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SALLY HINKLE
TRANSCRIBED BY JACK MANIACI

TYE: So we're here with...

HINKLE: Sally Hinkle on... What month is it? May 28th?

TYE: May 23.

HINKLE: Thank you

ODENCE: We've been doing this for a few years. We didn't even add [unintelligible] in the first few we did. We were really anticipating how long this was gonna go.

TYE: So if you wouldn't mind just sort of starting us out with when you first came to Cotuit, and then there is what circumstances the...

HINKLE: I came to Cotuit before I was born, because my family had lived here since somewhere in the 19th century, and we came every summer. The moving truck would come to Boston, and I don't know what it picked up, but I was too young to know. Anyway, it picked us up and I suppose high chairs and things like that, and brought us down here, and we stayed until the end of the summer, until my mother started saying, "There's a touch of fall in the air," and with great excitement. She had no drivers license, she couldn't drive, a good thing. So we were here on our bicycles.

ODENCE: And always to the same house?

HINKLE: Always to the same house, what we call "the big house," which is now...

ODENCE: Dannhauser.

HINKLE: Dannhauser, thank you.

TYE: Which is where?

HINKLE: Mr. Dannhauser's house.

ODENCE: 49 Putnam.

HINKLE: Yeah. And it used to be yellow, so it was also "the yellow house," but now it's sensibly not painted.

TYE: And that was... You owned the house?

HINKLE: My grandparents owned the house, and their parents before them, I mean it's a long haul. And there were a lot...

ODENCE: And the Hoopers before them.

HINKLE: Well they were Hooper people. There were a lot of Lowells, as you've already heard, in Cotuit, and they were part of that bunch of Harvard-Lowell people. I forgot to bring down almost everything, but I've forgot also, I've got two albums that were done beginning of the 20th century. My grandmother collected all sorts of pictures, and you've got generation after generation doing exactly the same thing in exactly the same place, so.

TYE: And what was the name of the first family in your line?

HINKLE: That's a good question. There was Lowells, my grandmother was a Lowell, and then it became Ropes because she married a Ropes, who was fortunately also in the academic business. So...

ODENCE: What was her relationship to President Lowell?

HINKLE: She was his first cousin, I think. They were not brother and sister, I don't think. I'm pretty sure they were first cousins, I'm not that one... My aunt, who's not here, was the one who knew all of that by heart, so none of the rest of us bothered to learn it, but I have it in print. So I can send you it if you need it, a genealogy thing. But they'd been here forever and at that point there were bath houses below the house on the water, and so a lot of people, part of a group, and you'd see, you know, you've got people sitting on the beach for probably 100 years.

ODENCE: I think the first Lowell who bought that house was Edward Jackson.

HINKLE: Could have been.

ODENCE: I think so.

HINKLE: He married the woman who was connected to the *New York Times*, and that's how they got the money to do it. 'Cause, before that, they had lived... They lived over here.

...

ODENCE: And the ballpark. We're sitting next to the Elizabeth Lowell Ballpark.

HINKLE: That's right.

ODENCE: So there you go.

HINKLE: We're related to the ballpark, yeah that was, yeah, family property.

ODENCE: She's the one, Elizabeth Jones was the *New York Times*.

HINKLE: She was, you're right.

TYE: When you would come for the summer, I don't know what your parents were doing work-wise in the city, but could they come and be here all summer...?

HINKLE: My father came on Friday night and left on Sunday night.

TYE: Can I ask what your father did, his work?

HINKLE: It's sort of a good question. He was in the railroad supply business. I guess we could say that. I think his father-in-law had a company that sold small parts, and he continued to sell small parts. It was not a money-making operation, and we were lucky we made it to the end.

TYE: And when you would come here as kids, this was where you were for the whole summer and you could totally drift to a new life?

HINKLE: Yeah, oh sure, that was, I mean, when we were here, we were here, because Mummy didn't drive, so we didn't go anywhere, and we biked. And those were the years when the end of your big toe disappeared after about a week because you would stub it on the ground, and it was just...

ODENCE: Your mother had an interesting name, I'm not...

HINKLE: [Chaisy?] Charlotte.

ODENCE: [Chaisy?], yeah I knew it was Charlotte. So it just was a mispronunciation of Charlotte?

HINKLE: It sort of echoed her personality, I think, and I don't know how long she'd had it. I sort of doubted... Her sister called her Char, and it was probably from before, you know, after school, I don't think it was probably a school nickname.

TYE: And so you come here summers, and during the week there was no car, which meant that the groceries supplied everything that you needed?

HINKLE: They delivered, yeah, or we walked over. Or could bike, but that wasn't really our problem, that was somebody else's problem.

TYE: You didn't need to go anywhere outside the village to survive here.

HINKLE: Not by our standards, I mean, they had, you know, Pepsi or whatever it was... that orange stuff we drank or, you know, whatever that. And the only trick was going to the movies, 'cause there was a movie theater in Osterville and you needed to be able to get there. So there was, generally, somebody had a car. And everybody left their shoes at our house, because our house was the last one on the way out of town, so people would come and collect their shoes and we would go off to the movies. Once or twice we went by boat.

ODENCE: We interviewed Johnny Murray, and I think Larry asked some question about leaving Cotuit in the summer, and that was the one thing his uncle... If it was a rainy day, his uncle would take him to Osterville for the movies. But other than that, there was never really a reason to leave town.

HINKLE: Well, no. There really wasn't. And the entertainment was, you know, square dances.

TYE: At Freedom Hall?

HINKLE: Never at Freedom Hall, it was outside at the big hotel down there, whatever its name was...

ODENCE: The Pines.

HINKLE: Thank you very much, the Pines. And they hired us in the sense that I think they gave us free ice cream, and it was really the ones a little older than we... You know, you were in a group by how old you were, just naturally. I guess probably because of the sailing.

TYE: And they wanted you to do their...

HINKLE: They wanted local color who actually knew how to square dance, too, that was an advantage. But it was, you know, the sort of Ned Pierce and Brownie would have been one of the, you know, sort of that little...

ODENCE: Leonard Peck was calling...

HINKLE: I guess he called then. Yeah he probably did.

TYE: Can I ask either of you: I just heard some great stories not on paper from a guy who lives near here, Patrick Sullivan, whose family was here for a long time. They have... Yeah, Bluff Point. And he was talking about the hotel. Who owned the hotel?

ODENCE: The Morse family.

HINKLE: Oh that's interesting.

TYE: That wasn't... He was talking about a guy in town...

ODENCE: Crawford.

HINKLE: Crawford, right.

TYE: He was talking about Crawford, and Crawford having this thing...

ODENCE: No, it's Crawford's and then a Crawford daughter married a Morse, that's what I'm thinking of. Calvin Crawford was, yeah, he was the proprietor.

TYE: But having a thing... Have you ever heard of the Crawfords having a thing about the Kennedys and it'd be that Crawford would just... was very vexed by the Kennedys, and would leave trash at the Kennedy compound, have you ever heard anything like that?

HINKLE: Nope, never heard that.

ODENCE: Tell him the village is very Republican, so that's not surprising.

TYE: Can you take us to how the village would have looked differently? You spent all this time as a kid growing up here, and what was, in some ways the same and in some ways a different, Cotuit? What are your memories about what's changed?

HINKLE: Well, there was a gas station down in the middle of town, where there isn't anymore, and there was a little store. There were two stores, one where there was a pinball machine, and one where there was soda drinks at the counter. Those were the things of interest to me. The post office was also on that corner which is now the park. Connects to the library, really. And the library was important. Wasn't as big. And then, because I sailed with Lee Wesson, I went down as far as the Wessons', and we went to the Lloyds sometimes, so we went that extra [unintelligible] down there sometimes, where they had amazing art. Those are the things that I remember about that.

TYE: Did you learn sailing as soon as you were...

HINKLE: Yeah, we were expected to sail. I mean, that's what you did, was sail. In skiffs, we didn't have the little boats then, we had skiffs. Which were bigger and heavier, so you were useful as a crew, and that's how you got your start was by crewing for somebody, like Lee Wesson, so that's how you got into the thing. But Mummy had her friends, we had our friends, and I didn't know other people. It wasn't a feeling that you shouldn't know other people, we just didn't run into them doing anything.

TYE: How many were "we?" How many siblings...?

HINKLE: I have two younger sisters, and they did whatever they did. I did it with my group, there were about six of us.

TYE: Who were the six?

HINKLE: Cassie Abromovitz, Stu Goodwin and his sister Wendy, Lee, sometimes his sister Victoria but not very often. Who else was in that? Cassie Abromovitz and Michael.

ODENCE: We interviewed her as well, by the way.

HINKLE: Vicky? Oh yeah. She'd interview you if you didn't interview her! So, you know, that was our group. For year after year after year, and sometimes we would see each other in the winter, but not very often.

ODENCE: Tommy wasn't part of your group?

HINKLE: Tommy's too young for my group. He was my sister Annie's group. So it's a whole different... And a whole different bunch of people, really. 'Cause we were older, our little group was older than Bailey's. So the whole Bailey's, which is a big contingent, was in the next group down, I mean, this is within two years of each other. Two or maybe three.

TYE: That must have been a blast to come in the summer and reconnect with your summer friends.

HINKLE: Yes, because we spent all the days together. And we had sort of different lives, in a way. I mean, Stu Goodwin's mother made yogurt. Imagine making yogurt in the 1950s, you just didn't do that, she was weird! And Vicky Wesson's, or Lee Wessons's mother had maids at the table. And you had to wear your shoes, it was a problem! Actually, I think they made an exception for me, eventually, cause I sometimes would have lunch there before he took me home. But, you know, it was funny little skinny layers of people. And I had my cousins, the Barsons and the Lowells who lived down the bluff. They had been very close with my father and my aunt, so that was, you know, it was a close family. But we never really connected with them. We knew them, but there were enough of them so that they did their group thing together, and I think they considered us not to be smart enough, and they were probably right to hang out with them.

TYE: So can I take you to a couple details. One is the detail of read. Did you read in the summer or was there just no time?

HINKLE: Oh yeah, no, I read because I loved it and we had a reading list from school that you had to have read, so... And the family liked it and we had 80 billion books, which are now sitting in my front hall. We did read, we did go to the library. When my friends were around, we did more. We played Mahjong. We were outside mostly. We listened to Michael Abromovitz play the trumpet, I mean, those were the important events.

TYE: Where were you in school?

HINKLE: At Windsor School in Boston, a private school.

TYE: So through...

HINKLE: 12th grade.

TYE: Great, and can I take you to your feet again, you mentioned that in the summer, with you cycling...

HINKLE: Without shoes, yeah.

TYE: If you were running around without shoes, did it take time every summer for your feet to harden?

HINKLE: A little bit, yeah, and then it was hard to get your feet back into shoes after that. They were bigger after the summer.

ODENCE: You needed them to go to movies, too.

HINKLE: And you needed them for the movies, but really we didn't wear shoes all summer, which is still to me sort of a freedom feeling.

TYE: I love the idea, the Wessons requiring, or at least starting out requiring, shoes, and then did they adjust do you think?

HINKLE: They probably still do require shoes. It's a different mindset. Because they still have their family... Well they don't have their family house, but Vicky's is as good as their family house, and she might be more particular.

TYE: So when you think of... The premise of what we're doing with this village, and my guess is people in a million villages across America would make the same claim, is this is the most special place on the planet.

HINKLE: Mhm, Absolutely.

TYE: If you had to defend to somebody who didn't know Cotuit and say "This is what made it that special," what was it?

HINKLE: I think, to me, especially now, is it doesn't have a club. My husband grew up in Wianno, so, I mean, they've got more clubs than they can count. So, there was no club, so it wasn't, there weren't certifiably fancy people, and if you... You know, joining the yacht club then, I think, might have only cost 50 cents instead of a dollar, or now it's ten dollars, I guess, but it was a dollar, probably. So that you were a yacht club member.

ODENCE: Yeah it was 50 cents, I think you're right.

HINKLE: But, you know, you couldn't not do it and it didn't mean anything because it had no building. So...

TYE: So nothing segregated, there was not a clear, unless you were going to lunch at somebody's place and they had a room full of maids taking care of it, there was nothing distinguishing who, other than being able to be here in the first place, who had more or less resources...

HINKLE: Right... Well, if you were a summer person you were automatically in a different thing, and because we came down a lot in the fall, I knew a few people who lived here all year round, so that...

ODENCE: Who did you know?

HINKLE: Betsy Minet[?].

ODENCE: Another person we've interviewed.

HINKLE: Oh good, 'cause when she had her picture in the *Globe* the other day, I did a little double take. But Betsy Minet[?], and Donny Ashley.

ODENCE: Frog.

HINKLE: Frog, who was lovely. I think they were a little... The Swartwoods knew them, so that took it into the summer thing. You know, there was an upper level. And Ned Pierce. And they were, you know, a couple of grades above us in age, so that there was a connection to some of the winter people, but we didn't go to high school here, so we, you know, then we were in a different category to start with.

ODENCE: It's interesting you came down here in fall, 'cause a lot of the summer folks didn't, or I haven't...

HINKLE: Well I came down... I think I must have stayed with Betsy, 'cause I would come down on the train. And I can't think particularly why I did it, but, you know, except we were friends.

TYE: But not to stay at your place? Your place was closed...?

HINKLE: Well yes, because my grandmother would have moved back to Boston and we would have been removed as well. But, you know, later on, of course, we were here a lot in the spring and the fall.

TYE: Have you come consistently till now?

HINKLE: Mhm, well now I don't own a house. I mean for the first time in my life, I don't own a house in Cotuit.

TYE: How long has that been.

HINKLE: So for two years now I haven't owned a house in Cotuit. It's a frightful feeling.

ODENCE: Yeah.

HINKLE: I look, I look about me but, you know, it's an expensive thing now. Wasn't so when... I've got, you know, statistics from what Daddy paid for chicken food in 1952, but...

TYE: You do?

HINKLE: Yeah, I've got... He never threw anything out. But anyway, 'cause we ran a farm—or they ran a farm—and they had an actual farmer who, you know, kept care of chickens.

TYE: Around here?

HINKLE: Yeah.

TYE: Where was the...

HINKLE: Down, that's the open land opposite Ropes Field, it's the Ropes family. So we gave the field to them eventually. And where the barn is there's also chicken sheds, or there were chicken sheds, and egg cellar and stuff like that. And I worked on them sometimes, that was fun. Never killed the chickens, but I sorted eggs and did that sort of stuff.

TYE: Was the farm fun, or...?

HINKLE: It made money. Well I'm not sure that it actually made money, but it allowed that enterprise to continue.

ODENCE: I wonder, there might have been a tax break.

HINKLE: I think there probably was, but I've got lots of Daddy's records.

ODENCE: Was the Ropes Field farm... Were the crops there?

HINKLE: Yeah, there were raspberries, there was corn over there. I hate asparagus, lots of asparagus. And I think maybe melons and stuff were over there. And you drove in the driveway and went down around to the bottom, where somebody would take your money for whatever it was you had in mind.

TYE: Could we go to a little biography of you? So it was Windsor School, summers here, where was...?

HINKLE: Vassar. Still summers here.

TYE: All-girls heyday of Vassar?

HINKLE: Yes, still all girls. Or, you know, men had not yet come to Vassar.

TYE: And then what did you do...?

HINKLE: Then I went to library school and worked in Cambridge but still came down for weekends.

TYE: You worked in libraries?

HINKLE: Yeah, in Cambridge.

TYE: For the city?

HINKLE: No, for Harvard.

TYE: Which library can I ask?

HINKLE: I was going to library school at the same time. I think I was in the Radcliffe Library, worked in the Radcliffe Library. Worked in Widener a little bit then worked in the Radcliffe Library.

TYE: Can I say one thing about Widener? So we talked about books a lot. The person who inspired me to think about books was what I thought was one of America's wonderful biographers, a man named Justin Kaplan. And he moved from New York. He was working, he would spend one year, when he was in publishing, working for a guy named Simon, and the next year working for Schuster, who was chairing it. And he came back, he'd done his undergraduate at Harvard, he came back and he and his wife Anne Bernays moved to Cambridge because Widener, unlike any of the other great libraries in the world, including the Library of Congress, had open stacks. And his notion was an author finds the books that they will cherish not by the book they were looking for, but the three books next to it, which you could never tell at any of these other libraries, and I think Widener is a miracle.

HINKLE: Widener is a miracle. The other place that's a miracle is the Boston Athenaeum.

TYE: So the Boston Athenaeum is... yeah, it is. And it's being... The people who are running it now are trying to revive it in a way that I hope is gonna be good. Do you know, are you in touch with what's going on there now?

HINKLE: Mhm.

TYE: Yeah, so is it a good thing?

HINKLE: Yes, I think it is a good thing 'cause I think the people will get to know it. I mean, their problem was always did they have enough money. And, you know, it started out when the people who started it had the money, and that was fine, but it's more expensive for even buildings to live now, so they couldn't hold that. It lost a little of its charm. But now, you know, what they're trying to do is make

it more personable, and they didn't need to before because everybody knew each other. I mean, it's a different world.

TYE: So all of the years when you were working in Cambridge and everything it was still summers in Cotuit.

HINKLE: Mhm, yep. And even in New York, even when I was in New York, Mr. Bailey drove up from New York and we would take me at, I don't know, 125th Street or something, take the train to where his car was parked, and then we would drive with Vicky Wesson's husband, Hope, John, and a couple of other people.

TYE: Because this place was so magical did it have a draw?

HINKLE: Well we owned a big summer house here, that was a draw. And my friends were here! You know, you have a couple of friends at school, but they were all girls. Here, I mean, it was what made a great difference in my life, was that I knew some boys. Silly thing to say, but it does make a difference.

TYE: Is this how it was, that through summers here you met your husband?

HINKLE: No, my sisters met my husband because he was a couple of years younger than I was, and he came for New Year's Eve for some reason or other. We must have invited him, I suppose. And that's how I met him, but from Wianno.

ODENCE: Was there ever any tension to spend time in Wianno.

HINKLE: No, we would go to the movies, that was, you know, the interesting Osterville. I don't think there was... There might have been tennis might have been connected.

ODENCE: I mean with Joe's family.

HINKLE: Oh with him. No, they were dying off. I meant they died off pretty much. And their houses were so enormous, that that wasn't of interest. Certainly wasn't anything we were gonna operate. And also it was too far out of town, I mean you couldn't...

ODENCE: Where did they live?

HINKLE: They lived on the road to Centerville. So, you know, there's no way you can walk down there, there's not enough space, it drops off, and so we figured the kids could never operate. We had to drive them into the club all the time, cause we did spend summers half and half sometimes.

ODENCE: Oh you did some?

HINKLE: Yeah, but never the whole summer, that I can recall.

ODENCE: And racing the seniors?

HINKLE: Oh yes, that is why we lived!

TYE: So, sometimes a place is defined by what is going on there, sometimes it's defined, a little bit, in opposition to other places. Is part of Cotuit's sense of what it is is it's not Osterville?

HINKLE: I don't get that feeling. The people I knew and hung out with all wanted to be in Cotuit. They had no aspirations to operating... They didn't play, there weren't that many tennis players, for instance. We had a tennis court that my aunt ran as sort of a free, you know, pay some money and come and play. And, you know, that was fine, sort of. But nobody played serious tennis that way. I think if you did, you would have gone right away over to Osterville. So, didn't compete that way.

TYE: So it's sounds like Osterville, that whole life there, had no appeal. This is what was really attractive.

HINKLE: Sailing is what we did. Sailing and the beach. And Mahjong.

ODENCE: What was the link from New York, we got you as far as Cambridge and then...

HINKLE: Oh, I needed to have a job and I got offered a job at Columbia, so I went.

TYE: In the library?

HINKLE: Yeah. That was when library cards were sorted with knitting needles. That was automation.

TYE: So I'm not as much of a fan, but close second, Butler to Widener. I think Butler is really wonderful.

HINKLE: Oh yeah, I worked in the undergraduate library, was within Butler. So I was separate in that respect from the whole library. I worked for the Oxford English Dictionary part time, because I lived in Cambridge, later on. Because I lived in Cambridge and I could get access to Harvard if they wrote for me and said, "She works for us, let her in." And they did, and so I could peruse the stacks, which I'm not sure that undergraduates can cruise the stacks unless they have a reason. But now they're so strict, I finally gave up the whole thing because I couldn't remember all those numbers I had to know, you know, password numbers. It's too hard, you have to check your coat, you have to... Anyway, but it was

fabulous, I mean, I know that library pretty well, and all the little dinky libraries around, and it's really amazing. And you can walk into them.

ODENCE: And Joe was working in Boston?

HINKLE: He was a lawyer, so...

ODENCE: Yeah, so you...

HINKLE: He worked.

ODENCE: You came back to see Joe?

HINKLE: Well, yes. We got married. When we got married, we came back, I came back to Boston.

ODENCE: Yeah.

HINKLE: Seemed more practical.

ODENCE: And did you always live in the same place?

HINKLE: Mhm. Yep. Except for two years when we had an apartment, but now I've lived in this house for 50 years, I think. Maybe a little more.

ODENCE: Wow.

TYE: In Beacon Hill?

HINKLE: In Boston. Beacon Hill. But on the back of Beacon Hill, not the fancy. It's sort of a little bit like Cotuit in Boston.

ODENCE: Oh come on. You're sort of on the edge of the north slope.

HINKLE: Ah well, it's not different anymore, actually, because the housing is so expensive that it's actually changed people.

TYE: Can I ask a question here: that's a different house with a different door?

HINKLE: It's the garage from this house. We're in the Burgesses' backyard.

TYE: So the Burgesses don't own it?

HINKLE: Yes they do. They own the garage and it's...

TYE: Do they rent it, or is that family...?

HINKLE: They do rent it, I think, I'm not sure whether... The lady over there, she feeds the chickens when she's here, and so she's useful in that respect, when they're not... But she's also very nice.

ODENCE: I thought at some point you mentioned your aunt. Came up in connection with the clay courts.

HINKLE: Yeah.

ODENCE: So talk a bit about her.

HINKLE: She had been married at one point, Harriet Cabot, who was Harriet Ropes, and she married briefly, in the 30s, and spent some time in Taos, New Mexico, and was always interested in Taos. But she lived here, and she was a historian, and worked for, you know, all sorts of historical places so that... She talked so much about, you know, whose cousin was whose, that I think it kind of cooled the rest of us. So I now look at these geneologies and think, "How did this work out?" Especially since you were sort of related to the people who lived next door to you, but that seems very close, but in fact it wasn't necessarily all that close. It's hard. And I'm sorry I haven't done more of it. But she lived in the big house with all of us for a long time, and then finally built her own house and tennis court. And then she was a little bit [unintelligible], and we could see her coming, if we were sitting out on the porch we could see her sailing across the big field with her dogs, and that could cause a few people to evaporate. But she was very nice and very loving to all of us, but she and my mother could not have been more different, so that didn't make for lots of folksy family dinners.

TYE: Was this, for your mother, on the one hand it was Cotuit and a brilliant place to spend the summer, and on the other hand it was having sole responsibility for the kids during the week when it was this way, was this an escape for her?

HINKLE: No, she had friends. She was a people person, she loved going to parties and loved having friends. And she had some very good friends: The Shreeves, Bill and Harriet Shreeve were, you know, best buddies. And Mr. Shreeve was almost as nutty as Mummy. And Mr. Brocks and, you know, like the kids, it was a grown-up thing. And the Baileys, Nan Bailey and Capey Bailey.

TYE: So she had her summer life in crew?

HINKLE: She had her summer life in crew, and all within walking distance, mostly. Sometimes you might not have wanted to walk it, but you could.

ODENCE: Talk a little bit about the transition of the yacht club into the harbor.

HINKLE: I don't remember so much about that, although I should, because it was, I think, they came... Did they come directly? Yeah, they might have come to us for a while and then moved down to [unintelligible - 33:22], and then moved up here, I think, you know, up to Ropes Beach, where they have their own, well that's Joe, actually, you know, you need a lawyer to think of these things.

ODENCE: Oh, really? Well, it was that the Sinclairs were moving out and the yacht club was next to Luke Beach and the Sinclairs.

HINKLE: That's right, kindness of the Sinclairs, yeah.

ODENCE: And I thought it was directly to Mrs. Cabot's, but...

HINKLE: No, I think... I can't remember, I honestly can't remember that, it might have been directly to Mrs. Cabot's. But that should be easy to find out, I mean, there's a date to it all.

ODENCE: Well, or as my dad.

HINKLE: Right, without thinking he can tell you.

ODENCE: Right, but she was, I mean, it was so tremendous that she hosted the yacht club for 30 years.

HINKLE: And she loved it!

ODENCE: I know she did.

HINKLE: She had people on her beach, she was a maiden lady. And she loved that people came and patted her dog and, you know, knew who she was. Because they had to come in through her yard and down the...

ODENCE: We'd park up in the field and down you'd pass within five feet to the corner of her house.

HINKLE: Absolutely, yeah. No, she loved it, never heard her say a bad thing about it. And, I mean, everybody was very nice, the people who were managing it at both levels, both the kid level and the parent level, loved it.

ODENCE: So that was sort of passed down commodore to commodore, that you had to...

HINKLE: You had to be friendly with... And it was true!

ODENCE: You had to go see her at the beginning of the season.

HINKLE: Yeah, and you should, I mean that's not even bizarre, so. But she really did love it, and hated to see it disappear, and every now and then they'd give her a prize or something, she'd be all chuffed up.

ODENCE: Well, and always say that she had more to thank us for than we had to thank her.

HINKLE: And she felt that way, I mean she really did. She was great.

ODENCE: She was quite something. And then yeah, for the benefit of the folks listening, you and your sisters and Joe very kindly gave the yacht club the opportunity to buy a nice piece of property and ensure the future of the yacht club.

HINKLE: Yeah, and it was a good plan, I think, because it's much more convenient for people to be able to park. It's closer to town by a lot, 'cause it meant, for them, it meant coming down the driveway, which was, you know, one trek driveway. So it was more neutral, too, which was not a bad idea as far as who you get to join the yacht club. It might have had a sort of reserved feeling.

ODENCE: Felt more open or something like that.

HINKLE: Maybe, I don't know.

ODENCE: Yeah, I could see that.

HINKLE: But that's a saving grace, I think.

TYE: So everybody we talk to, it seems like, just as we're about to turn off...

...

TYE: It seems like just as we're about to turn off the recorder, we get most people... They've given us a few wonderful well-behaved kids and what it was like growing up here, and then they'll say, "But do you want to know the other story?" This is some of the trouble we got into and these are some of the fun things that happened. Any fun stories? You're smart, inquisitive kids. Any...?

HINKLE: I don't think so. It just wasn't, you know, that age was too old to be doing that kind of troublesome fun. I think, you know, without going much further down, once you get into the Baileys, it gets a little bit, not bad fun, but you know, being on Dead Neck overnight or something, you know, something rash like that. That was definitely not my gang, we were not adventurous enough, apparently. I'm trying to think of my children: Ned is not a troublesome person anyway and Sarah and they're just 50. I don't remember Sarah ever getting into trouble, but she wasn't much of a sailor either. I mean she liked to sail, but it wasn't a lifelong love.

TYE: Are they here?

HINKLE: Sarah's actually at the moment renting. Must be the Sullivans' beach cottage, which is...

ODENCE: Wow.

HINKLE: Yeah, I've had breakfast there the last two mornings and it is absolutely the most gorgeous place you have ever seen.

TYE: It's so interesting you should say that. We're talking on Bluff Point.

HINKLE: Yes!

TYE: So, I'm trying to remember. I'm terrible with names. Patrick's wife is...

HINKLE: I don't remember, 'cause I don't know who Sarah's been talking with some woman who is a Sullivan, I think.

TYE: Patrick's wife, when she would come here as a kid, she was working, I think, in the hotel maybe, the bar at the hotel. She said she used to dream about someday getting to stay in that beach house. And she said, "I never thought I would be in the house looking out on the beach." But their view, of all the views that I've seen, view from Bluff Point out to Sampsons, is really an experience[?].

HINKLE: My mind is absolutely blank on how they could possibly have got permission to do that. But I'm not gonna ask. They've got two bathrooms and a dishwasher, and they're right on the beach.

ODENCE: Is it decked out in Patriots stuff?

HINKLE: No.

ODENCE: 'Cause the only time I went in there was a babysitter I knew, a Sullivan babysitter, and she had access to the place. But anyway, it had, I remember, a full size Jim Plunkett poster, and lamps made out of Patriots helmets, it was kind of gaudy.

HINKLE: No, it's definitely neutral.

TYE: So that's neutral, but in the basement, the house that Patrick built, which is next to the big house, their basement is like a museum to the Patriots.

HINKLE: Oh, okay, that's where the stuff went.

TYE: And every year they had original art, it went onto the annual programs, the Patriots, and about... They've got wonderful poster-size blowups, of [unintelligible], just you realize... So there was a crazy—I'm trying to think how many years ago—30-40 years ago, there was a crazy Michael Jackson victory tour, it was called, and the younger brother, Chuck Sullivan, was a big investor in that. And to keep him out of bankruptcy, Billy Sullivan, his dad, sold the Patriots, so Patrick was at the time the general manager, so you feel like you're looking at a museum that's partly attributed to the Patriots and partly to a broken heart of Billy Sullivan having to sell the team. So when you think of what Cotuit was versus what it is today is it your sense that it's grown the right way? Or... [unintelligible].

HINKLE: No, I feel pretty comfortable about it. I mean, we never knew who, you know, we certainly never knew the Sullivans or even before the Sullivans who lived up in there. I think I knew the Burnses, who lived up there, but that was, you know, a century ago. And we, you know, the fancy people we knew were the Wessons and the Lloyds, and we knew them because of sailing, we were the right age of sailing people. 'Cause my parents didn't hang out with the Wessons and the Lloyds, definitely not. For a couple of months, you don't need a large number of people, so you had your own little group, and you looked forward to it during the winter, and then there it was.

TYE: But when you think of the world that your grandchildren inherited here, it's still a great world?

HINKLE: Yes. Well we think so, I'm not sure the grandchildren do. They like going to the beach. Neither one of them... The one most likely to like sailing is only five years old, so we can't tell about that. But they love going over to Dead Neck and we've still got a whaler, so we can do that. We have a whaler, which lives here because we don't have any place to put it, at the moment. And they have friends, you know, small group of friends, which is Charlotte Burgess's children, and it still goes in waves of age and family who you know. 'Cause there isn't that sort of public place to meet people, being the club with having fancy dances and tennis tournaments, or something. So that changes it a little. No golfers.

ODENCE: Except there is the club, which is the yacht club, which isn't fancy.

HINKLE: Which is much better. No, but it does actually have events. And I think you hear about, you know, the final lunch after the final race or whatever at somebody's house. And that's caught on as a way to socialize. And there's more of that than there was, but the yacht club's much bigger, I think. Or I assume it's much bigger.

ODENCE: Yeah, certainly the fleets are bigger. I guess it must be the yacht club itself is bigger.

HINKLE: So that there's more opportunity. Some frustration about how close the nearest movie theater is, but since you can sit at home and watch movies on your television, it's not a big deal. There's nowhere else that they want to be. I mean, we've never lived near a lake or that sort of thing, so doesn't come up. I don't think I've said anything new.

TYE: You've said a lot of things that give to me the spirit of what this place was and is. What haven't we asked you that you'd like people to know about your take on Cotuit.

HINKLE: Well I think the whole family thing was what we came from that. When I look through these, you know, pictures of 1930 and it's family, it's the same family doing the same things on the same porch. So there was much more, a broader, family. I mean you had your cousins as well as your, you know, aunt and uncle, and mothers and fathers and stuff, or grandparents. So that was important, and still but not nearly as much as it used to be. But it is, you know, if you say Cotuit, wherever you are, and if anybody knows anything about it, they definitely are alert because it means something to people who have lived here even a short time, I think it was a special place.

TYE: So I have a quick story of what Cotuit means to people. I was interviewing... When you are selling a book, and you're looking for publishers, and I was doing a meeting with an editor at [unintelligible], which is part of Random House, for this book. I loved it, this editor was smart and young and dynamic, and she walked me to the elevator at the end of the meeting and she said, "Where are you off to?" I said, "I'm flying down to Boston." She said, "No, where are you off to specifically?" And I said, "I'm going to Cape Cod." She said, "No, where are you off to specifically?" I said Cotuit and she lit up, and she was... Her mother was Kathleen Sullivan, ended up going out to San Francisco and marrying the mayor of San Francisco, Joe Alioto. And she started telling me, I couldn't leave for another 15 minutes, to hear of Cotuit stories. It strikes me that most people in the world have not heard of it, but people who have all have some special story.

HINKLE: They have a special feeling about it, I think. It's relatively simple.

TYE: But that's, as Wells said, it's really relatively simple, but magnificently simple as well.

HINKLE: Mhm, and I know quite a lot of people who have—my age more or less—who have retired down here, and live here now all the time, you know, and that's quite—well, you. I can't say anything about the Lowells doing that, because they're not, but well the Burgesses, and Bedurthas[?], and there are others, but my mind is not sharp.

TYE: Most of the people we interviewed started out as summer people and, when they got a choice of where to live, the idea of being able to live here year round seems really appealing. So, can we take a picture?

ODENCE: That's a good idea.

TYE: If you don't mind putting pictures.

HINKLE: That's fine.

ODENCE: Beautiful.

HINKLE: Okay, thanks. Not likely.

TYE: So, I want to say thank you for giving up a morning for us, but we also end always by asking, "Who else do you think, that we might not have talked to, would we ought to?"

HINKLE: If you've talked to Tommy Burgess, you've got it all. He is wonderful on old stories.