Any case, that’s where we are. But there was never any question that this was where we wanted to be when we retire.

ODENCE: So that brings me to my other agenda. I think I mentioned I’m on the Civic Association Board and there exists zero history of the Civic Association, so I’d love five minutes on what you know on, you know, the roots of the Civic Association.

GOODWIN: Well I know mostly when I ran it, but…

ODENCE: Which was 2000-2010ish?

GOODWIN: Something like that, yeah. When we first… No, it was actually the mid-’90s, I think 2005 was when I got out, something like that. Then Rich Bowden took over after me, and Jim. But when we rented the red house here in the ‘80s, Bill Morse Jr. was head of the Civic Association and had been so for many years.

ODENCE: Really, oh wow. See, his name has never even come up, interesting.

GOODWIN: Ah well. That’s what I’m here for, bring up some names that you haven’t got. And then I got recruited. I had been involved, been chairman of the board at heritage and I was fire commissioner, and I did a bunch of different things with nonprofits and government. And Peggy McGerrihan[?] was running the Civic Association. And she got into…

ODENCE: She was your immediate predecessor.

GOODWIN: Yes. She got into difficulties which, in fact, they even left town after all this went on. She was in the Anti-Pier Movement. So every time someone would propose a pier in the town of Barnstable, she would go to the hearings and everything and object to it. And got a lot of people from other towns, other villages P.O.’d. And there was finally, good people were not happy with that movement. She was in the master gardeners and the garden club with Margo, but they decided that… She finally resigned and they came looking for me: “Would you be willing to take over the Civic Association?” So I did. I was head of the Civic Association for let’s say 10 years. But it kind of mixes together, I was involved with the Kettleers, I was on some committees with town council, but in that period of time in let’s say the early to mid ‘90s for 10 years ‘til about 2005, and I got out of heritage then and I was fire commissioner for 12 years and got out of all of that.

ODENCE: Do you know who founded, how it was founded, how, why, when?

GOODWIN: No I do not.

ODENCE: I’ll let you know when I figure it out.

GOODWIN: There were a lot of these organizations that would be founded and then grew up and some of them faded away and they came back. Some issue probably started it. But so then I decided, so for the past 15 or 20 years I’ve been teaching at the ALL over in Cape Cod Community College. In fact, I wrote that book because I taught a course on New York in the ‘40s and ‘50s, and I have all kinds of material for it. People in there said, “Gee I’d wish you’d write a book so I can read it.” So that’s why I did that.

ODENCE: Yeah, so just one more matter on the Civic Association: What was the… was Christmas in Cotuit going when you took it over?

GOODWIN: Yes.

ODENCE: That was already a thing? And I heard the parade’s going… I heard the parade started in 1976.

GOODWIN: Yes, and I started running the parade when I was fire commissioner, ‘cause the fire department ran the parade.

ODENCE: Ok, it was not part of the Civic Association.

GOODWIN: Well, not then, but while I was the president of the Civic Association, the fire department came to me and said, “Look we’d like to get rid of the parade. We’ll be glad to help out, but we’d like the Civic Association to run it.” So I ran it then, and so finally I got … When I was looking for words, actually this was. Yeah, so I started and the first issue that I had as president of the Civic Association was the overlay, the pier overlay.

ODENCE: I don’t know what the overlay is.

GOODWIN: Leftover from Peggy McGerrihan[?]. So I came in and I brokered a deal with the other members of the… other Civic Associations in the town council. I said, “Ok, what we would like to do…” Because Peter Hickman was on our board at the time and he was very active, and this was his issue, and he said, “What we’re trying to do is to ban the construction of any more piers, ‘cause that limits our ability to go around the…” Well, all kinds of things, and ban anything but seasonal piers. … And so the first issue when I took over the Civic Association was “can you honcho the program toward the motion to get the town council to pass a pier overlay,” which recently became controversial because somebody wanted to build a pier right next to the town dock.

ODENCE: Right.

GOODWIN: So we got that passed, which was from the Loop to the oyster company, there could be no more piers, and part of the compromise was: I had to agree that there were people in my area that wanted to build piers and things, so I had to exclude myself from that part of the… We don’t have a pier, but everybody else around me and across from me has a pier. So that was the issue that I came in to work on and we were successful, and… So her name, McConnell.

ODENCE: Mimi McConnell?  
  
GOODWIN: Not Mimi McConnell, she taught yoga… Anyway, we deputized her to be the lead person on… Anyway I’m happy if you have any questions about early Cotuit, I mean, you can call me up or email me, you have my email. I’m happy to talk to you anytime or you’re welcome to come up to my house where we have a very different view from here, you can…

TYE: So, I have a couple last few questions, starting with: That was one of seven books, what were your other books on?  
  
GOODWIN: Geopolitical, political, I did my first book was *The Third World Century*, then the second one was *The Resurrection of the Republican Ideal*, then next one was *The Arc of the Pendulum: Governing in the New Millennium*, and I did another one which was called *Toxin: A Warning from the New Middle Ages*. That came out four months before 9/11. Then one of the courses I just got through teaching—I’m teaching kind of a triad of courses at ALL about what the future’s gonna look like—and one of my courses was the new middle ages and now I’m doing something of a successor to that. And then I did *The Arc of the Pendulum* and I think I have my thing, the other titles and things. And that would be *Precarious Balances: The Middle Ages of the Next Millennium*, and *Arc of the Pendulum: Philosophy for Governing in the 21st Century*, religious extremism called *Satan’s Cauldron: Religious Extremism and the Prospects for*…

ODENCE: That’s the one I’ve read.

TYE: Prospects for…?

GOODWIN: *Prospects for Tolerance*. So I’m now teaching a course called Surviving Entropy.

TYE: That is… I love the breadth, I love the prescience of a lot of your topics, geez.

GOODWIN: I’ve had interesting classes, and I’ve taught courses that were derived from my books at ALL, as well as the New York course. Two New York courses, actually. But, I’ve had a broad base of people in my class ranging from ardent Trump supporters to very liberal progressives. And I had the same range in my immediate family, actually. But, we’ve been able to have discussions, which leads me to a certain amount of optimism. And my basic thinking is that everybody argues about democracy. I’m not sure we ever had democracy in the way that most people talk about it. But to me the essence, the one thing that makes democracy good as a form of government has nothing to do with the ability to govern, it is that it facilitates dialogue. If you take away dialogue, you take away democracy. And we’re in the process of trying to do that with our siloization of society, but we’ll see. I’m trying to, Surviving Entropy is looking out and it’s trying to… It’s 12 weeks long so I bring up various different things, and each one I bring up a challenge and say ok, here’s how we can overcome it, here’s how we can survive.

TYE: Great, where are the courses taught?  
  
GOODWIN: Well I’ve been teaching them on Zoom since the pandemic, for various reasons. And I’m doing my last session next Tuesday, I do Tuesday at 9 o’clock. And I give lectures too, I give lectures at Snow Library and also at the college, but they’ve talked me into doing it next semester 10:30, and for years I’ve done it at Tuesdays at 9 o’clock, but they’ve said, “Well, a lot of people can’t get up and get going early enough, so can you do it at 10:30,” so I said, “Ok, I’ll do it at 10:30.” I get up at 4:00. So that’s what I do. So my books and my courses have been connected in what they’re trying to do. Lately, I figure it’ll probably be my last hurrah, but I’ve done three courses, one being Transition to a New World Order, the next one was The New Middle Ages, and now it’s Surviving Entropy. And that’s like a triptych which, I don’t know if I can get my concentration long enough, I might turn all three, turn that into a book, but we’ll see.

TYE: Switching back to Cotuit for a second, the kids and grandkids are living here part-time, full-time, what is their situation?

GOODWIN: Both. We moved up here, our kids were all over the place. We have four kids, all of them are married, but only two of them have kids. So, they kept coming up here, and our youngest daughter, who lived in Lexington, Mass. where she married an Irishman actually, she would send her kid, first Sam and then Sam’s brother Connor, and they would come down and spend the summer with us, because they were doing the sailing program, and they would visit us weekends. Two years ago they just bought a house up on Whitmar, so they live here full-time and that’s their home. We have our youngest son, Christopher, who you may remember. Our two sons were both commodores of the yacht club and our grandson has also been. And he lived all over the place, his wife was a journalist, she was a producer and a bureau chief for NBC News, and they lived all over and then they retired early. He worked for IBM and they lived in Taiwan for two years, and he developed an illness and so they came back and they’ve actually been living with us for the last couple years so we now have two of our kids living next to us. So our oldest daughter, Jennifer, who just retired as—she was—an assistant principal in the New York City public school system and her husband’s a teacher in the New York City public schools and they retired, and so they live in New York City and they have a country place in Pennsylvania. And then Charles and his family live in New Canaan, Connecticut, and they come up. They’ve tried, both of his kids tried the sailing program, but it didn’t seem to work for them the way it did for Sam.

TYE: So, I have a feeling we’re gonna have follow ups, do you have anything else now?  
  
ODENCE: No, we’re good.