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Wingate Lloyd

Transcribed by Matthew Winkler

Tye

Before he left town, Phil and I had a final conversation with um uh Jim Gould.

Wingate

Jim Gould

Tye

And the, what he did was he was telling us a little bit about Cotuit history, a little bit about his obsession with Cotuit history. And what he managed to do, um the good news is he didn't infect us with COVID. The bad news is he infected us with his obsession for Cotuit history. And the so what we've been doing is um trying to put on tape, um, the sessions with the smartest and the longest lived people who really have a sense of what this place is all about.

Wingate

I qualify on one count and not the other

Tye

So I think you qualify in those, and probably a lot of other good categories. And the what we we're trying to understand generally Cotuit history, and we'll ask you some questions about your time here and your family's time here. But if there is one question that defines what we're doing more than anything it is, why is Cotuit not just the most special place on Cape Cod, but one of the most special places on the planet. And what we intend to do with these, as I mentioned, is give them to the Historical Society. And if we show the resolve and can free up the time, someday write it up as a magazine piece for the Globe for the Times for somewhere, and maybe do something with some of the interviews for a public radio story. And the um, and, what I'd love to do is stop talking and hear you um tell the story of your family and what brought them to Cotuiit. And what brought you and continues to bring you here.

Wingate

Right. Certainly.

Odenice

And regarding your age, we I think we had you on our list categorized only as medium risk, not high risk.

Wingate

If I was on the high risk, you didn't have to come out at 100 miles an hour.

Odence

Exactly.

Wingate

That's right. Yeah.

Odence

Was it your grandfather who built the house first?

Wingate

It was my grandfather.

Odence

Yeah, that's what I thought.

Wingate

My, my grandfather was a Philadelphia banker. He uh he had two children, my father and a younger brother. They were, they had a summer place in the Adirondacks, beginning about 1910. They picked the Adirondacks because the younger brother, Richard W. Lloyd, became ill as a teenager, at the age of about 15, or 17, something like that about 1919, 1920. And it could have been polio, they were never quite sure of what it was. But I have seen pictures of him as a young man diving and sailing and swimming and doing all that sort of thing. And I knew him as a middle aged man, with a with a sort of a terrible curvature of the spine. He'd had several spinal fusions, and he never played sports or anything like that.

Odence

Wow.

Wingate

Um, so this was a great sadness for my grandparents, and who hoped that somehow they could find and [unintelligible] sought various doctors and so on. So they went to the Adirondacks thinking that mountain air would be good for him. And they were there from about 1910 to about 1928. And they decided it wasn't it wasn't improving his health at all. And they began to think that the sea air perhaps would, uh, would help him. And by that time, uh, their older son, my father was married. Uh he had one child, and was sort of out of the nest. So they built this huge, huge house, uh which Phil remembers well. It was it was built for their friends, family members, and their one son.

Odense

And all summer [unintelligible] no insulation or anything.

Wingate

It was the insulation was seaweed.

Odense

Oh.

Wingate

Which was not uncommon on the Cape in those years. And I remember as the house was being taken down, putting my hands in the seaweed

Odense

Yup

Wingate

And seeing it was very compact and very clean. Nothing would grow in it.

Odense

Yup

Wingate

So it wasn't a danger to the to the wood or anything like that.

Tye

And did it work as insulation?

Wingate

It worked out, well, I guess so. I guess so. [unintelligible]

Odense

nobody ever lived there [unintelligible] summer

Wingate

My mother spent a few months in the in the fall of 1940 here when my brother fell and broke his leg and was hospitalized.

Odense

Oh, okay.

Wingate

But other than that we would never hear really, in cold weather. The house had had central heating. And the central heating consisted of gravity fed uh uh ventilation from huge furnaces in the basement. No fans and the warm air, were just sort of seep

Odenice

Rise

Wingate

Seep up out of the house.

Odenice

Yeah. Interesting.

Tye

So can I interrupt for one second?

Wingate

Please

Tye

Um two things. One is could you describe for the tape where the house was?

Wingate

I describe where the

Tye

Where the house was. Physically where where was it here?

Wingate

Yeah. Well, it was on, it was in Popponesset, if you do you know the area.

Tye

I do know the area.

Wingate

It was in Popponeset. It was in the middle of a 20 acre piece of land that my grandfather bought. He later added to that land a 28 acre, more piece of marsh and so on. And he bought other land and he bought this land eventually too in the early 30s.

Oden

Mmm. Maybe a way to describe it is, probably quarter mile south of Oregon beach if you were just

Wingate

Uh Yeah. Yeah, about so. He would go along rocky Marsh, at Oregon Beach, uh it would be about a quarter of a mile. The road was unpaved then as it is now.

Tye

And did it work as the health treatment, um that the Adirondacks?

Wingate

No.

Tye

No.

Wingate

No. Whether he had polio, as I mentioned, or not, was never really sure. And even today, his children who were in their 60s 70s and 80s, his children are not entirely sure of what it is he had. They sought uh medical assistance, they were able to afford medical assistance. And I think they went to other cities in the east coast of the US. But without success. He had a doctor in New York, that he went to throughout a bunch of his life.

Tye

How long did he live?

Wingate

He lived to be 84.

Tye

He did, wow. So it wasn't the healthy, vigorous life that he had started out with, but it was a long life.

Wingate

That's right. And uh

Oden

Did he have a career?

Wingate

I'm sorry, he lived To be 76. He died in 1980, he was born in 1904. It was not the heal healthy, vigorous life that his brother and my father played tennis and golf, and was captain of the track team in college and all that sort of thing. And sailed here. It was 60s and 70s. Very comfo comfortably, so.

Tye

Interesting. And the original house that you say um Popponesset, so it was not starting out in Cotuit, but can take us [unintelligible] and the.

Wingate

Cotuit was the, was the town

Tye

Oh it was the

Tye

But it was actually what they did was to come up here, look around, and they rented a house on uh... Wianno Cot, you know that? Well they were two houses down to the East. It was called the Talbot House. It was owned by the the Talbot family from 1928 to 1930. And they rented this great big sort of sprawling, typical, Wianno house for two years and sort of looked around, I guess they must have been looking at land and looking at the idea of building a house. And uh they decided to build what we came to call the big house. And uh...

Odenice

So why not, why not the New Jersey Shore or Bethany beach or some places where Philadelphia people come?

Wingate

Yeah, I don't know. I don't know. I think those, uh, I think the Adirondacks in the uh, in the 20s were sort of a fashionable place for bankers. I think that Cotuit became in the 1920s a fashionable pace place for Harvard people.

Odenice

Yeah.

Wingate

And it was said that you could you could walk down the street and say, I saw the President this morning. And they weren't speaking of President Coolidge. They were speaking about A Laurence Lowell. Because that was, he was the president when you're walking around Cotuit.

Tye

And that would have been a more, um, to them exciting thing than seeing President Coolidge?

Wingate

I think so. So this is a place where where smart people, successful people, and there weren't many big houses like his.

Oden

Right.

Wingate

There were a few, the the Bailey properties looking over the loop. But there weren't, there weren't many in Cotuit in those days.

Oden

And you think your dad probably just knew somebody in Wianno from college, or something?

Wingate

It could have been that. It could have been that.

Oden

Or not your dad, your grandfather, your grandfather.

Wingate

I think they went to the Adirondacks because there were bankers

Oden

Yeah, yeah.

Wingate

There. So he met somebody in business

Oden

Yeah.

Wingate

Who said, you know, you ought to take a look if you could, if you could build a house up there, and I don't, I don't know what the house was like at the Adirondacks.

Odense

Yup

Wingate

But he must have probably met somebody and thought it was maybe a fashionable place to be.

Odense

Yeah, okay.

Tye

So can I ask you the—one of the things that I found most interesting that Jim Gould talked to us about is that while today, the image on Cape Cod is that if you want to be in an academic or literary world, you go to places like Wellfleet and Truro and he said, but long before they were that Cotuit was that, because Lowell and all the people that Lowell attracted here, and we were given a 30 page monograph that Lowell wrote a century ago about Cotuit. And it seemed like this was an extraordinary place, not just beautiful, but a place that had lots of intellectual life. It was really interesting.

Wingate

Uh the the train was built, was built down here from Boston, in about 1870. And I think I've always felt that that was the reason that this is as far as they got. This is where the train took them. We always came up here by train, with with, you know, a cook and uh six children and and dogs, and all kinds of stuff. So it was it was a bit

Odense

And how would you get from West Barnstable to here?

Wingate

We had taxis.

Odense

Yeah.

Wingate

That picked us up at West Barnstable.

Odense

Yeah.

Wingate

And I remember spending a long day on the, getting up at five o'clock in the morning in Philadelphia, changing at Grand Central and taking the day Cape Codder, up to up to West, up to West Barnstable.

Tye

But you had to as Phil says, and as you're describing, you had to be committed to Cotuit to make that kind of a trek with that kind of a crew with you.

Wingate

Yes, exactly. And there was a cook. There was a maid and and lots of, there weren't six children, but there were there were certainly four of us and so on.

Tye

So what was it that made Cotuit worth coming back? At the beginning, you come in, you know, they look at it and they rent a place and but what was it that kept them coming back here?

Wingate

I think they must have found a certain [unintelligible]. Bear in mind that they were in their last year as of that point. They didn't know that my my grandfather was nearing 70. He was ill he died at 70. His wife died uh in 1934. In her mid 60s. They thought they had 10 or 15 years uh in Cotuit. But they didn't. His wife died of some sort of intestinal cancer, and he died of a heart condition. He smoked all the time.

Tye

But your father had become, um

Wingate

But my father lived to be 92

Tye

And he had become, fallen enough in love with this.

Wingate

Oh, absolutely. He didn't. They were uh my parents. So here we are 19, 1930. The house was nearing completion. My parents had been summering as they said in Narragansett, which was pretty, pretty fancy place. There was the the Yacht Club. There was the the the beach club. There were dances on Saturday night, and a lot of friends up there and so on. I think they tired of that. I think they felt as by that time, by 1930 they had, by 1931, they had two boys, two children. And I think they thought that was this was very, maybe a very good atmosphere for kids to be brought up in. And they saw Cotuit as conducive to a different kind of life for the for the children. And I'll come back to that later. And any

case they, what are the first things they did? Um they were sitting I understand, it was, I was either just born or not yet born when a young girl came to the front door and knocked on the door. I guess it was in the mid 30s by that time, knocked on the door and uh asked if asked my father, if we'd like to join the, if the family would like to join the yacht and he said oh no, no, we've been there. Thank you. We've had that that kind of life the dances, the drinking. No, no, I don't think so. So uh Edith Henderson, uh Edith Madison was sent away.

Odenice

Another one on our list.

Wingate

What?

Odenice

She was another, we we've interviewed her.

Wingate

I'm afraid you've missed her, did you tell here?

Odenice

No, no, we got her. She was a high, we got her.

Wingate

Good. Well, she was turned down by my father.

Odenice

Yeah.

Wingate

Asked to join the Cotuit yacht club. And uh, but she later came back and taught Terry how to sail.

Odenice

Yeah.

Wingate

Now my brother was born in 1928. And beginning I guess, but maybe when he was 10, or thereabouts, E-Edith taught her, taught him how to sail.

Tye

So we, I just want to interrupt for one second to say that two weeks ago, um, all of her kids when they were here for the memorial service for her came by to see, we live in her old house. And so they wanted to come by and see the house. But they were telling wonderful stories about her. And they were also correcting, she gave us a politically correct version of certain things in her story. And they gave us what they said, was a...

Wingate

Well I've got a story too about her.

Tye

Okay, I'd love to hear it.

Wingate

Uh, any case this is, the life of the 30s was relatively quiet. My my grandfather was in his late 60s. He sailed yes, but he sailed with a uh a captain, who a retired captain who came out from Cotuit and got into a 16 foot cat boat and took him out for say

Oden

Do you do you recall who that was?

Wingate

When?

Oden

No, no the captain.

Wingate

Who it was. Fisher. Captain Fisher.

Oden

Okay.

Wingate

On, uh, Main Street, almost opposite Freedom Hall. It's a yellow, big yellow house.

Oden

Yeah.

Wingate

And my brother and I were taken down there every summer by my father to see Captain Fisher. Meet him because he was really he was a classic, old time Cotuit capta, sea captain. And he would come out and uh he didn't live out here. But he would come out when when called, and take my grandfather for a sail of an afternoon in in a cat boat. In the in the 1940s, so here we are. I was born in 1931, my brother in 1928. Uh, sailing in the 1940s, uh the young men

Tye

Can I interrupt for one second also,

Wingate

Yeah.

Tye

And I apologize for the interruption.

Wingate

Do it please.

Tye

But I'll forget these. So you're banking family in Philadelphia, and clearly um the uh do well enough that you're going to Narragansett and you're coming here. And now you're talking about an era in the Depression. How did how did the family fare during?

Wingate

Well we [unintelligible] often ask my Father, well, how could he build a house like this, because he also had a big house in Philadelphia, built in 1912. He was a chicken farmer, born in 1867. And uh came to Philadelphia, I think in in search of an education and got a job in banking in the early 90s, in the early 1890s. And he made it. He went to law school, the University of Pennsylvania. He didn't become a lawyer, but he came but he became a banker. And I think that that was that was sort of the origin of the family money that we're looking at partially here. Um...

Tye

And he survived during the Depression

Wingate

He survived during the Depression. And I also I often asked my father, how did he fare? How did how he could afford to build a house like this? In whatever the dollars were of the time and I was told that he felt that common stocks were a speculation. And he invested in bonds. And he invested in railroad bonds.

Tye

Brilliant. So the, so he survived all that.

Wingate

So while other people were jumping out of the 10th floor

Tye

Yeah, right.

Wingate

He was sitting there looking at his bonds, I guess, I don't know.

Tye

That's crazy

Wingate

Because they built a house in about 1910 in Philadelphia when when he had I think he just had gotten a big job of a bank in Philadelphia. And then he built this house here in 1920, or 20

Oden

And is that the one on Darby road?

Wingate

The what?

Oden

The Darby Road House in 1910.

Wingate

Ah the uh the uh old old [unintelligible].

Oden

Okay. But is that the one where Terry ended up living in a retirement

Wingate

No, no, not, no, no, no family members, but the Darby Road House was a house that my parents built.

Oden

Okay.

Wingate
Uh 1931, 1930, 31.

Tye
Did your father follow his father into banking?

Wingate
Uh and so my grandfather was a banker. My father was a banker, and remained in the banking business uh until 1950, when he went to Washington to join the Central Intelligence Agency, where he was a Deputy Director for Management.

Tye
Under Dulles?

Wingate
Under Allen Dulles, yeah. And he's he worked there for 14 years, and commuted to Cape Cod in the summertime. I think he found that the vacation plans for a banker are not quite the same as the vacation plans for a civil servant. So he got a lot less holiday than he was hoping for. But I think he got a lot a lot bigger kick out of being in the CIA than being in a bank in Philadelphia.

Tye
Can I just, um, the, uh, as a total aside, for a living, I write books. And my last book was a biography of a guy named Joe McCarthy, who made Allen Dulles look like a hero. John Foster Dulles. It was not one of his prouder moments in his unwillingness to stand up to McCarthy, but Allen Dulles, and I'm sure your dad, um...They really you...

Wingate
They they became very good friends. I've read the book, The Brothers

Tye
Sure.

Wingate
Which I'm sure you have, too,

Tye
Yeah, I have

Wingate
Which uh made Allen Dulles look like something else.

Tye

He did. And the yes, the guy who wrote The Brothers is a smart guy, and a sort of friend. But there's another story about Allen Dulles as you know, and in the McCarthy era, there weren't many people who had the courage to stand up to him. And he did. And he stood up to him in part in defending Dundee who was I'm sure a kind of a friend of your um

Wingate

Yes, yes, yeah.

Tye

Anyway, the um

Wingate

I've always been charmed by the idea of John Kennedy riding in the car in uh 1961, with Allen Dulles, saying that if we were a presidential syste-that if we were a parliamentary system, Allen, I would resign. I John Kennedy would resign. But as it turns out, we're a presidential system. So you resign. And that was in the Brothers book.

Tye

[unintelligible] Bay of Pigs. For Bay of Pigs or for?

Wingate

For Bay of Pigs

Tye

Bay of Pigs, wow. So that's really, that's very interesting. So the, um, while we're on the professional, so your dad, your grandfather's a banker, um, a successful banker in Philadelphia, your dad decides he's going to do something else and more interesting and he goes to the CIA.

Wingate

Yeah, he had been a banker, and then he decided to do something else. Yeah.

Tye

And your professional life was as

Wingate

I was a career Foreign Service officer.

Tye

All over?

Wingate

Uh, well, all over yeah. We, uh, we lived in a number of different countries which in a way separated me from Cotuit. Because even when I was in college, I spent a summer in, in, in Mexico at a Quaker workcamp. Another summer in Finland, at a Quaker workcamp. I traveled to Europe. I went in the Foreign Service, and lived in France, in Cameroon, and in Morocco, and in Portugal. And it was just a very different life from from the the summer life here.

Tye

And can I just, the, as a total other deviation. What era were you in Morocco?

Wingate

I'm sorry?

Tye

What era.

Wingate

What year?

Tye

What era? Were you in Morocco during the

Wingate

I was in Morocco during the uh when when King Hassan the Second was King. I was, uh, became very adept at the French language and interpreted for a number of Americans. Richard Nixon and Avril Harriman, with the king of Morocco, and and so on, which was really exciting.

Tye

That must have been incredible. You must, I have you um written down all your stories?

Wingate

I have a uh, an oral history that's on the State Department website. It's available for anybody to look at.

Tye

So I'm intrigued by all of that. Being away did it make um your fondness for Cotuit, did it increase it or did you forget it or what was the what was your attitude around being in all those places and being away from here?

Wingate

Being away from here? I wanted to be away from it. I wanted to be away from uh the the the my my family have a, I don't know how, it was a very tight family. Four children. But I really wanted to get out. And I began in college and with Mexico and with Finland. After graduate school, John Johns Hopkins for a couple of years. They were opening a study center in Rangoon. I was just married, few weeks married, and they said, would you like to go to Rangoon? Well John gulped and said, uh, I guess so.

Tye

[laughs]

Wingate

So we went to Ran, where is it? So we went to Rangoon for a year, I was a teaching assistant uh at the ran, Ranhop Center, the Rangoon Hopkins Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

Tye

Wow.

Wingate

Which was which was, you know, a really, really exciting year and traveled all around Burma and a little bit around Southeast Asia. Uh so it's sort of, I think what really gave me was even earlier, when I was in high school when I was in Boarding School. St. George's school in Newport, Rhode Island, had a, an arrangement with the English speaking Union, where they would send a boy to, or boys a boy to England, and they would accept a boy from an English school. And they said to me, would you like to do that? Would you'd like to go to England? So off I went to start school, the age of 17, or the Queen Mary, you know, looking red. Absolutely, just out of the egg. And uh and uh it was an extraordinary experience. Where I learned, you know, how other people look at America. And I think it gave me the impetus for the the the uh Qua Quaker workcamps for a year in Rangoon and for the [unintelligible]. So...

Odense

So kind of up up to college, were you pretty much here every summer?

Wingate

Up to, up to, uh, certainly through through high school. Uh you know the summer of 48 was when I I graduated from from high school, that was my last, 47 48 was sort of my last full summer in Contuit.

Odense

And had you been coming around the Fourth of July and stay until after Labor Day every summer?

Wingate

That's right. I used to complain that the 16th of September was uh was always who was always that day we traveled [unintelligible] was my birthday. So I spent it on the train.

Tye

But so, you were away for a long time. Did that, um, what pulled you back?

Wingate

I retired from the Foreign Service. Uh

Tye

And what year would that be?

Wingate

And I got a job at ITT Corporation uh in 1983. Uh and I had worked 25 years for the Foreign Service. And I decided then I worked 25 years for ITT, in a way the opposite way. My father worked in the private sector for 25 years or thereabouts and then went to work for the CIA.

Tye

And you did the reverse, the uh...

Wingate

So I did the reverse.

Tye

Ah. And during those ITT years, were you back here?

Wingate

Uh yes, but not to sort of vacation. You know, I would come, I learned how to get up at four in the morning and get back to Washington uh by 9:30 in the morning.

Tye

Wow.

Wingate

And and so on. So it was very difficult. But you know, uh...at one point we were talking, my brother and I were talking to my father about uh what what... how long did my grandfather spend up here in Cotuit? And he, because he always wore a bow bow tie. And he looked quite formal and so on. And uh and my father said, well, he spent July and August. And my brother said, well, wasn't he working then? And my father's answer, yes. But he was senior partner. Gives it a special senior partners today don't take two months off.

Odence

Yeah.

Wingate

Can be sure

Odence

But that that was the norm I guess, huh?

Wingate

Well I've always sort of sorted that away as interesting...

Tye

So how many years did your grandfather end up, um, given his heart attack and his death, the how many years did he actually get to enjoy Cotuit.

Wingate

Very few. Uh, because I've written those down. They moved in. They moved here in about 1932 They moved with Richard, their second son. My father was married and they moved here in 32. Uh, my grandmother died in 34. In 35, he did not come here because he was I guess depressed. And he took a trip to Europe to to I don't know quite what he did. In 36 a family companion to my Uncle Dick, who was an older woman who was a very erudite person and knew a lot about French history. And uh she we used to come in and travel with my grandparents and with my Uncle Dick. Uh she had a stroke. And so she was laid up, and he didn't come here in 36. He died in January of 37.

Odence

Oh boy.

Tye

So very short jeez.

Wingate

He had about, he had about three or four years here at most. I remember the smell in the big house of all the wood was new. You could, particularly the attic, the whole house, it was brand new. And it didn't tell me that this house is 35 years old, or that it smelled as though it was built the day before, so...

Tye

And your memories you spend all those early years here. Your memories of what the place, if you were describing to your grandchildren, this is what Cotuit looked like in my era growing up here. How what was the difference in the feel of the place?

Wingate

Well let me give you one one uh vignette, Larry, it was it was dominated by the war. Uh the young man, the older young men, Guardi Jackson, Evy Jackson,

Odense

Buddy Bailey, we we're talking about.

Wingate

Taussig, Henderson names that were familiar to all of us had gone to war. And they were just sort of the the teenagers left. 15, 14, 16 and so on. In those days, the spit the sounds, the Poppeneset a spit went down to to Rushy warsh, and beyond to the [unintelligible] house. And we would sail up a narrow area of water up up to the big house, move the boat and so on. Well, one day we got, uh, we were we knew the this was happening. The military arrived here the army arrived here. And they wanted to practice landing. And they brought LSC's LSUs and were practicing landing on the spit on the outside of the spit. And they moved, and they moved in also, and I don't know whose land they took over. But they were building Bailey bridges. You know what I mean by a Bailey bridge.

Tye

And practicing for D-Day or practicing for general?

Wingate

I think practicing for, uh, maybe I don't remember the dates terribly well. But maybe practicing for North Africa.

Tye

Wow.

Wingate

If not North Africa, surely for June of 44. And uh one story. The Wesson family was dominated by an elderly lady named Victoria Wesson who ruled the family with a with an iron fist. And it's reported, I was told about it anyway, a young lieutenant came to the front door, and Mrs. Wesson came out and he explained his purpose which was to have asked her permission to land on her beach to use her beach. And at one point during the conversation, she said uh, of course I-he he said of course well it's up to you Mrs. Wesson. And she looked at him with her Southern outlook, Arkansas, with language and said, You're damn right you can't. You ain't Sherman's army!

Tye
Wow.

Wingate
The war was not far behind in her mind.

Tye
And did she say yes?

Wingate
[unintelligible]

Tye
Did she say yes eventually?

Wingate
And she, I'm sorry

Tye
Did she say yes, did she let them

Oden
Did she allow them?

Wingate
Yeah, yeah.

Tye
She did allow them.

Wingate
Yeah. Oh, yeah. She said yes. She said yes. But it was her

Tye
Her decision, that's great, I love it.

Wingate
You ain't Sherman's army. And this was of course, I don't know how long [unintelligible] got to my father or whatever, but got to me. But um so they they landed, the the Bailey bridge I remember very well, because it was built across. It was it blocked my brothers and my [unintelligible] getting home on

our Skiff. And it was five o'clock and we had to get home for dinner. What are we going to do? And they looked at the boat, and they said boys come over here. And they got about 10 of them. They picked the

Odense

Scary [unintelligible]

Wingate

Walked it around the end of the abandoned bridge. And they did that many many times. So we could get to a race which started in those days at the loop. As you probably know.

Tye

Were they doing this um this kind of practicing with landing vehicles and all all across the cape or was it something about Cotuit that made it particularly attractive do you think?

Wingate

Um I think you needed it was it was necessary to have some sort of uh uhh inland land, you didn't want to build up any bridge that was too far, you wouldn't want to build one that far. But half that far would be about the same as the Rhine. And uh and you would, you would want to practice enough, so it was challenging. Each one of those sections of the Bailey Bridge, maybe two or three were put on a truck. Uh so you didn't want to there wasn't there weren't that many trucks, I guess. And it was a lot of a lot of traffic.

Odense

And there was a camp?

Wingate

But there was a camp and these, uh, these guys who of course, a lot of them were for from from Middle America, they had never met poison ivy.

Odense

Oh, geez.

Wingate

And so they, they complained about poison ivy. And they said, What is it about Cape Cod? What is it about Cape Cod that makes us itch? And they had never seen it.

Tye

But this must have made um on the one hand, your young teenagers, and the older guys are off fighting the war. And you can read about the war, or listen to the radio about the war. But this brought the whole thing [unintelligible] to Cotuit.

Wingate

Absolutely. Absolutely. Why would they be putting that bridge out? Well, they must be crossing something else. And uh we didn't we didn't know. And so I say I don't know whether it was 44 or 42 that they were practicing for. I suspect it was 44. But uh...

Tye

And did the village then have a sense that you knew um everybody and everything that was going on, or was it still big enough then that the that um uh did everybody have their little worlds within it?

Wingate

I think the latter. I think people had I think they had their little worlds. There weren't many houses out here. The houses that are right down here weren't built yet. This house was built in 1985. Uh so there was the there was the uh Cochrane house, my family's house, and then Townsend. And so there weren't, there were only very few houses out here, it was mainly just sort of brush like this.

Tye

So you're far enough here from the village center. And you had I presume, the way you were describing the contingent that would come here. You had your own world here?

Wingate

Yes.

Tye

Did it feel like a separate place, then?

Wingate

Oh, yeah, very much so. My mother said she would come to Cotuit. She was she felt it was pretty isolated, and not much fun compared to the dancing and drinking that was going on at Narragansett. If uh my father would build her a tennis court, so they built a tennis court. And that was healthier outlook for her children and so on.

Tye

That's great so did you grow up

Wingate

[unintelligible] have a lot of friends here. They invited many house guests. It was a big house, I guess they had seven or eight bedrooms. And so they could, they could bring a lot of people together.

Tye

And when [unintelligible]

Oden

And even my generation of Lloyds tended to hang down here.

Wingate

Yes. Yeah, exactly.

Oden

You know, show up for races like you guys did.

Wingate

We would go down for races, but I don't think the I don't think my parents knew many people. I think that Pat Jackson, I remember him, because he was a a figure in Washington and so on. But that may have been in the 50s. At the time, he was he was there. But I think the 40s they didn't really know anybody. I think Dr. Townsend was sort of a a great feature of American medicine, but they didn't know many doctors so.

Tye

So if you lived here, um, and you were the Lowell's coming from Cambridge, you knew a lot of people from Cambridge, because this was close enough and a lot of people would come. I would also imagine you were not just physically isolated here, but the but not many other Philadelphians here.

Wingate

Nobody.

Tye

Nobody.

Wingate

Nobody, I don't think they I think they, if they had old friends, they would bring them over. Um they come for a few days, a lo long weekend or something like them. There was a story that I was told about as many of this is received history, as you can imagine, that two men were going by in a motorboat and you could always hear a voice carrying across the water when there's a motorboat. And one of them said to the other. What is that? Is that a hotel? And the other one said and this was a hearing of my father or someone who told my father. No, it's a family that gives these Agatha Christie house parties.

All

[laughs]

Wingate

And that [unintelligible] was, my father liked the idea

Odenice

What would what was sort of a typical day like because I don't remember the spit coming up that far, but I guess you would you like swim across and beach on the beach?

Wingate

Yeah we were. We were not allowed to go out on a boat alone until we could swim across.

Odenice

Yeah, yeah.

Wingate

And that was we were probably the eight or nine or so, gasping for air as our boat road beside us. But I remember I guess I was about 13 or 14, going out in a spit and [unintelligible] going out in the in the in the skiff and sailing to Crosby's at Osterville parking at Crosby's walking into Osterville

Unknown Speaking

Wow.

Wingate

Getting a haircut, walking back and sailing back

Odenice

Huh, is that so.

Wingate

My god, I was, you know, I was just given an automobile. Just the most freeing thing. And it was an event that I've remembered all my life.

Odenice

And the the river was wide enough to moor your Skiff there?

Wingate

Yeah.

Odenice

Right right in front of the house?

Wingate

Yeah, yeah we had a skiff and a uh we had a skiff and a cat boat. And later we have a, so we own a senior.

Odenice

Yeah. But a typical, would you spend most of a typical day on the spit, just sitting—

Wingate

No it was not really in front of the house. A lot of tennis. Yeah. Boys get yourself out of bed. What are you doing in bed at 930 in the morning and get out of bed. We're playing tennis in 40 minutes.

Odenice

Yeah. Yeah.

Wingate

There were the the life was very much. We had friends who were the La, children's friends who were the Liqueirs

Odenice

Yeah.

Wingate

A couple of houses down. But we didn't really know anybody. I don't think there was anybody else our our age out here.

Odenice

Yeah.

Wingate

Because the older kids had gone had gone to war.

Odenice

Yeah.

Tye

And so coming here from Narragansett, and the um, the party, the social life and the party life there...did, you mentioned that most of the social activity for your parents was people they would have into the house, houseguests that were coming. Did they go to the hotel? Did they go to things in town any of the...

Wingate

In, in, uh...

Tye

In Cotuit

Wingate

No, they would they would be here. They here they're staying staying here. And the house that my grandparents built was far too big for a family with one son remaining in the household. They didn't have, they had a few house guests. But they were old family friends they'd known for 40 years. And my grandmother Lloyd was a uh painter. And we have some of her paintings and and we have a painting of the way the house looked in those days. And uh uh she was, she made that a very quiet life. They were in their 60s by then and probably not well.

Tye

So when houseguests came in that era, um, it's a long way to come and they've got to come, if they're coming from Philadelphia they've got to go the trek that you were talking about. Do houseguests come for two days, do they come for two weeks, did they come for...?

Wingate

Oh they came for probably fi five days would be a. Yeah, two days would be not be enough.

Tye

Sure

Wingate

And during the war, uh, they would bring a a house process and the house [unintelligible] consisted of a of an A card. Do you know what the A card that gives you three gallons a week?

Tye

Oh no, I don't.

Wingate

If you didn't have any special priority you got an A card. If you worked as my father did during the war, out of interceptor command looking for German aircraft flying over Philadelphia, which seems a little

far fetched. But he got a a B card or a C card, because he had to get there before the public transport opened in the morning. But if you were a doctor, you got a different card and so on.

Tye

And this, in the era that he was at the CIA, um, were you already off [unintelligible]

Wingate

Yeah I was really, he he went to the CIA in the summer of 1950 in the fall of 1950. And in 51, I spent the summer in Europe with some guys from college. And by 52 I was in Mexico [unintelligible] the front Service Committee. And I was really launched by them. And I didn't and for that reason, I didn't learn to sail really very well or very, very early. There were many of these other, but many of my friends did.

Odenice

We were you ever suspected of being a CIA guy?

Wingate

Yes.

Odenice

Yeah.

Wingate

Yes. Because that was you know, a sort of, there were other other, uh, common for somebody to go into his father's business. So I sort of felt that I had to, had to make it clear that I was a Foreign Service Officer. I went to Marseille as an Economic Officer. I went to Cameroon, where there was no consort to open a new consular. There was no building. There was no office, there was no, no, no housing for us. And I started from scratch and built an American consulate in Cameroon. In in Morocco, there was a uh uh an ongoing embassy where I was a political officer there.

Tye

Can I ask you a very dumb question. And this is the it's about ITT. Was ITT CIA connected?

Wingate

Was it...?

Tye

CIA connected?

Wingate

Uh, yeah, well, sort of. Uh, they were a Chi, they were involved in the Chi, in the Chili Revolution. And they were involved in assisting the, uh, Pinochet. So in in Chile, and you can see that if you're sitting in an office, and a guy that you know is on the right side, what you think is the right side, and he comes in and says if we had \$1,000, we could buy some copiers, and it would make, every, we could give the copiers to these people. They were they were where it would all work out, all work out. Well, actually he was very much involved in that. And people were fired from ITT, and there were Senator Church, Frank Church

Tye

I remember that, Church hearing.

Wingate

Church hearings.

Tye

Yeah.

Wingate

And uh ITT was, when I went to ITT in the 80s, they were still mad about the Church hearing, because he apparently several executives from ITT got fired.

Tye

I remember the head of who was the, was the famous guy who Church went after was the head of ITT.

Wingate

Uh Harold Geneen.

Tye

Exactly Harold Geneen.

Wingate

Yeah, Harold Geneen. But he didn't get he didn't. He wasn't uh I I think probably his reputation was damaged. I wasn't, you know, involved with the company then. And I went to ITT as working on international trade and working on uh sanctions to make sure that ITT kept clear of any uh prosecution, but so I worked with the legal department mainly.

Tye

So you yhad, when you're going off to the Foreign Service, you had your law degree at that point?

Wingate

I did not have a law degree.

Tye

Oh you didn't?

Wingate

But I'd I had spent, I spent two years as a, getting at Johns Hopkins, getting a master's degree. And then I had worked for 20 years, twenty five years in the Foreign Service and in various capacities. Trying to assist American companies, trying to assist Americans whose spouses had died, Americans who had lost their passports. And trying to understand that basically the job of a of a political officer, which was what I did for much of my time, is to put your roots down in the local society and understand it. Learn the language, learn the language well enough to understand class differences. Uh regional differences. You don't talk like they talk down south, and so on.

Tye

So I'm intrigued. We're here to talk about Cotuit and I want to go read your State Department interview. I'm now doing a book project that, was just interviewing two political officers from your era in the State Department. I'm doing a book on three musicians named Ellington, um, Louis Armstrong and Count Basie and they did. They were, Armstrong and Ellington especially were what they called Jazz ambassadors

Wingate

Yeah, yeah.

Tye

And the State Department brought them around the world.

Wingate

Yes, yes.

Tye

And there, and uh...talked to the people who were in charge of their minders and [unintelligible].

Wingate

They were they were, I was a minder in Cameroon.

Tye

You were a minder. For them?

Wingate

Yeah. And I don't remember whether one of them came to Cameroon, I remember other other musicians, American musicians. And it was a big thing for for the American Consulate. Uh we'd give a

Odence

Mostly black musicians?

Wingate

We'd give a we'd give a party for them.

Odence

Was it mostly black, black musicians?

Wingate

Yeah. In Africa. And that was what we were what we're trying to do, is say that America is more than the than the than the uh race problem.

Tye

So you probably uh, Louis Armstrong did famously tours to Africa, where he was attracting uh audiences that could be greeting him of 100,000 people and concerts in 10s of 1000s and I wonder whether the, I'm gonna have to go back and see where the Cameroon because there's a um an entire book written about, Satchmo Blows Up the World is what it's called, written about these extraordinary tours that he did.

Wingate

Whether Louis Armstrong came to, I was in Douala, which was the largest city in Cameroon, but not the capital. It was, they had a, they had an embassy in Yaounde, the capital. But I was uh, Douala was a larger city with a big airport and it was sort of a uh uh transportation hub for Nigeria, Cameroon, CAR, Central African Republic. Gabul.

Tye

Sure. But you must have been there at the height of when we were competing with the Soviets for African loyalties?

Wingate

Yes. Yes. And here's the the uh, the death of Habre.

Tye

In today's obituary, I saw that, wow.

Wingate

Who was the leader of Chad.

Tye

Did you know him?

Wingate

Well, no, I didn't. But I knew people like him, and they were really bad news. But and the question was, what can we do? Uh what can we do and not get tarred with that same story?

Oden

Yeah, wow.

Tye

So have you, are you living now here still just summers? Or did you ever live here um through the year?

Wingate

Well, when I came back here, when I left the Foreign Service, we got hold of a builder and began to work on this house. We built it in in sections as you can see, uh, we have four children. Uh and it's, I've spent more time here, since the Foreign Service, uh, I was still, I was employed by ITT. And I got two or three weeks a year off. And often it was not at my my decision when that was, one summer I was coming here for my niece's wedding Lolly, her her wedding. And I went, I went off to to Central Asia on a trip with some people and so on.

Tye

So ever here all year?

Wingate

[unintelligible]

Tye

Have you ever lived here all year round?

Wingate

No.

Tye

No.

Wingate

I've been here in every month.

Tye
Yeah.

Wingate
But only to sort of taste the, the the dread of January in Cotuit.

Tye
So where are you back and forth and now too?

Wingate
Well, we lived in Washington. Uh, really all my life and fou four years ago we moved to a retirement community in Lexington.

Tye
Not to, um, um...

Wingate
Brookhaven.

Tye
You're in Brookhaven, ah.

Wingate
Yes, yeah.

Tye
Ah, so, um, I have a lot of friends in Brookhaven, it is a wonderful place that has a lot of ex academics.

Wingate
Yes, exactly.

Tye
As you know, including um friends here in Cotuit, the um...

Wingate
Gittleman.

Tye
You know Gittle–You do know Saul Gittelman

Wingate
Yes indeed.

Tye
The um, yes, so Saul and Robin are um

Wingate
Yeah Saul and Robin, and we know them. Saul gave a staggering lecture on the three great uh monotheistic religions. It was just you know, spellbinding and if you, once he's finished talking about religion, you can ask him about baseball.

Tye
But he was very helpful, I did a um, one of my books was a biography of Satchel Paige.

Wingate
Yeah.

Tye
And Saul knows more about baseball than um

Wingate
Absolutely, absolutely.

Tye
That's his passion.

Wingate
I was asking him about uh spitballs not long ago and they, cause it has been a thing in the paper about sticky substances

Tye
And getting rid of it

Wingate
And I said well how do you how do you account for this? And so he said there's been cheating in baseball ever since they threw out the first pitch.

Tye
That's exactly, and that's exactly the way he would say it. Ah, that's funny. Um, so...

Odence

Is there anything on your list or your notes

Wingate

Well I'd like to tell you to give you a couple of uh things that I guess touch on

Odence

Yeah, please.

Wingate

Other people. Um, Edith, uh...Edie and uh um

Odence

Jerry

Wingate

And Jerry [unintelligible] on a separate tacks. Uh Edith was on the starboard tack. Jerry was on the port tack. And anybody who's been in that situation knows with a little bit I can I can do it. You know, I can do it. Just lean a little bit to that side. I can do it. And they came right up against it. And uh, Edie's boat hit Jerry's boat amidships and the uh [unintelligible] had a piece of uh copper wire on it and the copper wire penetrated the sail of Jerry's boat, and it went *PFF* into three big pieces.

Tye

Wow.

Wingate

And Edie was standing up there yelling and I think they were engaged then, they were not married, and just freaking out [laughs].

Tye

So when you were telling that story, I thought you were describing their marriage.

Wingate

[laughs] That too.

Tye

That too. Wow, so that

Wingate

I just remember that

Tye

But nobody was hurt?

Wingate

Nobody was hurt. Everybody's pride was hurt. The sail was destroyed.

Odenice

Yeah

Tye

Jeez

Wingate

It was not it was it was a new sail. There were, there weren't many of them every every, Jackson once quit a race when he was ahead because the wind came out. And I'm not I'm not going to chance my new sail on this wind. Oh no, so he retired. I felt bad, that really takes a lot of guts to do that.

Odenice

I guess sails were a little more fragile.

Wingate

Um... uh, the the Bidwill Alamy family were cousins on the, on the uh, in the Narrows. I spent a lot of time with Sam Bidwell. Uh... When a boat capsized, uh we would sail out to what was then called the chicken coop. Uh, we would, if a boat capsized what did you do? Well you, somebody sailed in and you run up the hill to ask Mr. Whitcomb. Penn Whitcomb, if he would, Penn Whitcomb, if he would get his motorboat because my friend is out there in the water.

Odenice

[laughs] Wow.

Wingate

And that took probably 40 minutes before he could get out to help these kids. And it was that problem that led to the formation of ACMYC with the Sinclair family and so on. Well I think those are the...

Odenice

Well I got, I have one question for you.

Wingate

Yeah.

Oden

Tell me about the Lloyd family booze.

Wingate

Yes. The Lloyd family...?

Oden

Booze.

Wingate

Booze, yes. My father, my grandfather, uh, it was 19, it was the 1920s prohibition through the anti saloon League was growing in power through America in the last years of the the 19 century. And finally, they did it in 19 1919 I guess. The uh the class of 19 at Princeton had a black armband, because, because of that. And so there was no liquor, and my grandfather Lloyd, this would've been about 1923 or four, he had a friend who was in terrible financial straits, but the friend also had a cellar full of liquor. So they made a deal. And they the boo the booze consisted of many cases. And also some some general Beames. A a great big five gallon glass, a wicker enclosed glass jars that are now scattered around, uh, we don't have any here. But I know that there, George has some at his house on Main Street. And uh Nina, I think had a, has one I don't know whether it was empty or full up in Hanover. And so they come down. And of course what I, what my part of the family is one quarter of one half. [unintelligible] It was it was, men those days, there were no cocktails. I think men drank alone after dinner. Or in any case, although it wasn't it wasn't uh drinking with ladies present. It'd be a lot of harsh language and cigars and things like that so.

Tye

Was there rum running

Wingate

Was there

Tye

Rum running

Wingate

Rum running. Uh, not from Cotuit, I don't know. I I think there were there was talk of, that's a rum runner you see a really sleek looking motorboat. But I don't think anybody I don't. I don't think certainly anybody that I knew or my parents knew, was involved. Uh but everybody was

Odenice

Your parents didn't need to, they didn't need any rum runners.

Wingate

He would buy Juniper juice, juniper berries, and put it in the tub with you could in Philadelphia, there was a man named Jimmy Duffy, uh, from whom you could buy reliable alcohol, pure alcohol and with juniper berries, you could make gin. And if you bought from him, nobody would go blind after your party. So uh, and Jimmy

Odenice

Which is nice.

Wingate

Which is nice, which is a nice added, added. And uh Jimmy Duffy after the end of prohibition, after 1932 33, he went into he became a caterer. And he was he was behind the bar for for weddings and that sort of thing.

Tye

Did, so you say that part of the contingent that came here, um, you had a cook and you had um, were there other, what other servants [unintelligible].

Wingate

Uh there was was a cook, there was a cook. There was a, we had a caretaker who was here year round. We have probably two other women servants who were here, waiting table, or whatever.

Tye

Where would they get their provisions? Would they, was it the version of Cotuit grocery was it Osterville, where did they...

Wingate

Probably, I don't know, I was really not involved in that, you know, 12 or 10 or 12 years old. There must have been a lot of a lot of provisions of various kinds.

Odenice

I'll bet Milton Crocker was delivering.

Wingate

But certain, certainly Milton Crocker was involved. Uh It was said that he was, I don't know you knew Milton? You knew Mr. Crocker?

Tye

I didn't, no I just hear stories.

Wingate

Well, he had terrible curvature of the spine. And in his late last years, and uh one of our houseguests, who was a great friend said he got this terrible curvature carrying the money downstairs, because his prices were always very high. But if you don't like it, you can drive to Osterville or even Hyannis, or you can come here and buy mine. So...

Tye

Did he when when you came here by train, did you have cars that you kept here that um that your grandfather kept here?

Wingate

Um he didn't have a car kept here, but often what they would do, they would, they had a man living with them in in Philadelphia, and they send him up driving, uh, I think they, I don't feel that they brought sheets and things, but many summer houses did do that. Brought a hamper full of color sheets and blankets. But there would be a guy here maybe by the time we arrived, who would drive and pick us up along with along with taxis. We had dogs uh in the in the baggage car.

Tye

Jeez.

Wingate

Uh we had one year I remember we came up on the night Cape Codder one year and I had my fish collection which consisted of mayo jars with holes on the top. And uh the, they were they were thrown up on the bed to make the bed, so that was the water. Great, great consternation.

Odenice

Oh jeez.

Tye

But there was, I didn't realize so the Cape Codder that came here had

Wingate

There was a night Cape Codder and day Cape Codder.

Tye

There was a night Cape Codder too, wow.

Wingate

Yeah, I remember the day Cape Codder, I just do remember the fish. The the consternation that that caused. We used to go back and look at the, walk through the car and walk through the train and visit the dogs uh during the day. Make sure they got some water and so...

Odenice

You might you might like this little vignette, might, you know, we always drove we didn't take the train.

Wingate

What?

Odenice

We always drove up. And but but Larry would point out the railroad bridge to me, you know, which was up and I could never understand how a train could get up over that thing.

Wingate

That's right. How would you get that train up there? That's right. That's right.

Tye

So um anything...

Odenice

No we should probably wrap...

Tye

We should, we have given you, um, uh, taken more of your day than we want. So I'm going to turn this off and just ask you one last.