

Eddie Gieg
Interviewed by Larry Tye and Phil Odenca
Transcribed by Ariel Kim

Eddie Gieg 00:00
Hello.

Phil Odenca 00:03
There we go. Okay. So let me, so let me introduce, what I'll do is introduce Larry and then Larry will take a couple of minutes to talk about the project we're working on, and then I'll probably start off the interrogation, and I'll go easy on you, haha, and then, and then Larry, Larry can chime in with questions.

Eddie Gieg 00:26
So I have lousy ears and I'm having difficulty, your voice sounds miles and miles away. Is there any way of turning the volume up or anything?

Phil Odenca 00:40
Yep. So what, and do you have your volume on your phone turned up?

Eddie Gieg 00:45
Um, I don't know. I'm on a walkaround phone, hold on a minute, hold on —

Phil Odenca 00:54
Okay.

Eddie Gieg 00:58
Uh. I'm afraid of pressing a button and losing the connection frankly.

Phil Odenca 01:05
Okay well let me I'm speaking up and I have headphones on, is that any better?

Eddie Gieg 01:11
Okay yes that's much better. Yes.

Phil Odenca 01:14
Okay so I'm going to I'm going to introduce Larry. He'll talk a little bit about the project, and then, and then we'll just chat.

Eddie Gieg 01:20
Okay

Phil Odenca 01:20
So Larry I think I mentioned is an author. He's written some real legit books that people actually buy and enjoy. Mostly biographies of people like Satchel Paige and Bobby Kennedy.

Eddie Gieg 01:40

Oh, boy, sounds interesting.

Phil Odench 01:42

Yeah, oh, it's great, great stuff. I recommend his books. His most recent one was just from about a couple of months ago, and it was, it's about Joe McCarthy. So —

Eddie Gieg 01:53

I'm trying to think who Joe McCarthy is. Who's Joe McCarthy?

Phil Odench 01:58

He's the guy who went after all the, a lot of people in government and entertainment about accusing them of being communists in the fifties.

Eddie Gieg 02:08

Oh, huh. Well I was busy in the fifties not paying much attention hahaha. Okay.

Phil Odench 02:17

So he he's you know as I told you, he's living in the Helm now with his wife Lisa. And he's gotten interested in Cotuit history, but I'll just I'll turn it over to Larry form there to talk a little bit about the project.

Eddie Gieg 02:34

Okay.

Larry Tye 02:35

Hi, so, can you hear me Eddie?

Eddie Gieg 02:38

I hear you just fine.

Larry Tye 02:40

Perfect, great.

Eddie Gieg 02:41

Welcome to, welcome to Cotuit.

Larry Tye 02:43

Well thank you. So the, we're not only in Cotuit but in a familiar place in Cotuit that you put into great shape and that we're now living at 1345 Main Street. And what we're doing is trying to do interviews for two purposes. One is just to get down on tape, and I'm, if you're okay with it, going to tape what we're doing right now, trying to get down on tape some interviews that will go to the historical society so that people, anybody's that interested, can listen to people who really know and lived the history of the town like you, can hear the accurate history. Stories get told and repeated like a game of telephone, and when they don't come from original sources, they get distorted over time, so we're trying to get as much of an accurate feel for what's going

on, what went on in the town, but also someday, we may turn it into a magazine piece or something. I'm so intrigued by the wonderful history of this village, and I think in many ways the history of Cotuit is the history of America in a small wonderful very human way. And so this is a long introduction to say that we're delighted to be talking to you today and are going to just ask you some questions that are, some of them are about the history of the town generically, and some of them are about your history in the village, and Phil will get us started right now. But are you okay, are you okay with our putting this on tape?

Eddie Gieg 04:41

Oh sure. Haha. I don't know, Larry, I don't know how much of help I can be, you know. I don't know whether Phil told you how old I am or how old my memory and my mind is, like 97 years old, okay. So I have a lot of information. I've been moved around in my location here and, and over time at community [Kendall??] at Hanover, New Hampshire and in the process of being moved around all my historical stuff has basically disappeared out of my current apartment and probably is with my youngest daughter, Mary, who lives in towns in Maine. Topsham, I'm sorry. And we have obviously with the virus, we can't exchange stuff except by electronically and so this is a very difficult thing. But anyway, go ahead and ask questions, and I'll do the best I can.

Phil O'dence 06:05

Sure, sure.

Larry Tye 06:06

To start I want to just say one more thing which is people who introduce caveats like you just did are generally the best interviews, and they're the ones who are modest enough, so you've increased rather than decreased my anticipation for what you're about to tell us. But Phil, why don't you get started.

Phil O'dence 06:26

Sure —

Eddie Gieg 06:26

Well, okay you ask me the questions maybe that's the best way we go right.

Larry Tye 06:31

Great

Phil O'dence 06:31

Alright so I'm, I'm interested in you know how whenever we've done these, I'm always interested in how somebody came to Cotuit. Everybody's family you know came at some point. And I had some idea that your father married into the Woodman family and then, and then later remarried your mother but, but I guess I don't know what your, how your father came to town or how your mother came to town so maybe if you could clarify that, that would be great.

Eddie Gieg 07:07

Um, how my father discovered Cotuit I haven't the faintest idea.

Phil Odenice 07:15

Okay.

Eddie Gieg 07:15

No. I'm sorry. That's long before my time. Haha.

Phil Odenice 07:21

Yeah, yeah. And, and, so then he was, he was here and met your mother and brought her down? Was that how she came to Cotuit?

Eddie Gieg 07:35

Mm hmm. Oh. Now, you know that's a question that I'm sure we have the answer to but I, I can't give it to you because I don't remember it off the top of my lousy head.

Phil Odenice 07:51

Right and by, by definition that was before your time too. So I —

Eddie Gieg 07:57

Definitely I hadn't been born.

Phil Odenice 08:00

Okay, but you were, as soon as you were born —

Eddie Gieg 08:03

He came —

Phil Odenice 08:06

Oh —

Eddie Gieg 08:06

Go ahead.

Phil Odenice 08:06

No, go ahead. You were saying something about he came.

Eddie Gieg 08:10

He came to Cotuit, um, ugh, let's see. Oh gosh. I should remember this. On —

Phil Odenice 08:23

Well that's, well you know, I'm asking you to remember other people's memories, not your own.

Eddie Gieg 08:27

I know. Okay.

Phil Odenice 08:30

But I'm, but I'm assuming, and where were you living when you were, where were you born?
What, presumably —

Eddie Gieg 08:37

I was born in Yonkers, New York.

Phil Odench 08:41

Oh, okay.

Eddie Gieg 08:42

And he had, I was born into a family with my father had, uh, had three children by his first wife.
So when I was born I had two sisters and a brother in law. And then he summered in Cotuit.

Phil Odench 09:10

Right, and so you came from year one, soon as you were born you were coming here.

Eddie Gieg 09:16

Absolutely. Yeah.

Phil Odench 09:18

Yeah, and staying —

Eddie Gieg 09:19

Let's see, what I'm trying to remember. I don't think that I was told that I, see my, I was born in
March, and I think I was told that it was too risky to take a new, practically a newborn to Cotuit
that first summer. I think I wasn't until I was, uh, one year plus old that —

Phil Odench 09:49

Oh okay.

Eddie Gieg 09:51

The next summer that I came. That was, see I was born in 1923. That would have been 1924.
Summer of 1924. I think is when, yeah go ahead.

Phil Odench 10:04

And you stayed, and you stayed in the Ship, I assume.

Eddie Gieg 10:07

Yes, because the Helm had not been built.

Phil Odench 10:10

Right, right. And what, I mean obviously you don't remember from that year after you turned
one. But what are some of your early memories of when you were really young and hanging
around Cotuit?

Eddie Gieg 10:26

Well, most of my memories go back to probably the years when I was around 7 or 8 years old, and my, my oldest sister-in-law Anna Madison Murray, was a gung-ho gal who did enormous things to help people, kids in new games and we learned, I learned, she taught me how to climb the tree in the front lawn and, and basically how to sail because by that time she, my father had, had purchased a Cotuit scoop and my those siblings my two sisters and my brother were racing in the yacht club.

Phil Odenca 11:24
Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 11:25
Yeah, okay.

Phil Odenca 11:27
And how much older is Anna? I don't remember.

Eddie Gieg 11:31
Oh. Anna would have been, uh, she probably would have been around 15. I, at that time, I don't, anyway, they both three were the children of my father's first wife, Mary Woodman, who was the founder of the Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club.

Phil Odenca 11:57
Yeah, amazing.

Eddie Gieg 11:57
That's how my father got there, was because of his first wife who was living in the wintertime in Cambridge.

Phil Odenca 12:08
Right, right, right. I was trying to, you know, I realize I don't know which house the Woodman's was. I know that, so I know that the pier was a little bit south of Loop, but is it the, is it the house that was, there's a red house right next to the [Morrises?]. Is that the Woodman house?

Eddie Gieg 12:34
No, no, they summered in the shed. The —

Phil Odenca 12:43
No, I mean Mary Woodman when she was a kid, where did she live?

Eddie Gieg 12:48
Oh good Lord, I don't know, I have no idea about the Woodmans frankly.

Phil Odenca 12:53
Okay, okay. I think it was just south, one of the houses just south of Loop Beach because of course the yacht club races were run from there before they moved to the Sinclairs. Right.

Eddie Gieg 13:08

Uh, yeah, I think so. yeah. So they were the, what I remember and of course this is not back as far as the Woodmans, I remember the first races that I was involved in were off the Sinclairs' dock and then we moved south basically beyond just south of the Loop Beach to the Morrises. Morrises had a dock out, and every summer built the dock out from their house.

Phil Odence 13:47

Right.

Eddie Gieg 13:47

Which went out over the flats. I don't know whether the flats are still there.

Phil Odence 13:53

I think they're even flatter than they used to be. It's very shallow there now. Yes.

Eddie Gieg 13:59

Yeah. Well anyway, but they crossed over the flats, and the dock crossed over the flats and that's where we started the races.

Phil Odence 14:09

Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 14:10

And as far as I know there were no boats in the inner harbor, coming up from the inner harbor. All the boats in those races were either moored there at Loop Beach or moored up in Popponeset Bay. I think that —

Phil Odence 14:28

Oh, there were some in Popponeset Bay too, I didn't realize that.

Eddie Gieg 14:33

Yeah well, that's a wholly different shape now than it was —

Phil Odence 14:41

Oh yeah.

Eddie Gieg 14:41

When I was young. Haha.

Phil Odence 14:46

Yeah, no, I've seen, you know, pictures and maps of that river sort of that went in front of the Lloyds into Popponeset Bay.

Eddie Gieg 14:54

Yeah.

Phil Odence 14:55

Yeah. So you know, you said when I first emailed you, you said, you know I really, you said that you mostly remembered things about Loop and Popponeset and that was interesting to me. So what are your, and I wasn't surprised to hear about Loop, but I was interested that you included Popponeset. So what are your memories of Loop and Popponeset?

Eddie Gieg 15:17

Well, not much frankly. I mean, you know back in the days when I was a kid, we weren't even allowed to ride a bicycle when I was really young because it was considered too dangerous. So my entire life was basically located in the Ship and, and Loop Beach, which I could walk to and played in the, before the Helm was built, played in the backyard of the Ship, to the one side of the Ship.

Phil Odence 15:59

Yep.

Larry Tye 16:00

Can you, since, I want to get parochial for a minute if I can. Since we live in the Helm and the Ship is next door, what are your memories about why the Helm was built in the first place and what it was like when it was first built?

Eddie Gieg 16:25

Well, when it was first built, um, my youngest sister hadn't even been born yet, and I was pretty darn little. And it was built because my, particularly my father decided that he and my mother needed some private space, shall we say, for themselves. And the other reason being that they would, they wanted to have a cook and hire not only a cook but a nursemaid to take care not a nursemaid, I don't, I can't remember a caregiver for the my father's three children plus me and my for his four children and so the house just wasn't, the Ship wasn't big enough to be comfortable for my parents. So they decided to build the Helm. And that worked.

Larry Tye 17:39

And they lived, you kids continued to live in the Ship and your parents lived in the Helm.

Eddie Gieg 17:49

Yes, and they usually ate their breakfast and maybe lunch in the Helm. Anyways we always had dinner together or a lunch together depending on whether it was a weekend or weekdays. We always Sunday dinner, midday dinner together in the Ship, which had the kitchen. At the time, if I remember correctly, there was no real kitchen. And oh, there goes your telephone.

Larry Tye 18:28

Yeah I'm going to ignore that. So there was no kitchen, there was no kitchen in the Helm. It was just, I'm trying to envision what of our current house was the Helm. And my sense was this wonderful central living area but no kitchen and just a bedroom and a living room. What was it?

Eddie Gieg 18:55

It was two bedrooms. One was a guest room as you face the fireplace I'm sure the fireplace is still there right.

Larry Tye 19:05

It is still there. There are two fireplaces though but the —

Eddie Gieg 19:10

Oh.

Larry Tye 19:10

Yes.

Eddie Gieg 19:10

Haha. Well that's something new. The, I'm talking about the main fireplace as you walk in the front door.

Larry Tye 19:18

Right

Eddie Gieg 19:18

The first thing, you look forward, that fireplace.

Larry Tye 19:24

Yes.

Eddie Gieg 19:25

And on the right side was one bedroom and on the left side back, a second bedroom and in between, a bathroom. Then down below were two, three garages. I think there were, it was three underneath the, the back of the house.

Larry Tye 19:55

Ha, that's intriguing.

Phil Odenice 19:57

But Eddie, what I remember was that and maybe it was maybe one of those garages was converted, there was a, when you were cooking for your kids, it was in a kitchen down in the basement.

Eddie Gieg 20:11

That's correct. Then that, that was of course after I was married and had children.

Phil Odenice 20:20

Yeah so that was, so you're saying that was added on later, one of the garages was converted into a kitchen and dining room.

Eddie Gieg 20:29

Converted, absolutely.

Phil Odence 20:30

Okay, I didn't realize that.

Eddie Gieg 20:32

Yeah.

Phil Odence 20:32

Yeah.

Larry Tye 20:33

And was there, what I've heard and I wonder if this is true, that originally there were no heating systems other than that fireplace in the Helm and that there was something underground, a duct, taking hot air from the Ship to the Helm. Is that true?

Eddie Gieg 20:53

I never heard that one.

Larry Tye 20:55

Aha, okay.

Eddie Gieg 20:56

Where'd you hear that?

Larry Tye 20:57

Um, that's just part of the —

Eddie Gieg 20:59

But I don't. I can't, I can't tell you frankly what the process was as far as converting the Helm into, into a house for that would withstand all winter weather. Ugh, what am I trying to say. You see what's happening to my mind.

Phil Odence 21:22

Yeah, we got it.

Larry Tye 21:23

No, no, no, everything you're saying makes total sense. The, was the Helm built by your parents from scratch or was there something to start with?

Eddie Gieg 21:31

Yes.

Larry Tye 21:32

They built it.

Eddie Gieg 21:33

No. No, they built it from scratch.

Larry Tye 21:36

And now the Helm ended up becoming the house that we live in with pieces added on, you know you described what happened when you lived here in your married life, that there was in the basement, the kitchen when you lived here, was the kitchen always in the basement?

Eddie Gieg 21:59

Uh, yes. And we had converted the second floor, which was originally an attic, into bedrooms because when I and my husband lived in that house in the summer, our kids lived in the attic up the stairs like a lot of the time. Not all of the time.

Phil Oden 22:22

The boys, the boys lived there as I recall, and Mary and Jody I think were more on the first floor.

Eddie Gieg 22:30

Haha. Well your memory is much better than mine Larry. I mean Phil.

Phil Oden 22:36

Yeah.

Larry Tye 22:37

So there were still bedrooms on the first floor. You added bedrooms in the attic and the kitchen stayed in the basement.

Eddie Gieg 22:47

Yes, for quite a while, yes.

Larry Tye 22:50

And was there —

Eddie Gieg 22:52

But not all the time.

Larry Tye 22:54

Ah, so you moved the kitchen up eventually.

Eddie Gieg 22:56

Yes. Later on, I can't remember the sequence of stuff. It was before we built the little house out back. Ugh, God. I'm sorry.

Phil Oden 23:16

No problem. That's okay.

Larry Tye 23:16

The sequence doesn't matter. Did you build the little house in back? We know just call it the cottage. Did you build that house for kids or for guests or what was the purpose of the cottage?

Eddie Gieg 23:30

Um, that's a good question. I can't remember whether it was that we were turning the main house over to my kids, and my husband and I don't remember —

Phil Oden 23:51

No, it was before that, because I know when Johnny and Anne got married, they spent their honeymoon there, and your kids were still kids then.

Eddie Gieg 24:02

Okay.

Phil Oden 24:03

I wonder if it —

Eddie Gieg 24:04

But you remember more than I do. Hahaha.

Phil Oden 24:07

The other architectural feature I mentioned is the front porch which was screened in, and you know had nice place to sit out that's now of course enclosed in glass but that was, at least in my youth, that was a screened in porch before the big renovation.

Eddie Gieg 24:25

It was, yes, I think you're right, yes. I think my mother and father did the porch.

Phil Oden 24:32

Yeah

Larry Tye 24:34

And were there —

Eddie Gieg 24:35

[something unintelligible because multiple people are speaking at once]

Larry Tye 24:36

Were there fun, the lore that is passed down as is that there were also really fun parties here. Was the Helm a good place to have a party?

Eddie Gieg 24:49

Uh, I guess we had parties all the time.

Larry Tye 24:55

Hahaha.

Eddie Gieg 24:58

Phil, I, you remember whether we had, I don't remember.

Phil Odench 25:01

Yeah sure, but you and Jerry often had cocktail parties, and I mean one of those little things I remember just from being little, it seemed like there was always a bowl of nuts with crackers you know that you had to crack the nuts open, sitting on the table in front of the fireplace. That's what I remember, and there were cocktail parties, and then of course the kids would the kids had big parties downstairs and more after the renovation when the groovy room was in, was in full swing. But that was where the kids would play.

Eddie Gieg 25:35

Yeah, and then we put on the porch on the side of the building on the Ship side of the north side.

Phil Odench 25:47

Yeah, the deck.

Eddie Gieg 25:48

That was a deck. Not a porch, because there was no roof. But I really, I don't remember why we thought we had to do that. But hahaha.

Larry Tye 25:59

So whatever reason you had to do it, I'm glad that you did it because the deck is my favorite part of the house. Do you remember the groovy room?

Eddie Gieg 26:10

Yeah, but where, the name of the groovy room, but I can't remember where it was.

Phil Odench 26:17

Well you were, you weren't allowed down there very much.

Larry Tye 26:20

Hahahaha.

Eddie Gieg 26:20

Hahahaha.

Phil Odench 26:24

But it's where the, so where the other two garages were, when you did the renovation —

Eddie Gieg 26:30

Oh, yes, oh, yes, I know.

Phil Odench 26:32

The groovy room.

Eddie Gieg 26:33

Right. Now you see, Mary has photographs of all of this part of the Helm, and but as I say with the damn virus, we can't see each other —

Phil Oden 26:50

Yeah, sure.

Eddie Gieg 26:51

Touch each other, or anything. We can't get at them.

Phil Oden 26:56

Yeah, I've opened, I've opened up the conversation with Mary to look through that stuff. And when I got to her she was just heading out on the road. I guess she visited you and was visiting others, but she was going to look through for some stuff when she got back.

Eddie Gieg 27:09

Yeah, she is. Yeah, she is.

Larry Tye 27:11

So Eddie, one of the things, one of the things we're trying to get at with these interviews is what makes Cotuit somewhere different and special. To me, and maybe it's my bias, this is a really unique place, and I'm wondering if you had to describe to somebody who didn't know what Cotuit was all about, what would you say? You grew up here from your youngest days, and I presume you have some of your fondest memories over these ninety-something years of being in Cotuit. What is it that makes this place different and special?

Eddie Gieg 27:56

Uhhhhh. That's a good question. Uh, uh. You know, I have no idea why it's different because I never summered in any other place. Hahaha. What was special about it was truthfully the fact that the Woodman family had founded the yacht club and that, that was the main reason why all of us kids could get together on a regular basis and, and enjoy each other as well as competing with each other on the water, and running our own show. I mean that the yacht club officials couldn't be older than 21 years old. They, the, ugh. The committee, the race committee, had to be, participants, had to be younger than 21, and they ran the yacht club. And that gave us the feeling that we were running our own show. Our parents weren't telling us how to do this. We did it ourselves. And I think that to a great extent that whole feeling is part of Cotuit.

Phil Oden 29:43

Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 29:44

And now I'm, I don't know now whether year-round Cotuit kids are participating in the yacht club or whether it's still essentially summer people. Phil, you'll know the answer to that question.

Phil Odence 30:04

Yeah, a handful. You know and I think there's always, there's always been a handful. But —

Eddie Gieg 30:12

Of year-rounders?

Phil Odence 30:13

Yeah. Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 30:14

Yeah. Because in the very beginning days of course, there were no, no year-round kids involved in the yacht club.

Phil Odence 30:25

Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 30:25

So that's good, I'm glad to hear.

Larry Tye 30:28

Was there division, how much of a division was there between year-round and summer kids?

Was there interaction between them beyond the yacht club or was there pretty separate worlds here?

Eddie Gieg 30:43

Uh, in my day a kid, it was totally summer kids. My friends were all summer. I didn't know any year-round kids. And you see because being where we were out of the center of town where our house was, I didn't go to the village as a child hardly ever, or I was, went with my mother to the co-op when she did some shopping but that was about it. So I never knew any year-round kids at all.

Larry Tye 31:27

Were you ever, in all your years of coming to Couit, were you ever year-round?

Eddie Gieg 31:39

Only after, uh, uh, let's see, when did I become a year-round?

Phil Odence 31:49

I think it was, you were probably in your forties, when you were selling real estate?

Eddie Gieg 31:53

Uh, was I? I guess so. It was after the war.

Phil Odence 32:00

Yeah, it was well after the war.

Eddie Gieg 32:04

Because Jerry obviously was back from overseas and —

Phil Odence 32:11

Yeah but it was, I think it was, I think you and Charlie were already married when you were here year-round.

Eddie Gieg 32:21

Uh, Charlie and I got together and were married, I'd been in the, year-round, Jerry and I had been year-round for a while.

Phil Odence 32:36

Oh really? I didn't realize that.

Eddie Gieg 32:38

Yeah.

Phil Odence 32:38

Okay.

Larry Tye 32:41

And did you meet Charlie here?

Eddie Gieg 32:44

Yes. He lived in, he, his family summered in the, what was then the [professor?? Name at 32:55] we called it the [name at 32:58] big house down the road. North. Not north. Let's see it would have been —

Phil Odence 33:05

South.

Eddie Gieg 33:05

South.

Phil Odence 33:07

Yeah, cross, on the, on the water side of Main Street, just a little south.

Eddie Gieg 33:13

Yeah.

Phil Odence 33:15

I don't know if that house is there anymore. You know there's so many big houses and some of them may have pieces of the old houses but I've kind of lost track of whether that you know was torn down or you know just modified.

Eddie Gieg 33:30

When I was in Cotuit you know a year or so ago and looked at the, what the building is on that piece of property, I wouldn't have recognized it.

Phil Odench 33:39

Yeah, yeah, right.

Eddie Gieg 33:41

It was [??] big house. There used to, they used to have a tennis court right across the street. I learned to play tennis there.

Phil Odench 33:48

Yeah, that's still there.

Eddie Gieg 33:50

Yeah.

Larry Tye 33:52

Did it change, so you knew Cotuit as a summer-only person and you knew Cotuit as a year-round. Did your sense of what the village was like transform when you started spending all year here, and did you feel more of an attachment to it or did the sense of special —

Eddie Gieg 34:14

Oh yes.

Larry Tye 34:15

Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 34:16

Oh yes. It was really exciting to become a year-rounder and the discover, the only place that I as a kid where we were allowed to go, well not allowed to go, well yes, because the bicycles, was the, was the library, and that was great. We could, we went to the library, but as soon as I became a year-rounder I was a really active customer of the co-op and the uh, oh God, what's the little café across from —

Phil Odench 35:04

The Kettle Hole.

Eddie Gieg 35:05

The Kettle Hole. Thank you. Hahaha. And then of course when I started my real estate business I bought the property on, right at the corner of the road down to the town dock, and that building became Oyster Real Estate. So it was a whole new experience, becoming a year-rounder.

Phil Odench 35:36

Eddie, you know, I'm voting at Freedom Hall for the first time on Tuesday.

Eddie Gieg 35:41

Oh, my God. Oh you can vote there. Hahaha.

Phil Odenice 35:46

Yep.

Eddie Gieg 35:48

That's terrific.

Larry Tye 35:50

When you were selling real estate here, were you selling mainly Cotuit real estate?

Eddie Gieg 35:56

Yes. I mean that's where I was brought up and by that time I knew almost all of the town pretty darn well. Not all of it, by a long shot, but I was quick to discover.

Phil Odenice 36:18

Yeah.

Larry Tye 36:19

And was this a hot market to sell in? How, when you were, so you were out there selling property to people who, presumably many of whom were looking all across the Cape and trying to decide where to live. If you were trying to tell them, this is why Cotuit, this is why you ought to pick Cotuit, what would you have said? Do you, any recollection of sort of how you marketed Cotuit as a village for people to live in?

Eddie Gieg 36:54

Um, yeah. That's an interesting question. Um, I tried to stress that it was unique because it was a friendly place, and not, and not a place where you, oh. My vocabulary is going to hell, I'm sorry.

Phil Odenice 37:32

That's okay.

Eddie Gieg 37:33

Oh, um —

Phil Odenice 37:34

Maybe not, not snooty like Wianno or something like that?

Eddie Gieg 37:38

Exactly. Exactly. We didn't have clubs or whatever that people belonged to and some, a lot of people would have been refused the privilege of being part of a certain group. Haha. No, no clubs except for the yacht club which accommodated everybody.

Larry Tye 38:07

Can I ask, when you got, so you got divorced from Jerry and married Charles?

Edie Gieg 38:14
Yeah. Charlie Gieg.

Larry Tye 38:16
Was it, uh, did you and your new husband and your ex-husband, was this the kind of village that could embrace, that wasn't uncomfortable living in the same village with your ex-husband, or were you good enough friends that it didn't matter or how, it's a small village, and everybody must know everybody.

Edie Gieg 38:44
Yeah, almost certainly as far as the summer people when it, we, I still didn't know very many year-rounders when I was a, moved in as a permanent resident, but. Now what was your question again? I'm sorry, sometimes —

Larry Tye 39:08
My questions is —

Phil Oence 39:09
How'd you and Jerry get along?

Larry Tye 39:10
Yeah after, when you were both living in towns, in village.

Edie Gieg 39:17
Well Jerry still had his job in Boston, so he was working in Sheraton Hotel in Boston and was there, I guess he rented a small apartment or something. He was there during the week and came down to Cotuit with me on the weekends.

Phil Oence 39:49
Once you married Charlie, you and Jerry would still occasionally interact, right?

Edie Gieg 39:55
Yeah, yeah, but when Charlie and I got married, I can't remember whether we, I moved out. I owned the Helm, it was left to me by my mother, but I moved out with Charlie briefly, and he moved out of his house, and we rented a house over in Osterville for about a year if I remember correctly before we took off. Our boat in the vision, which was a forty-foot yawl. Anyway, haha. And so, and then, then we sold, I sold the Helm, and Jerry, I forgot, I don't know what Jerry did in the summertime, after that frankly.

Phil Oence 41:09
Well he moved down to the little houses by Oregon, the [township?? At 41:14] houses.

Edie Gieg 41:18
Uh, he, did he move into the big [township??] the big house?

Phil Odence 41:21

No, no the little cottages across the street from Oregon Beach.

Eddie Gieg 41:31

Oh, yes, oh yes, oh yes.

Phil Odence 41:33

Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 41:34

Yeah yeah, okay of course.

Larry Tye 41:36

When would that have been that you sold, I'm trying to figure out whether you sold the Helm to my in-laws. Do you, would that have been, they bought it thirty, forty years ago. Would that have been the time you were selling or would there have been people in between do you think?

Eddie Gieg 41:58

Oh, you'll have to do the arithmetic. What year would that have been?

Larry Tye 42:01

So that would have been somewhere around, um nineteen, the late 1980s or around 1990?

Eddie Gieg 42:13

I have no idea what went on at that time.

Larry Tye 42:17

Ah, so that was, that wasn't when you sold it. You would have sold a long time before then.

Eddie Gieg 42:22

Oh yeah, oh yeah, way before then.

Larry Tye 42:28

And the —

Phil Odence 42:29

I think I —

Larry Tye 42:30

I'm sorry

Phil Odence 42:33

I think I have that somewhere, I'll have to look, but your wife's family bought it in 1983.

Larry Tye 42:44

Aha, so you know better and the, yeah I can find those records, but I guess it would have been, there would have been people in between. So, it seems to me that you had a view of this town that not many people have. You had a view of being in a world that was only summer people and then you had the view of not just being a year-rounder but being somebody who was part of the fabric of this community because you were selling homes and helping determine who came in as new people to this village. So, you had a really unique take on what Cotuit is life, uh like, and it must feel part of your soul, and your kids grew up loving it the same way you had when you were a kid, is that right?

Eddie Gieg 43:42

Yeah, absolutely, you got it. I mean it wasn't difficult to be a real estate broker selling property in a town I loved, haha, and then lived in for years and years. And I still do. I'm really, really unhappy that I couldn't have gotten down there from here this last summer.

Larry Tye 44:13

Well so hopefully next summer you will, next summer will hopefully be beyond the pandemic, and it will be safe to come here, and I'd love to meet you —

Eddie Gieg 44:28

Haha, dream on.

Larry Tye 44:29

— to meet you in person maybe with the new, new leadership we'll get something, we'll get there quicker.

Eddie Gieg 44:37

Well, we'll see what happens. Health-wise, you know, I am really at a point where somehow or other, even with my daughter's help, getting me down there is a real process now. I'm lucky to be on my two feet still. Haha. This at my age.

Larry Tye 45:02

Is it, and in your retirement community is it, are they pretty good about safety issues?

Eddie Gieg 45:13

You mean as far as the virus is concerned?

Phil Oden 45:16

As far as the virus is concerned, yes.

Larry Tye 45:18

I mean as far as the virus. The, they, there's not been any spread in the community there.

Eddie Gieg 45:25

Oh, absolutely not. We are confined. Those of us in, who are now in the health center, I've moved from what is called independent living into the health center because of my health situation. Let's see, I've been here now a year, I guess or maybe a little more. And then, I am

now confined to my section of the health center only, and I, we're allowed to walk outside. We have to wear of course you all are involved in wearing masks too, but we are too, but I'm confined to my apartment except from being able to walk down the hall and walk outside and of course walking outside as the weather progresses to winter is not going to be an option.

Phil Oden 46:30

Yes. So no, so no swimming anymore?

Eddie Gieg 46:35

No swimming, no. Independent living is different. The health center, we're under the command of this state regulations, whereas the independent living developed their own routine and what people can do and where they can go and that, but I'm not in independent living anymore. So, I'm more confined, but it works. We have, we had one staff member just a few months ago who tested positive and but did not actually develop the virus period. Now, we have almost four hundred residents, and I don't know the number, our staff, it's a big staff. So they've been doing a superb job.

Larry Tye 47:41

That's terrific.

Phil Oden 47:42

Sounds like it.

Eddie Gieg 47:44

Yeah.

Larry Tye 47:47

So Phil, what else do you have?

Phil Oden 47:55

Yeah, so don't, we don't want to overtax you Eddie, but so there were a couple of other things I wondered about. One was you did mention Popponesset. As I say I wasn't surprised to hear you mention Loop because you lived so close and you know certainly that was where I spent a lot of time, but what, you know you said you remember spending time in Popponesset. Did you go down to the beach there, or what was, what was that about?

Eddie Gieg 48:21

Well, Popponesset for me, I'm still confused about how extensive the area called Popponesset actually is. When I was there, for me, Popponesset was where the Lloyds lived. That whole area. And now [Dake??] lives down there.

Phil Oden 48:45

Yep, that's right.

Eddie Gieg 48:45

Yeah. And it's wonderful to see my kids retiring in Cotuit and you guys I mean you're the same.
Yeah.

Phil Odench 48:56

It's terrific. It's terrific.

Eddie Gieg 48:58

Yeah, I love it.

Phil Odench 49:00

So mostly you're thinking of going down and visiting the Lloyds when you were you know talking about spending time in Popponesset?

Eddie Gieg 49:07

Yeah, the Lloyds and the Cochrans.

Phil Odench 49:11

Yeah

Eddie Gieg 49:11

Will and Mary Bell Cochran. But as a kid, yes, I knew Mary Bell as a kid. I didn't know Will some that well. And that's obviously where I met Jerry because that was the [township??] houses was just down the road from me, and I would think till almost in Popponesset, you know.

Phil Odench 49:41

Right, that's true.

Eddie Gieg 49:42

And we were allowed to take our bikes, I was allowed to take my bicycle in that direction —

Phil Odench 49:49

Oh, interesting.

Eddie Gieg 49:49

Because it, very little traffic, but so but not to the not to cycle into town. I was not allowed to do that.

Phil Odench 50:03

Yeah, yeah, okay, that was a traffic concern. That's interesting. And of course, we'd probably look at that traffic today and say it's nothing but —

Eddie Gieg 50:10

Haha, yeah, exactly.

Phil Odench 50:12

Yeah.

Larry Tye 50:14
So —

Phil Odenice 50:14

The other, the other question I had and this is very, very specific, very particular, but I saw some pictures from somebody in your family, and I think you were in one of the pictures as a kid, with the way they would launch skiffs down at, down at Loop, and it looked like these big carts would wheel like four-foot wheels on them. Do you remember any of that, how skiffs got even out of the water?

Eddie Gieg 50:40

Oh sure, launching a skiff you mean when you say big carts. Yeah, sure.

Phil Odenice 50:48

So what, some that you'd load it onto the cart at the house and carry take it down by hand is that how it worked?

Eddie Gieg 50:54

No, no, I have a picture some place of a Chevy station wagon back in those days which you wouldn't even recognize which had my father put a, some sort of device on the rear, and we, that's how they pulled the cart. I think the Morrisises did it by hand. They have a two-wheel contraption. What do you —

Phil Odenice 51:30

Right.

Eddie Gieg 51:30

Well they were all —

Phil Odenice 51:31

They were pretty close.

Eddie Gieg 51:32

Yeah.

Phil Odenice 51:33

A trailer, you know.

Eddie Gieg 51:34

A trailer, yeah. And I have a picture, I have a picture of, talking about Loop Beach, I have a picture of all of us who lived in the whole area of the Loop Beach, families during the war, all of the mothers and their children. I'd forgotten who took the photograph but it's very interesting because my mother in it is my mother, and I'm sitting in front of her and in my lap is my firstborn child, Jodie who is, who is only, she hadn't turned, let's see Jodie was born in November, so she hadn't even turned one year old. She was still an infant. And of course, all our

husbands were overseas I mean in the army. This was in, I think it was in 1945 this picture was taken.

Phil Odenice 53:00

Wow

Eddie Gieg 53:00

And I think I have it. I could email it to you if it's of interest because somebody down there can identify many more of the people in that photograph than I'm able to now.

Phil Odenice 53:18

Well, yeah,

Eddie Gieg 53:19

The more

Phil Odenice 53:21

I'd love to see it, yeah.

Eddie Gieg 53:23

Yeah, yeah. Okay if I can, I'm having difficulties with my computer, and I don't, I'm not able to get any help here now because there because the virus everything, ugh. Anyway, I'll see if I can find it because it might be of interest to you.

Phil Odenice 53:50

Yeah.

Larry Tye 53:51

So, I have just one last question and the question is, in most places in America, over time they become more commercial, and people look back longingly and say jeez this used to be a quiet village and then all of these businesses moved in. In Cotuit it's been the opposite. The village is probably quieter than it was because so many of the businesses that were there are not there anymore, and it's just the co-op and Kettle Hole, and one or two, an architecture firm but the but there's not much in the center of town. Was it a really different place when it was more, when it had hotels and a gas station and other things going on there?

Eddie Gieg 54:45

I don't think so. There hasn't been much of a change, but the gas station, I don't know why, maybe Phil you know why the gas station's closed up and just never got going again. I have no idea.

Phil Odenice 55:04

Yeah, I don't remember exactly. Joe [Percopio??] died, and his family ran it for a while, but I think it may have just been economic. People were going elsewhere to get their gas for whatever reason.

Eddie Gieg 55:17

Yeah, yeah, I mean you know, most people even when I was a year-rounder there, we always figured, we'll go to Osterville or we'll go to Hyannis for what we need, we don't need to ruin our town by putting stuff, stores and things like that, even there in the center of town. The whole idea reason we lived there was because it was quiet and friendly, and everybody knew and enjoyed each other and that's, you don't want to spoil that feel.

Larry Tye 55:58

So, that's a great answer to the question that I asked before on what made it special. It just, all of those things, the quiet and the out-of-the-way and the not-commercial sounds like it's always been part of the charm of what made Cotuit different.

Eddie Gieg 56:13

And the friendliness.

Larry Tye 56:15

And the friendliness.

Eddie Gieg 56:17

Yeah. Yeah.

Larry Tye 56:20

So I have a suggestion which is we've kept you on for basically an hour and we could go on for another hour, but what I would love to do is suggest that we conclude this interview now and if you're game, at some point when we have more questions, we could call back and do it again, but to give you a break and to say, this has been, I can't speak for Phil but I suspect I am speaking for Phil, in saying that this was even more than I had hoped for.

Phil Oence 56:57

Yes, absolutely.

Eddie Gieg 56:58

Haha, thank you. I'm afraid I feel to the contrary that I couldn't give you what I ought to because I can't remember.

Larry Tye 57:08

So —

Eddie Gieg 57:09

Once I get the pictures, once I get in a position, if I should have been sitting in front of my computer with my walkaround phone. I'm on my recliner with my feet up, I have to be. That will help trigger my memory, you know to look at those pictures and then talk to you another time. Yeah.

Larry Tye 57:36

That would be great.

Phil Odench 57:37

I'll talk to Mary about the stuff she has. And you know who knows maybe you'll feel up to coming down next summer, and we'll make sure we get some pictures along, and you know hopefully we're not social distancing anymore so can do something, sitting out in the sun and looking at pictures. That'd be great.

Eddie Gieg 57:54

Wouldn't that be nice.

Phil Odench 57:55

Yeah.

Eddie Gieg 57:56

Assuming that I'll still be there.

Phil Odench 57:58

That's my assumption.

Larry Tye 58:00

And maybe in the interim, maybe we'll, maybe if she's game to do it, and I don't know whether she would have the time or interest to do it, we could even do a computer hook up. Try again sometime for a Zoom where we did a share screen with the pictures that Mary has that we could all look at them together.

Eddie Gieg 58:22

Absolutely.

Larry Tye 58:22

That would be great.

Eddie Gieg 58:23

You know, we could do that now if she could pull the pictures out. I mean I Zoom with my kids every Sunday night without any problem whatsoever.

Larry Tye 58:37

Well if she's willing to do that, that would be wonderful.

Eddie Gieg 58:41

Yeah.

Phil Odench 58:42

Yeah, alright, I'll you know I've already as I said opened that conversation with Mary, and I'll talk to her about, about you know in general seeing some of the pictures but more specifically getting together some you know some audio some visual aids for us and doing another call, and we'll get her to join us.

Eddie Gieg 59:04

She and I also if it's just one or two of us or two of three of us use FaceTime which seems to be less complicated [hitching??] into. Mary and I use FaceTime all the time.

Phil Oden 59:20

Okay.

Eddie Gieg 59:21

And, okay.

Larry Tye 59:22

Thank you.

Eddie Gieg 59:23

Alright, well Larry, it was good to talk to you. Talking about Larry's, Phil, how's your dad?

Phil Oden 59:31

He seems to be 100%. I think, I think today is three weeks from when he started showing symptoms, and you know, they say 14 days you're good. His doctor was being extra cautious and telling him to continue to be careful. But, so, I think he'll get you know sprung from jail totally today and —

Eddie Gieg 59:50

Oh, good.

Phil Oden 59:51

And he probably has, anyway, I say sprung from jail, home confinement, although he's been getting out in his car and goes out walking some too. But no, he feels great, his appetite, his biggest symptom of COVID was lack of appetite, and I asked him recently and he says you know now he has too much appetite if anything, so.

Eddie Gieg 1:00:15

Haha.

Phil Oden 1:00:15

And so, yeah, he's in quite good shape.

Eddie Gieg 1:00:18

Well, when you see him give him my love.

Phil Oden 1:00:21

I will do.

Eddie Gieg 1:00:23

Okay.

Larry Tye 1:00:24
Thank you.

Phil Oden 1:00:25
Alright.

Eddie Gieg 1:00:26
Okay guys. Yep. Bye bye.

End of Interview.