

Subject: Sue and Dick Hamilton

Transcriber: Zoe Rosenberger

Tye: If you don't mind, uhm, turn this on, because stories like that are part of what we're trying to capture here. The deal is what we, uhm, this is an accidental project, uhm, that we're doing with the Historical Society. And it's accidental because it was intended to be one interview with, uhm, the, uh, wonderful historian. Why am I blanking?

Dick Hamilton: Jim Gould.

Tye: Jim Gould, and when he was leaving town, the, he, (*The party says hello to Sue and accepts or declines coffee, and debates how over-caffeinated they are*). This is a project that got started in two ways. One was when Jim Gould was leaving town, we sat down with him. And he was so passionate about his obsession with Cotuit history, that he passed it on a little bit to us and the idea of, uhm, he was telling us some people that he would suggest starting to talk to.

And the other derivation of the project is, uhm, your wife, and the, in all of these, uhm, conversations, we would have threatening to sit down and turn on a tape recorder and hearing all the great stories of Cotuitites. And so it seems like a poetic justice, we should come back and bother you with this and be what we're trying to do is, uhm, do a series of tapings for the Historical Society that they just have on record. And that someday, we may rework into a magazine story, or something for Public Radio, or whatever.

And I think that every community in the world ought to have a sense of its history and ought to have the stories of the older and wiser and more interesting people in town for other people to listen to, uhm. But I also have a special bias that Cotuit has more of those interesting stories than most places on the planet. And so we are here, because you are two of the, uhm, most interesting people in town and good storytellers.

Dick Hamilton: Hahaha, I don't know about that.

Tye: Yes. And, uhm, and Sue has a sense as a lifelong journalist and storyteller about what the stories, what makes for a good story. And so we'd love if you would just, uhm, start out by saying, who you are, and how you ended up in Cotuit.

Sue Hamilton: Are we talking about the same place?

Tye: So I was just explaining to Dick that this a project that started totally accidentally when Jim Gould was leaving town. And we sat down with him and turned on a tape recorder just to hear

about stories that he had. And he, uhm, inflicted on us, his obsession with Cotuit history. And the, and you inflicted on me a long time ago, an idea that, uhm, hearing people in Cotuit's interesting stories, that just is a good thing. So we're here to plague you from your own idea.

Sue Hamilton: Okay.

Tye: And the, and we'd love to hear, for starters, the story that I've heard bits and pieces of before about how you ended up from Cincinnati, uh, in Cotuit, and I think that the.

Sue Hamilton: (*To Dick*) Do you want to say?

Dick Hamilton: Yeah. Uh, Sue's brother had a place here in Cotuit.

Tye: Let me just say, these are Sue and Dick Hamilton. And the date today is, uh, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dick Hamilton: Uhh, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>?

Male Speaker: 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tye: Uh, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, and the year 2021. And this is:

Hamilton: Okay, yeah. I'm Dick Hamilton, and my wife, Sue, and we've lived here for, well full-time since 2006. And we got interested in Cotuit because of Sue's brother, who had a place here. And we came down to.

Male Speaker: Who was he, and where was that? I don't want to take you too far back.

Dick Hamilton: Okay, had a place at the intersection of Ocean View and Main Street. It's a place that's down a little bit and off, and facing the water.

Male Speaker: Okay.

Tye: Not the place, not Jane's place?

Sue Hamilton: Next door.

Dick Hamilton: Next door.

Tye: Next door to Jane's place.

Sue Hamilton: It's brand new. A MIT architect, and it was, and it goes like that.

Male Speaker: Oh, okay.

Sue Hamilton: They had to keep the left-hand side because it was historic.

Male Speaker: Yeah, yeah, yeah.. Okay.

Tye: And is still here?

Sue Hamilton: He's not here, but they sold that to a, an orthopedic surgeon, a female orthopedic surgeon, and her husband owns a painting company.

Male Speaker: And there was a guy I think, who was involved with Lotus.

Sue Hamilton: That's my brother.

Male Speaker: Okay. That's the CFO of Lotus?

Sue Hamilton: Yes.

Dick Hamilton: Actually, he was the Sales Vice President.

Male Speaker: Oh, is that what he was? Okay, okay, got it.

Dick Hamilton: Working for Manzi, who's, you know, who still lives up the street.

Tye: And how did he get here?

Sue Hamilton: He moved, he had a long career with IBM. They had some very unpleasant to them, very unpleasant places that they lived. West Virginia was one. They thought it was just...

Male Speaker: Back in the "I've been moved" days.

Sue Hamilton: ...14<sup>th</sup> century down there. Oh, my. And then they moved to Boston, I think, and Lotus took them away. It was his big chance. It was a very difficult job though; I mean, he was gone all the time. I remember one time he flew back from Japan, went to the office, went to the airport, went to South America.

Tye: Oof.

Sue Hamilton: It was grueling. It was just grueling. He made a lot of money. But he said, "I don't know. I already miss so much. You know, I really miss so much." And then Manzi and my brother got into it, and my brother was out. And then he's done some startups.

Tye: Hm.

Dick Hamilton: So anyway, so.

Tye: And he was living here part-time when he was in Boston?

Sue Hamilton: Yes, he was.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, he had a place in Wayland. That was his main, main house and Wayland, Mass. And we visited him, uhh, and I think it was on a like, on a Friday. And she-, he said, "What are you gonna do for the weekend?" We said, "We're gonna go down to the Cape." He said, "Oh, it's going to rain." He said, "Why don't you look at real estate? I got a place down there." It wasn't this place, it was a different place. And we said, "Ahh, okay, we really want to

go to the beach, but.” So he wrote down the name of a realtor and a telephone number. I stuck it in my pocket and forgot about it. We came down. Sure enough, it rained.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Hamilton: We called, we looked. And next thing you know, we had a house down here.

Male Speaker: Wow.

Tye: You looked all around?

Sue Hamilton: We looked all around, only in Cotuit.

Tye: Only in Cotuit?

Sue Hamilton: And the.

Dick Hamilton: Well, ah, Cotuit and Osterville. We looked at one in Osterville as well.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah. The one that we settled on is on Keeler Road, it just resold. And what was so great about it, it was walkable to the beach. And unless you actually have a sense of, of the community, you don't realize how much you just hit on the right one. Cause a lot of them were back further.

Male Speaker: Yeah, yeah.

Sue Hamilton: But this one was right to the beach. So this was absolutely great.

Dick Hamilton: It wasn't this house. It was a little house on Keeler Road.

Sue Hamilton: And we used to walk by this house and say, “Oh my.” (*Everyone laughs*). So I'm sorry. We should, you should start with the fact that we started our marriage in Boston. So we came to the Cape often.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, we knew, we knew the Cape cause I worked for Procter & Gamble. And at that time, they had a plant in Quincy. And so, uhh, we lived in Cromwell Avenue in Boston, right downtown. And I reverse-commuted while everybody else was coming in, I was going out to Quincy, and, and vice versa.

Male Speaker: Fantastic.

Tye: And you were reporting?

Sue Hamilton: I was reporting. I could walk to work. Yeah.

Tye: At the *Herald*?

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, it was absolutely great, great. Cromwell Avenue is a great street to live on. Yeah, wonderful.

Male Speaker: Yeah, fantastic.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah. And, uh, so anyway, we, uhh, uh. Where do I go now? Hahaha.

Tye: You knew about?

Male Speaker: That's got you in Cotuit, haha.

Sue Hamilton: And this little house back here needed a lot of work. And we fixed it up. It really looked quite nice. And then, Dick retired, and this house came on the market by a fluke. And our real estate agent said—actually, she didn't talk about this house—she talked about a house that was once owned by the president of Harvard.

Dick Hamilton: Lowell.

Sue Hamilton: Lowell.

Tye: Oh.

Male Speaker: Should have bought that one, haha.

Dick Hamilton: Well, it was falling down unfortunately.

Male Speaker: It's falling down, it's still falling down. Nobody's touched it.

Tye: Oh, really?

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: It's on the water. And we called Hank Walcott, and he said, "Oh, the staircase coming down is magnificent. Oh, my God, what a house to get your hands on." So we flew up all the way from, I think we were in Australia, all the way up. Oh, the place was a complete dump, and they had carved in a little miserable bathroom up on the second floor. I think it was the only bathroom in the house. And I looked down below and there were two real estate women who were living in it. Really po-, well-known real estate.

Male Speaker: Sally Sawyer, and (*distorted speech because Sue is also speaking*).

Sue Hamilton: That's it, that's right. And, and I looked down in the Dempsey dumpster and they had taken everything of hers and thrown it in the Dempsey dumpsters. And we call him, Jane's brother who moves houses. And he said, "We'd have to take on all the fireplaces, all the chimneys, and then the place will still fall apart." So I didn't want any part of it. And there was already a disagreement with the people next door, on what was that about?

Dick Hamilton: Anyway. And to make a long story short, we said to the realtor, Sandy Floren was Sandy Floren. She just passed away as you know, a few months ago. And she said, "Well, I've got other places." Being a good realtor, and so we looked at about a half a dozen other places. And this was one of them. And when we walked in, I looked at. I'm an engineer, I usually look at every little detail, I study it to death, and so on and so forth.

Sue Hamilton: I'm the big idea person (*laughs*).

Dick Hamilton: And I walked in and I stood there right by where the dining room table is, and I looked out and I said, "I love it." Sue almost fainted cause she, she knew that was so out of character for me to be love at first sight of a house.

Tye: And why was it?

Dick Hamilton: I just, I just, I just liked the idea. I look, I liked looking, I liked the...

Sue Hamilton: ...big open spaces.

Dick Hamilton: ... the, uhh, the whole property. And of course, we knew the area very well, because we'd lived a block and a half away on Keeler Road. Anyway, so long, long.

Tye: The place on Keeler, was that just summers?

Dick Hamilton: Yes, yes. We owned the place year-round, but we would spend two or three weeks in the summer, then we'd rent it out in the winter.

Sue Hamilton: And the summer.

Dick Hamilton: Well, yeah, we, which was good and bad (*Laughs*).

Sue Hamilton: We had some low-key kids in there one time. I serve on a board with one of them now. They've come a long. Oh, well, they were kids.

Dick Hamilton: Anyway, we, we, uh, we bought this place in, I retired in '96. And so we bought this place in early '97. And, uh, we would spend essentially half the year here, we'd spend half a year here and half a year in Cincinnati where I worked for Procter & Gamble.

Male Speaker: Yeah.



Dick Hamilton: And, uh, and then in 2006, we decided let's simplify life and leave only one place. And so since, since 2006, we've, uhh, we've lived here full time. In fact, we, we came here on the weekend of Kay, you know, you know, Hank and Kay Walcott?

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Dick Hamilton: On the, on the weekend of Kay's memorial service. That's, in fact, we were gonna drive here. But there wasn't enough time between closing on the house in Cincinnati and coming here. So it was, so we flew and shipped a car in a van, which was a good idea, which was a good move. I was tired of that 16-hour drive anyway. So anyway, we've been here since 2006, full-time.

Male Speaker: Wow, that's great.

Dick Hamilton: One day, we were at the beach, down here walking. I don't think we were swimming, we were walking. And we met a woman and had a conversation with her, and it turned out her grandfather was the chauffeur for Miss Riley, who owned this whole estate. And.

Male Speaker: Yeah. Who is, who is she?

Dick Hamilton: Mabel Riley.

Male Speaker: No, I know who that. No, but the one.

Hamilton: Jean.

Dick Hamilton: Jean, uh, Goss, no Gross, no Goss. G, O, S, S. Jean Goss.

Male Speaker: Okay, cause I've definitely heard references to, to a driver who was.

Dick Hamilton: Well, actually she, she talked to us about it. This was a house where, well the house across the street, which was owned by, uh, help, help me out a bit.

Sue Hamilton: Oh, which way?

Dick Hamilton: This way.

Male Speaker: Oh, Hirsch.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, Steve Hirsch, where Steve Hirsch lives. That was her main house.

Male Speaker: Right.

Dick Hamilton: And then the house, red house next door was where the, uh, where, uhh, Eric. What's Eric's last name?

Sue Hamilton: Flipca.

Dick Hamilton: Anyway, where he lived was the servants' quarters. And both of these houses have been totally redone inside they, uhh. And this house was, was where the gardener lived. And, uhh, the house right next to us was the barn. In fact, if you come...

Tye: The Goodmans too?

Sue Hamilton: The Goodmans, yeah. She would know a lot, she's been here forever.

Dick Hamilton: Uhh. Sorry, there are too many leaves on the trees now. But there's a weathervane on top of her house like a.

Male Speaker: So it looks like a rock?

Tye: So did, the Riley's, did they go all the way to Main Street?

Dick Hamilton: Yes, this is the weathervane that was on top of our house.

Tye: Wow.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, the carriage weathervane. Yeah, the estate went all the way to Main Street.

Male Speaker: And when she owned it? I mean, I know before that, when that was James Rothwell's estate.

Dick Hamilton: My understanding is that she owned all the way to Main Street. And there are two houses on Main Street, one was for the chauffeur, and one was for the sea captain.

Sue Hamilton: And she bought, the Riley's bought it in 1927. Does that makes sense?

Male Speaker: That sounds right.

Sue Hamilton: And she was the only child of her parents' marriage, so, and she never married.

Male Speaker: Yeah, she was quite a philanthropist.

Hamilton: Yes, she was.

Male Speaker: And there's a foundation in her name.

Dick Hamilton: And MFA has a big room, Riley room.

Male Speaker: You know, I've been curious about the, the posts as you go into Rosemead, the stone posts and then there's a couple on Main Street. And they don't, they don't line up directly, but I assume there was some.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, they were there to mark her property. Jean Goss sent us a write-up with photographs and pictures and sketches, maps, actually, which I'll, which I'll loan you, if you want to see it.

Tye: Wow.

Dick Hamilton: And it tells, it tells the whole story

Male Speaker: Is it from the Historical Society? I wonder if, if she's just copying something that the Historical Society already has.

Dick Hamilton: Well, here take a look at it.

Male Speaker: Yeah, let me take a peek at it. I can tell you maybe.

Sue Hamilton: She put a little map in there.

Male Speaker: Oh, no, this, is this. I mean, it could be that the Historical Society has it, but yes, we'd absolutely love to, to get that to make sure this is in the files for the Historical Society. Wow, fantastic. Yeah, great.

Dick Hamilton: She's got photographs in there, and everything.

Male Speaker: Yeah, beautiful.

Sue Hamilton: This was, this whole property here, I don't know if you remember this, this was all flowering garden, and uh, vegetable gardens.

Male Speaker: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sue Hamilton: So it was the whole, the whole estate.

Male Speaker: Do you have any of the history worked out, prior to it?

Dick Hamilton: No, no.

Male Speaker: Cause it's, yeah, so I mean, what I know is that, what I believe cause I've done a lot of research on the Mansard roofs, I believe.

Dick Hamilton: I have the mansard roof write-up too, if you want to, if you want to see that.

Sue Hamilton: Who did that one?

Tye: His write-up?

Male Speaker: Well, there's, there, Jim did one years ago prior to mine, but Jim and I collaborated on a more extensive in detail.

Dick Hamilton: Okay, that's probably what I have a copy. I have a copy of that in the file as well.

Male Speaker: But I, uhm, I believe there was a house, I believe there's a house up closer to Cross Street, which was called Shore Street at one point, I don't know if you know that. It was called Shore Street like at the turn of the century. I think there was a house close, closer that was taken down. And I think.

Dick Hamilton: It was a greenhouse according to the write-up here.

Male Speaker: Oh, maybe, maybe that's what I'm looking at. But there's, I believe this was built by a captain called Isaac Finney...

Sue Hamilton: This house?

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: Okay.

Male Speaker: ...whose brother was Irvin or Irving Finney, who, who had the mansard roof that's above town, you know, at the top of the town dock hill. And I think it was built in about 1889.

Dick Hamilton: It was built when?

Male Speaker: 1889.

Dick Hamilton: I think the deed says this goes back to like, something like 1865. Now, maybe that was just the original part of the house. I don't know.

Male Speaker: I, yeah. So, and it could have been, you know, a lot of houses were moved and added on to.

Dick Hamilton: Every, everybody who's lived here has added something on, including us.

Male Speaker: Yeah, but I think the mansard roof was, was '89. And it would certainly have been after '65. Well, what's certain in history? But I think the first mansard roof was, it was up, uhm, off Old Post Road, and it was built in 1865. And then that sort of started the, the fad.

Tye: So you're saying when the house was built, and you're saying when the roof was?

Male Speaker: Well, I'm hypothesizing, maybe the house was added on to, and made a Mansard house. But there was, if you look, there's a 1906 map that's got a structure, definitely up closer to Cross Street. And then, uhm, I think I'm relying mostly on Jim's research that, that says.

Dick Hamilton: Well, according to Jean's story, there was a greenhouse, between this house and Cross Street.

Male Speaker: Yeah, that could have been it, yeah.

Sue Hamilton: Which was called Shore Street. Who changed that?

Male Speaker: I, that's something I've, you know, sort of on my agenda to figure out. (*Dick Hamilton laughs*). What is now C. Street was called Cross Street. Oh no, that was Handy Street and there was a Cross Street that somewhere else anyway, that's a future, a future paper to be written.

Dick Hamilton: Hahaha.

Tye: So, if there is a single question that defines what we're trying to do, it is: why Cotuit and what makes Cotuit different than Osterville, or Cincinnati, or wherever. What, what is it that drew you to, and makes you such a part of the fabric of Cotuit today? What would you? Is it just the accident of your brother being here? Or was there something about Cotuit that is especially appealing to you?

Dick Hamilton: The answer is yes, yes. Uhm, the fact that our brother was here, uh, Sue's brother was here, drew us to Cotuit. I mean, we didn't know anything about Cotuit until we showed up here and surprisingly bought a house. Uhm, but having been here, uhh, yeah, we've grown to love Cotuit, because it's a, it's an integrated village. I mean, it's got a, it's got a city, a village center, with the village green, and the post office, and the church and the, and the library and the infamous Kettle Ho. So it's a, it's a, it's a village with a village center and it hasn't. And as you get to know people, get involved in things, which when we moved here full-time, we decided we would get involved. Uhh, there are some pretty good people that live here. And so, uh, we very much enjoyed, enjoyed living here. Uh, part of our life has also been Willowbend, and we've got a lot of nice friends over there too. Most of those are six-month friends, but anyway, haha.

Sue Hamilton: We also looked at a house before we bought this one in Osterville, and our realtor was, how could we ever forget?

Dick Hamilton: Oh, a pain in the ass.

Male Speaker: Oh, the guy in Osterville.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, and he's a realtor. And he's, uh, I'll think of it in a moment. And so he showed us around very nice homes, but they were really too big. You know, you could see big, big Irish Catholic families in them, but they were too big for us. And they had swimming pools and all the stuff you had to maintain. And we looked around with him a few things. Then he said, then he turned to us and said, "Don't annoy me about getting into Oyster Harbors Club." That is something I take very personally. "Don't annoy me about trying to get into that club." I just thought this guy was such a jerk. I said, "Do you belong there?" He said, "Oh, yes. I'm head of the..." I thought, "Well, there's a place I don't want to be." Hahaha. Ugh, so that was the end of Osterville. What was his name?

Tye: Bob Killeman?

Sue Hamilton: No, no, no, no.

Dick Hamilton: No, no, no, no.

Tye: He's a nice guy.

Tye: Jack Kohn?

Sue Hamilton: No, no, no, no, no, none of those particular names that run companies.

Tye: Yeah, okay.

Sue Hamilton: This one was.

Dick Hamilton: He had something to do with cars as well.

Sue Hamilton: He made a lot of money in cars. And he has a very nice daughter and every time.

Male Speaker: Aw, we probably don't want you on record talking about what a pain in the neck somebody was anyway (*Everybody laughs*).

Sue Hamilton: Anyway, he turned us so off to Osterville that we came back here. That was the deciding point that. Also too, there's no commerce here. So there's no reason for cars to come in here. There's no dress shops or bars except for the Kettle Ho, you know, it's great that way. Don't you think?

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah.



Dick Hamilton: Ah, I'm trying to think what else to say.

Tye: But so can you talk for a minute, uhm, Dick, your, one of your civic involvements was chairing the library board?

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Tye: ...and being, uhm. What does the library say about the community? And what is it, what was it like chairing the board?

Dick Hamilton: Well, the library is an amazingly popular place. Uhh, I don't have facts and figures at my fingertips, but, uh, they do a tremendous amount of business. And there's also a lot of socializing that goes on in and around the library. Uhh, they have, particularly in the last, oh, generation or so, the library has, has had a strong ethic of service. And when you go in and ask for a book, they'll go wherever they have to, to find it for you, even if it's the Library of Congress. Uhm, now, the CLAMS organization here on Cape Cod, very good. And they, seven libraries that interchange books on a regular basis, but, but they'll go well beyond that if they have to, if there's a particular book that you want and you need, uh. So it's a, it's a very friendly place, a very service-oriented place.

They also had have children's programs too, which we've got six grandchildren and as they've come to visit during the summer, more so when they were younger than they do now, unfortunately, haha. They would get involved in the children's programs as well. They had a children's writing program where a couple of our grandchildren contributed. And some Cavaliers, uhh, outings and so forth. And so, uhm, it was a, it's a big, normally a big service to the community. But it was, it was a very well appreciated place for us and our particular family.

Male Speaker: It's heart of the village, as they keep saying.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, it's a big part of the village.

Sue Hamilton: The woman's, or grandfather's name, who was the Riley chauffeur for years was Anton Williamson.

Male Speaker: Oh, okay.

Sue Hamilton: Know that name at all?

Male Speaker: That's not who I was thinking of.

Sue Hamilton: He was their chauffeur from 1902 to 1952.

Male Speaker: Wow. Well.

Sue Hamilton: He and my grandmother summered...

Male Speaker: Wow, sounds like the guy.

Sue Hamilton: ...they spent 25 summers in Cotuit. That I, this is the daughter, daughter, or granddaughter now, saying, "I never knew how lucky I was."

Male Speaker: Wow.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah.

Tye: Sue, can you talk about what the, uhm, the idea that one of the best art centers, uhm, in the region is here in Cotuit, and you've been intimately involved with it? What is that, how does that help give a definition to this, does this, does that make the village different?

Sue Hamilton: Oh, I think it's fantastic we've got that there. Two things that have improved the Cape, I think in the last 20 years, is a really good Symphony and the Cotuit Center for the Arts. Both of them have brought a lot of joy to this area. You can, I can go to the Cotuit Center for the Arts and be home in 10 minutes. And it's so fantastic, and there's something there every day. I just was on the board. I'm on the board, so we had a board meeting, we have 3,000 students this summer taking classes, everything you can imagine from drumming, to sculpture to metalworking. We have a new bus, we bought a bus, and we took it turned that into a work area for kids. And we painted the bus.

Male Speaker: Oh, fantastic.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, it's gonna be fantastic. Yeah.

Tye: But can you explain, one of the things that intrigued me about talking to Jim Gould was I always had the impression, uhm, that the literary and arts centers of the cape were in places like Wellfleet and Truro and Provincetown. And that this was a more staid, and more boring in terms of an arts world. And he said, “Oh, no, this is, that before Wellfleet and Truro, wherever an art center, partly because Lowell was here, and the people that he drew to Cotuit, that Cotuit was the literary and cultural center of the Cape. Do you see evidence of that since you’ve been here? And is it an accident that the center of the arts, for the arts is in Cotuit? Or is that part of the culture of this place?”

Sue Hamilton: I think it’s part of a culture. And also too, I think, if you put your mind to it, there is some interesting lecture, or something interesting, going on every day here, between the library and the Cotuit Center for the Arts. We’ve gone to great lectures at the library with people who have lived in Cotuit.

Dick Hamilton: We’ve given them, hahaha, you know.

Sue Hamilton: We gave one too.

Dick Hamilton: We gave a couple of them.

Male Speaker: I’d say he has, and I have too (*Everyone laughs*).

Sue Hamilton: And bringing the Cotuit Center for the Arts here with what we bring to Cotuit is absolutely fantastic. I think it adds, I think it adds value to your home prices here because there's so much to do. I mean people say, “What do you do on the cape? We go to the beach, and then what do you do?” Well, we’ve got a lot of other things going on. And this is all new, I mean, 20 years ago none of this existed. I remember when they were behind that Cotuit Market in that little barn.

Male Speaker: Did you know that Jamie? Jamie Woke?

Sue Hamilton: Yeah. And then, they Jim Hank got an architect and build it over there. And we’re in a capital campaign to expand it. Because we need, we sell out everything. So we need more space. But, uh, I think it’s, it’s a treasure and we have over 2,000 members, again that came up on the board meeting. Uhm, who, and they come from everywhere, to come here and be part of what’s going on at the Cotuit Center for the Arts. Do you want to do pottery, do you want to do

dancing, do you want to do literature, do you want to go to lectures? I mean you can go drive yourself crazy with everything that goes on. It's a huge asset. It's a huge boon to this area.

Male Speaker: Hmm. Agreed.

Sue Hamilton: And, and David, who runs it always, before the, before the program goes on and if you sit there and he said, "Alright, who belongs here as a member." And most people put their hands up, and then, "Who doesn't?" Then a couple people go like this. Then he goes, "You go with this person who's been a member for 20 years out there after, and you could become a member. That's it. You become a member." Hahaha. Guys shrinking back.

Male Speaker: That's the guy you want running that, hahaha.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, absolutely.

Dick Hamilton: The other place that is, is an attraction here and has, has been growing is the Cotuit Federated Church. It draws from not just from Cotuit, but from Sandwich, and Osterville and, uhh, Marstons Mills, all around. And it's got a fantastic pastor at the moment, a woman who's trained as an engineer, she's a Purdue engineer.

Male Speaker: Oh, I didn't. I never knew that.

Dick Hamilton: And, uh, for the past year has been, uh, doing services online. And, and she's a wizard as far as the technology is concerned. And, uhm, they, they get 200-and-some people regularly on these Zoom, or these, these internet meetings that they air services that they have on Sunday. And of course, they never get that many, many live at the church, they're lucky if they get 100, but they get over double that, uhh, with the, with the internet services, because she does such a good job putting them all together. Well, your wife's been to several of them.

Tye: Yes. But so that again, uhm, is it that the community gets the church and the pastor that they deserve because she's a reflection of Cotuit, or that she's what draws? How, what's, how does that happen that we have a church that is, uhm, a magnet for other places, and that reflects this sense of community?

Dick Hamilton: Well, it's a synergy. The way, the way this particular church works is, uhh, people apply to be the pastor. And there's a search committee that that goes out and evaluates these various people who want to be a pastor. I was on the search committee, I guess nine or 10

years ago now. And, uh, for our dinky little church in a little dinky little town in Cotuit, we got over 85 applications to be our pastor, from everywhere, West Coast, Midwest, South, the majority from were from New England, but still. Uhh, and so we went through, went and read the resumes, and then we interviewed a lot of them on, uh, on, uh, on, on Skype. And some of them, personal here, and we narrowed it down, narrowed it down, and then finally, finally picked Angie as our, as our current pastor.

Uhh, and when we the way that the system works, as a final step, uhh, the candidate preaches at some neutral, neutral Parish, not her own or not ours. So it turned out that was Waquoit, the Congregational Church in Waquoit. And so, uh, we went down, we heard her preach, we decided we wanted her. And we, I invited the whole team, and Angie and her husband to Willowbend for lunch. And we laid out our pitch, we knew pretty well that we wanted her. And so we had it all figured out what we're going to offer and we made the whole offer. It was a very attractive offer for a pastor. And she said, "Okay, I'll let you know in two weeks." Hahaha, two weeks! Hahaha, anyway, two weeks passed, she called and she's our pastor. I learned later that she had three offers.

Male Speaker: Wow.

Dick Hamilton: So, so is it a question of us being attractive? Yeah, apparently we were cause we won out over at least two others. And then the other half of that question is, "Is she an attraction?" The answer is absolutely, yes. Absolutely, yes. Everybody, people, a lot of people who come to the Cape, go church-hunting, you know, they go here, they go there, they go here and try to decide where they want to, where they want to settle. And, uh, we've had three or four families in the last couple years who've, who've done that. And who've decided that Cotuit Federated Church is where they wanted to be.

Tye: Oh, that's great.

Dick Hamilton: So, and it's partly, it's partly because of the pastor, and partly because of the atmosphere. People are quite friendly, quite welcoming, which wasn't always the case. But, but has been the case with a lot of emphasis put on it the last few years.

Sue Hamilton: You know going back to the Cotuit Center for the Arts. Remember the box center that was supposed to go up on the rotary here, and that all fell apart?

Male Speaker: Oh, I didn't know about that, huh.

Hamilton: You didn't know about the box center here? This was in, 15 years ago,

Male Speaker: This was the Mashpee rotary?

Sue Hamilton: And the Mashpee rotary was gonna be on that left hand side there. Ernie Box money was behind it. Don't remember any of that. Well, Willowbend was very big behind that, there was a lot of big money, crap money and, and, uh, all these other people that gave a ton of money. I don't quite understand what happened, but according to, uh, to the banker who I know, they were asked, the box center was asked, instead of putting this second structure up, why don't you come over to our high school, Mashpee High School, and we have a big auditorium that we could probably improve it all. And they said, "No, no, no, we're not doing anything there. We're building our own."

But they were building it so that it wouldn't be big enough to house the symphony. And that was a very strange aspect of it. And so the money kept pouring in and everyone was getting all excited about it. And just, they'd cleared the land, or a lot of the land, put a big sign up, I remember seeing all that, our future home at the box center. And then all of a sudden, the town pulled the permit for it. The people who have, were controlling the money got together and said, "We'll give a couple of million to the symphony, a couple million to Boys' club." And that was the end of it.

Tye: Huh.

Sue Hamilton: There was no, there was no notification to the big donors that this was not going up. So just at that time the Cotuit Center for the Arts becomes the center where everything moves to. And we do so much community work there, we do so much outreach, uh, that it's just drawn everyone into this community center. The box center was going to be a totally different thought. And this community center is just what brings everybody in.

Tye: So the depth of the box center helped?

Sue Hamilton: It really helped us so that we were here behind the, the thing Jim, he built it down there. And it was kind of interesting. He and his wife were married and she did a, a show I remember one time. It wasn't anything, it was about a chauffeur and a little girl was in the backseat and you don't want to go any further with this. It was just creepy as can be.

And then they came out and said this was part their fundraising, uh, period. And I said, "Oh, you've picked the wrong thing with these grandmother's sitting in the audience." So that was the end of her, they divorced. Once she was out of the picture, things helped a lot. Cause she wanted, he built it for her actually. She wanted to be a playwright, she wanted to be a director. But once

we got her out of the picture, then things started to bloom. And once we got David it exploded. David's excellent.

Tye: And he married a great journalist from the *Cape Cod Times* as his second wife and that's the, uh.

Sue Hamilton: Who's that?

Tye: Jim, uhm.

Sue Hamilton: Oh, Jim Hank, yeah. Jim Hank, yeah.

Tye: Jimmy Ryan.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, she's terrific.

Tye: She is terrific.

Sue Hamilton: She's terrific. So that, it was kind of timing. We never could figure out what the box center was going to do. They were going to bring in all kinds of entertainment, well, you have to have underwriting for that. And they hadn't gotten to that aspect of it yet. We were just thinking about putting up the building with two outbuildings, I remember that.

The people who lost the money were furious, furious. So when the Cotuit Center for the Arts started up, they're all Willowbend people. I would approach them and they'd go, "No more arts, no more arts." They got, you know, and they got ripped off on it. A few of them came around, but, but not very many of them know, craft money and so on, we just don't get any of that. They've had it. They just felt like they got done a bad deal. We move on, the McGraw's built that beautiful pottery studio, oh my god, state-of-the-art pottery studio. Did you see that? It's right on 28 there.

Tye: I'm intrigued, uhm, your story and Jim Heck's story in ending up here are similar a lot of ways. And he came from, uhm.

Sue Hamilton: California.

Tye: Well, he was in Milwaukee, he grew up in Milwaukee, and then went to California. And then came here. And it seems like there are two kinds of people who love Cotuit the people who grew up with it as part of their world. And the people who discovered it later in life and realize there's something magical here and adopted it as their new world. And the, do you think, uhm, you've got lots of, uhh, friends here, if we were to, uhm, sit down with all of them, do you think there's a consensus about what people like about this place? It, we keep hearing the same themes, everybody we're talking to, not, not being commercial, not being on the way anywhere. So it just, it's quieter.

Sue Hamilton: Do you think everyone will say the same thing?

Tye: I'm wondering, yeah. And I'm, uhh.

Dick Hamilton: It's also friendly. I mean, how often do you go to the post office, without speaking to half a dozen people?

Tye: Mm.

Dick Hamilton: Assuming they're half a dozen people there.

Sue Hamilton: We like to think that this is a secret place. And we don't want anybody to know (*Everybody laughs*).

Dick Hamilton: Those orange license plates! Hahaha.

Sue Hamilton: Oh, it must be, uh, channel 5 or 4, they did an expose. We went, "Okay, it was really well done, but don't do it anymore. We don't want anybody to know."

Male Speaker: No replays!

Sue Hamilton: No, yeah, haha. No, people really like the thought that this is, if people say, "Where do you live on the Cape?" and you say, "Cotuit," they don't know where that is. And that's just, uh.



Tye: And if they don't, but if they know where it is, uhm, I tell the boring story about being at a, uhm, a division of Random House publishing and having this really smart editor walk me to the elevator after we talked about the book. And she said, "Where are you going?" And I said, "I'm flying back to Boston." And she said, "No, where specifically are you going?" And I said, "I'm going to Cape Cod." She said, "No, specifically, where are you going?" And I said, "Cotuit." And she started telling me she's the granddaughter of, uhm, the Sullivans.

Sue Hamilton: Oh, really?

Dick Hamilton: Oh, yeah.

Tye: And started telling me about the magic of Cotuit. And I thought, "Jeez, most people have no clue. But those who do sparkle when you.."

Male Speaker: There might be some self-selection too. You know, I mean, for some people big, wide-open beaches and more commercial, and you know...

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Male Speaker: ...more options might be more attractive. So, so it could be that it's just right for the folks who live here, I don't know.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah I can see people going to Chatham, there's so much to go to do there.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: There's nothing to do here unless you taught down to the Kettle Ho.

Male Speaker: Right.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah.

Tye: So were you embraced when you came here as full-timers?

Sue Hamilton: We were what?

Tye: Were you embraced when you came here as full-timers or were you treated? A lot of people who come, uhm, to New England and Massachusetts, uhm, find that you have to have lived here 200 years before your, but you seem incredibly, uhm, integral to and integrated in the community. Were you embraced or did it take a while to feel at home?

Sue Hamilton: I would have to truly say that if we didn't belong to Willowbend, I don't know how many friends we would have here...

Tye: Huh.

Sue Hamilton: ...in the sense that it is kind of closed that way. The only way I met a lot of locals was to serve on boards. I did the Cahoon. Dick did the library. I did Heritage, which I met a lot of people from all Oyster Harbors at Heritage. And now Cotuit Center for the Arts, I knew none of those people that came on the board, who all local Cotuit people who I have no entree to, you know. They've got their group, do you know what I mean? They're, they're completely closed off. So, uh.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, that, that's the key to get involved. I mean, I've been involved with the library, with the church, and Sue's been involved as she's just described and that makes a difference. So that makes a difference. Because it's, it's just to say hello to somebody on the street that, that doesn't do it. You've got to, you got to actually do something with people in order to, in order to build up a bond and a friendship. Once you do that, people are great.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: And also too, every year where there's a lady's luncheon after tennis and so they'd always say, "Stand up, Sue, and tell us what's going on in at the Cotuit Center for the Arts. And, uh, "Why don't you guys join?" So I mentioned this, this and this, this, but you have to keep in mind that they give a lot of money to where they live full-time. I mean what they call their Florida house or Boston house.

Male Speaker: Right, right.

Sue Hamilton: So this is just a fun thing for them, to get serious about I have to really press them a little bit. But we had a party, I, are, this was about five years ago for our birthdays, and we had

50 people for dinner at Willowbend. And they turned around and gave us chair, well gave chairs to the Cotuit Center for the Arts, as a “Thank you,” which was really super. A nice, little “Thank you.” Yeah, so they’re slowly coming around. And I’m gonna, they’re opening *Piano Men*, uh, on August 19<sup>th</sup>. They’d le-, two years ago, last year was the pandemic, but two years ago, they did *Queen*. And this year they’re doing *Piano*. They had to add a couple of extra performances because it was so popular, it was so well done. I was too sick to go. But you [addressing Dick] said, even you said, it was fabulous, even you, hahaha.

Dick Hamilton: Oh, I like *Queen*.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, it was great. So this year we’re doing *Piano Men*, opens August 19<sup>th</sup>. So I’m gonna get a whole group of our friends to go. I said, “You’re gonna love this.” And the tickets are \$100 because it’s opening night. It was kind of fun. So I’ll get a bunch of people to come to that.

Tye: Is this the big opening of reopening of the Center?

Sue Hamilton: No, we’re, we have the.

Dick Hamilton: They never really closed down.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, we have reopened with a play called *Grounded*, which was fantastic. Really fantastic. I saw it twice, uh. No, we’re, we’re moving along, we’ve got lots of classes going on. But our big musical of the summer is *Piano Men*, yeah, that’ll bring people in. We’re not doing *E.T.* this year. I don’t know why, but we’re not. They are doing the parade. Did you notice they said that?

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, just a last minute addition.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, so.

Male Speaker: That was a tough call.

Sue Hamilton: I know, I know.

Dick Hamilton: It's a scaled down, if you've read the announcement, which, which I have, it's a scaled down version.

Male Speaker: Well, that's, that's, that's the intent. We'll see. I mean, it's however many people show up, and...

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Male Speaker: ...Jim's worried it's getting more publicity than we were intending. But yeah, hah.

Sue Hamilton: Well.

Tye: So, you, it strikes me another person who you talked about, uhm, the minister, you've got the library and library directors who are essential, uh, finding David seems like it was a real strike, in terms of heaven, the kind of institution?

Dick Hamilton: Absolutely.

Sue Hamilton: He's a classical pianist.

Hamilton: Yeah, Jim Wolf, Jim Wolf's a great artist. But he was not an organizer, unfortunately. And, uh, uh, he's a personal friend. I liked him a lot. In fact, he taught me a lot in terms of art. I dabbled with it for a while. Uhh, but he just isn't the organizer that, uh, that David is.

Male Speaker: It's classic. It's like a startup business, you know, you got the founder, you know, visionary founder. And after five years, the board usually brings in the guy who takes over from him.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, that's a, that's a, that's a typical progression. Yeah.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: Jim. Jim used to always say, "I'm an artist, I'm an artist. Don't bother me with this business stuff."

Male Speaker: Right, right, yeah. Mm.

Sue Hamilton: That's gonna be the kiss of death. David's been superb. Um, he never, he never stops working. The problem I'm afraid he's gonna keel over someday from all the.

Dick Hamilton: When the pandemic hit, he took a 50% cut in pay.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, to keep the place alive.

Tye: That's incredible.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: And laid everybody off except five people. They ran the whole place, and they did a lot behind the scenes. You always think when it's closed down, it's closed down, but it isn't. It was fully operating behind the scenes. They're writing grants, fixing things up, doing everything they needed to do.

Tye: Did you take a lo-, a PP, whatever it is?

SueHamilton: Yeah, we did, twice, yeah. And the first one has been forgiven. We're hoping the second one will be, so yeah. Yeah, it was great.

Tye: And are people back to full salaries now?

Sue Hamilton: Some are.

Tye: Ah.

Hamilton: Uh, we, uh, we. Actually some went on to different businesses, so we've rehired people for a specific, specific, uh, job and I think we're in really good shape. We've got money in the bank, you know, we've got money in the bank, so.

Tye: So for posterity, uhm, we will note that we're just coming out of the pandemic and have had a year-and-a-half of the nightmare of pandemic. What was it like? Was Cotuit a good place to you to ride out a pandemic?

Dick Hamilton: Yes.

Sue Hamilton: It was long, hahah.

Dick Hamilton: Well, it was, it would have been long anywhere. But, uhh, yeah, you know, walks along the beach, uhh.

Sue Hamilton: The quietness of it was great.

Dick Hamilton: Lovely, lovely scenery here. Yeah, it was as good a place as any. I mean, Netflix is Netflix, no matter where you watch. Hahahaha.

Sue Hamilton: It was, it was very nice. We have a fireplace, it was great for that. I think every day I just walked, or did a walk, and then I'd come back up the beach. I just thought, "Oh, this is so lovely."

Tye: But it strikes me that, uhm, going into the city occasionally, uhm, during the pandemic, and then coming back here, you realize how much easier it was being here in a pandemic, for exactly the reasons you're saying, you have the beach and you had, uhm, other than people wearing masks, you almost didn't know that there was a pandemic here because.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, right.

Dick Hamilton: The other thing is you got to realize we were in a special situation because the previous year, we both had surgery for cancer.

Tye: Mm.

Dick Hamilton: And so 2019 was a terrible year for us. So in comparison 2020 was, (*Sue laughs*), was nice. Hahaha.

Sue Hamilton: I was still under treatment. And I still am under treatment, so I really can't go anywhere. This was great, right? This was, this was a great place to be.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: It's big, you know, we can roam around. And Annie came for six weeks, she loved it. We did all kinds of things. We went, we did art lectures, we went to the Cotuit Center to see *Grounded*, uhm, it was, it was terrific.

Dick Hamilton: And her daughter.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, she lives in London. And she's coming back for the summer.

Tye: She's coming back for the summer?

Sue Hamilton: Yeah.

Tye: That's, wow. With any kids, or the?

Sue Hamilton: Catherine's coming, and then Catherine's going off to camp. And then Stephen's coming, he's studying for his A levels or O levels in England. Oh, poor Stevie. I said, "Bring him over here. I'll help him out. I won't stick him in the, in his bedroom studying all summer. That's so fun." So he's coming, I hope. Well, yeah, he's, he'll be entering his senior year. He's an athlete. My Stevie is an athlete. He's not an intellectual child.

Male Speaker: What are, what are his sports?

Sue Hamilton: Uh, cricket, baseball, running, he does everything.

Tye:

Dick Hamilton: They have an amazing, I don't want to get too far away from Cotuit, London's pretty far away from it. But they have an amazing, uh, baseball organization over there. Mostly led by the American expats but they, they, they have a whole series of leagues and the kids, the kids play baseball, the girls play softball.

Sue Hamilton: The kids play baseball in old aircraft hangars.

Tye: Wow.

Sue Hamilton: During, that were built during the war. And they're big enough, tall enough that the kids can you know, hit and.

Male Speaker: That's wild.

Sue Hamilton: I just wanted to go back to this woman's. This is the chauffeur's grandson then. He was killed on his second tour in Vietnam. And he has, he has a memorial. There's a memorial in Hyannis for him and his name is Richard O'Neil Olson. You know the name?

Tye: So what have we not asked you about Cotuit that you think is important in terms of your take on what this village is?

Sue Hamilton: I'm always surprised in Cotuit that people even with basic job, maybe basic education, are really intelligent. I don't know how to describe that, I guess coming from other parts of the country, where you expect a certain mentality. I was dealing yesterday with this guy who does the sprinkler system. He was one very interesting, smart guy. We'd, we not, we talked about everything else except the sprinkler system. And the kid who worked before him, a little guy, I can't think of his name. But we'd have this long conversation about his latest trip to Paris or London or something else. You would never find that in Cincinnati. The kids are smart here. I guess the education is good here. The guy who, uhm, I don't hire him, but he does landscaping, he's a classical pianist.

Male Speaker: Really?

Sue Hamilton: Yeah. I mean, it's always a surprise. It's always a surprise.



Tye: So you think that's because people want to stay on the Cape and sometimes have to take jobs that are, uhm, less interesting, but they might, but they're, they've got other things going on in their other world and they just want to be here. Why do you think that is?

Sue Hamilton: I think there's just a certain standard of education or smartness here that spills over to these young kids. And I'm, I, as I say, I'm always very surprised when they start to talk with me and I just think I'm always curious as to how come he winds up with this job, because he presents himself as someone much more.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: I don't know, do you get that impression too?

Male Speaker: I'll have to be attuned to it, I mean.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, it's because we came from another part of the world. It would be a certain, you would expect a certain mentality in Cincinnati for what's going to show up, but totally breaks the rules up here.

Tye: That's interesting, because schools here on the Cape don't rate well in terms of Massachusetts, uhm, as a whole, when they do testing and other things, but the, but maybe we're spoiled generally in the state and the region, and the, uh.

Dick Hamilton: Kids from Barnstable High School go everywhere.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, those kids from Barnstable High School are fabulous.

Dick Hamilton: Harvard, Stanford, etc. Now they're, they're plenty who don't. Haha.

Tye: Yeah, there are. Yeah, that's interesting, cause a lot of people think that they're cherry-picked, the schools here. The, what's the Sturgis?

Dick Hamilton: The charter schools, yeah.

Tye: Yeah. But the, but what else about this place?

Sue Hamilton: I like our neighbors. I like the people we interact with. It's peaceful. Uhm, we've got an very interesting neighborhood. Dr. Goodman, he fills us in on the world actually. Does the scholarships for all the, you know.

Dick Hamilton: Oh, the other thing that I think is great here are the emergency services. The fact that it's just a few blocks away. We had an incident a few years ago, a good friend of Sue's lived down at the end of the street, where Joe Kennedy now lives.

Male Speaker: Yeah.

Dick Hamilton: And, uh, Sue was down visiting her and, with another woman, and she collapsed with cerebral hemorrhage. And they called the Life-squad, within two minutes, they were there. Yeah. And, and took her out, took her to Cape Cod Hospital. It turns out, she didn't, she only survived, uh, half a day.

Sue Hamilton: I think she was dead going out the door. I think she was dead going out the door.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah. But they were there just like that, and they were very competent. They stayed until, you know, it was clear that there was nothing more that they could do, etc., etc. I think having this, these emergency services are so close here is, is, uh, is, is a big plus for Cotuit. As you probably know, from time to time, they say, well, we ought to consolidate several villages and save some money. I'm not for that.

Male Speaker: I mean it's interesting to me because I'm in active conversations about that on the Civic Association Board. So that's that whole.

Sue Hamilton: And they need three guys, not two. I saw that in action, remember they wanted to cut it down to two. You need three.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah. 80% of their calls are medical calls, not fire calls. I mean, they do fire calls, too, of course. But, uhh, most of the firefighters are EMTs as well, which, which we need. I think that's a, as I'm not getting any younger. I think that's a very strong plus for Cotuit having that emergency, uh, availability, right, right close here.

Tye: So and something you just said, I'd love to take you two other directions. One is, uhm, Kennedy's, you mentioned Joe Kennedy being down the street.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Tye: In many communities, uhm, so I think if we had Joe Kennedy sitting in this room, he would say one of the reasons he came to Cotuit was partly to get away from Hyannis and the rest of the Kennedy clan. And partly cause here, he could just be, and not have to be. He's, uhm, uh. There are celebrities who live in Cotuit, uhm. But they do it in a lower-key way it seems to me than they do other places is that. Do you think that's true?

Sue Hamilton: Absolutely true, absolutely true.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah.

Sue Hamilton: I think people in Cotuit, when you ask that question before, people in Cotuit are philanthropic, when they know to be. You're going to live here, you support the library, you support the things there. I've never had a problem with that, I've done so many of these letters and so on. It's rare that anyone turns, turns me down. People are good here for that.

Tye: So another civic institution that you know well about, Sue, that normally matters in a place is a newspaper, uhm. Does Cape Cod and Cotuit thrive in spite of having declining newspaper quality? Or does that matter? Is that a missing hole here? Or what do you think about it?

Sue Hamilton: I think it's a big missing hole. I was reading it this morning before you came with ad after ad. What happened to your letters to all these rich people who are going to buy it for us and turn it into the New York Times? *(Sue and Dick laugh)*.

Tye: So can I tell you the fantasy, the new fantasy is every time I hear about some new rich person I write, some obnoxious whatever, they toss away. But the new one is the guy. Do you know the guy who owns, and I'm terrible on names, the guy who owns the Coonamessett Inn? Uhm, uh.

Dick Hamilton: No.

Tye: And I'm gonna think of his, uhm, Bill Zander.

Dick Hamilton: Oh, okay.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, I know the name.

Tye: So he apparently, uhm, he's not really well, but he has a dream about, uhm, a newspaper here. And I think that the, and there are two ways it seems like you can go. One is just, it's, it is cheaper than it used to be, because of all the online stuff, to start your own. And the other is to buy the *Cape Cod Times*. And I think that would sell their grandmother for the, for a modest asking price and the, uhm. But it just, it's really sad because as Jim Heck's wife could tell you cause she used to work there. Just you know how good the *Cape Cod Times* used?

Sue Hamilton: Yes, it was wonderful.

Tye: And it's just terrible, yeah.

Hamilton: And what's causing that, just lack of circulation?

Tye: Uhm, what's causing it is Gannett...

Sue Hamilton: Oh.

Tye: ... and the bad economics of newspapers. And this chain not caring anymore. Gannett now has a bigger circulation in Massachusetts than the *Boston Globe* does because it owns Cape Cod and New Bedford, and Worcester, and Framingham and it just, and it owns them, and it cuts them, and it tries to consolidate services. But what's lost is the sense of quality. The *Cape Cod Times* newsroom is now, half-condos. They converted the building to condos, and made it big. And the newsroom is postage stamp-size now, and that's all it needs. Because it's got a, just a couple people.

Hamilton: Oh my. Well, then they let Tim Miller go, they don't do editorial.

Tye: They did.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, and it just goes on and on.

Dick Hamilton: We left for fishing.

Tye: So at the same time, they let Tim Miller and Bill Mills go, who between them, had 50/60 years of experience. And losing your movie guide, Tim Miller had a very sad story at home in terms of he was a support for his wife, and for a disabled relative, and for all kinds of things. And Bill Miller was the editorial page editor. And the excuse that they gave in the newspaper, I should probably turn this off while saying this stuff, but the excuse they gave was that readers don't know the difference between news and editorial. So it was confusing to readers to have a local editorial voice. And if there's anywhere in the world where readers are smart enough to know the difference, it's Cape Cod.

Sue Hamilton: Hahaha, a newspaper man said that?

Tye: Uhm, the editor of the newspaper, in a printed statement, justifying why they were making this change, said that. And just, she doesn't believe that.

Hamilton: The fishing guy's gone too, who I used to read. I used to read Molly Benjamin 'member, Molly Benjamin? Or?

Male Speaker: Yes, what, what a, what an interesting character.

Dick Hamilton: Oh, she was.

Tye: But the interesting thing is, so you say the fishing guy's gone, uhm. The good news is the local public radio station gets better as the *Cape Cod Times* gets worse. And they've got the fishing news now every once a week, you know all summer. And they've got full-time climate change reporter and this little Cape Cod News guy.

Sue Hamilton: One, I just remember, a quote from a friend of mine. They sold their big house on Point Isabel that overlooked the water. They wanted to scale down, they're older. And they bought a condo in Mashpee. And he said, "The worst part about it. I like the condo. I liked our house. But the worst thing is my mailing advice is no longer Cotuit. (*Everyone laughs*).

Tye: Oh, that says a lot.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, it's no longer Cotuit. That was, he said that was hard to give up. Yeah, it was hard to give up, so anyway.

Tye: So I want to just end by saying, uhm, thank you for helping inspire what we're doing a long time ago, and for being, uhm, such a great contributors to it now. And we'd love to make a copy of that.

Sue Hamilton: Yeah, that'd be great.

Dick Hamilton: Yeah, sure. I obviously would like it back. But, of course.

Sue Hamilton: With a lot of information on the second page. We.