

Hendersons, Matthew Winkler

Unknown Speaker

That's on DVD and we have it. Yeah.

Tye

So I want to hear that. And I want to also make sure...

US

She was an archivist

Tye

Do you know somebody named Burdock Smith? A woman named, last name Burdock Smith?

US

No

Tye

No?

US

And this is just one album

US

As we were growing up

US

We have tons, I've just been, so Phil has been asking me for pictures of this house.

Tye

Yeah, right.

US

But I've got loads of Cotuit pictures.

Tye

So, I'd love to see the Cotuit pictures. And I would ask just as we sit down here, I would ask one thing, which is um to make it easier for the transcriber, when you're saying anything just to identify who you are so they know the, with two or three people they can identify voices with seven people, it will be difficult unless you let them know. So come on over

US

You're gonna have to remind us.

Tye

I will remind you. I think we've got...[unintelligible]

Unknown Speaker

He's already interviewed me, so why don't you sit closer to him

Unknown Speaker

Has said that growing up on rainy days when they would be here all summer long, um that mom would just get out her movies and we'd sit

Tye

And watch the movies, I love the uhm...

US

Watching family movies for entertainment, and that's...

Tye

So I want to just open the tape here by saying we are sitting out here on a hopefully not too rainy day. Um, in on the uh deck of the house that was known as the what was the house known as?

Marriott

Helm. This is Marriott, the Helm.

Tye

So we're sitting in the shadow of the ship and the rudder and what was and the cottage, the anchor the rudder and the cottage and the ship. Great.

Unknown Speaker

Wait did the cottage have a name?

Unknown Speaker

The anchor.

FUS

I didn't know that.

Tye

And so anybody who doesn't know what all that stuff means, um, this was the Henderson household. And I am sitting here this is Larry Tye sitting here with...

Dita Henderson

Dita Henderson, I'm Bunker's wife.

Jody

Jody Sanders or Jody Henderson Sanders

Freesteir

Lisa Freesteir, Larry Tye's wife

Murray

John Murray

Tye

Who is a Henderson by

Murray

Cousin

Tye

related to the Hendersons

Murray

Cousin. First Cousin.

Mary Henderson

Cousin. Mary Henderson.

Dake Henderson

And Dake Henderson.

Tye

Great, so. And so what we're doing, we already have on tape Edie, um, who was Edie Henderson. How do you say the last, her her, uh

Unknown Speaker

Gig.

Tye

Uh, Gig, Eddie Henderson Gig and John Murray is already on tape, and we're gonna sit here partly looking at pictures, and partly telling stories about recollections, the point of the project, so I should explain it in addition to I said that we were infected by Jim Gouel's general love of Cotuit. I'm intrigued, there's one question that intrigues me more than anything that defines the project we're doing, which is, why is Cotuit not just the most special place on Cape Cod, but maybe on the planet? And what is it about it? Is it my imagination? Or is there something in the history of this place? And people's stories about why they ended up in Cotuit that makes this a really unusual village with a very um cherished history. And the and I'd love to just go around and ask if you had to define when did you can you tell a little bit about your story and when you started out in Cotuit and start out by saying um who you are again,

Dita

This is Dita, I'm Bunker's wife.

Tye

And can you spell Dita so that...

Dita

Dita is spelled D-I-T-A. Like Frita but with a D. Um, I married Bunker in 1978. But had known him for two years before that and came down to visit Cotuit and his dad who had ended up living down the street down Main Street, and the stories of his childhood coming for summers here in Cotuit, um, were just amazing. And I had been a person whose family always went into the mountains and climbed mountains and went to lakes. But my husband Bunker and the Henderson family came to the ocean and sailed Cotuit skiffs since the early 1900s. So hearing stories about all of that, for many years, has been one of the most fascinating things about Cotuit for me.

Tye

And do you have memories of, um, you know in addition to the house generally, the groovy room?

Dita

I have never been in this house ever.

Tye

Okay.

Dita

So that's why I'm here today. Thank you. But I've heard many stories, of, because this house was gone from them in 76 when I met bunker, and so I saw, drove by it many times down to where Jerry lived down the road. But I'm very happy to be here and to be on the inside and see it in real life rather than in stories

Tye

Could you say who you are, and also can we remind the date Today is August. What is the date?

Unknown Speaker  
Seventh.

Unknown Speaker  
Eighth.

Tye  
August eighth, so this is August 8th, 2021.

Jody  
Is this still on?

Tye  
It is.

Jody  
Okay. This is uh Jody Henderson's Sanders. And I have a long history of coming to Cotuit. I don't know how old I was when my parents first brought me down because I would have been a baby. And in this house, um, the first significant thing that happened was when I was about four, I was playing upstairs in the attic. And I don't know how it happened, but I fell down the stairs and broke my collarbone. And, uh, which was okay, I was small enough. I just needed an ace bandage around this house here.

Tye  
In the crawlspace?

Jody  
Yes, the crawlspace that's upstairs.

Unknown Speaker  
Wait it, it [unintelligible] it was an attic.

Tye

Okay, so there is still crawlspace that we call the attic now. But you mean our second floor here.

Jody

That's that's correct. And the second even more significant thing was this is the house that I was married to my husband, Guy Sanders. And we were married in front of the fireplace in the living room.

Tye

And what year would that be?

Jody

That would be 1972.

Tye

And was it your gown that was...

Jody

No, that was my aunt's gown that was hung. I've followed in her footsteps, which I had forgotten until you mentioned it. Trying to think what else, there's lots of other things this house brings back so many memories.

Tye

Was the wedding in the yard here?

Jody

No, the wedding was in the living room. We came through here, knowing where the master bedroom is, and the study and down the little path to the fireplace where we stood and got married. We didn't have to go anyplace afterwards. We were right here and had the reception right here.

Tye

Was it somebody from the church here that officiated at it, or who was the...

Jody

Yes, we had the minister, the local minister. Now we are not a religious family, I mean Guy and I are not religious either, but in order to make it legal we felt we had to have a local minister.

Tye

Do you remember who that was at the time?

Jody

I have no idea who he was. I do know he did not have a particularly good reputation. Anyway, I will let [unintelligible]

Unknown Speaker

Groovy room, groovy room here.

Jody

Um, I was grown and pretty much gone. I was a little bit on my mother's side that I didn't really approve of all the uh, uh, smoking of pot, and that sort of thing downstairs. But I would go down and socialize with everybody who was down there.

Tye

Was this a gathering spot for young people?

Jody

The groovy room, yeah, very much so.

Tye

And the family was

Jody

And family and...except for my mother, dad went down on upon occasion.

Tye

But why was, was it just that you were the coolest kids in town or this was the best house, or why was this the best gathering spot for people?

Jody

Probably because they had more people attending here. I mean, there was Dake, my brother Terry and my brother Bunker.

Dake

Right. And also, you know, our parents were um more lenient than other parents. You know, they, they it was my mother who gave the name Dake Groovy room to our space downstairs. We all thought it terribly corny, but it stuck nonetheless.

Tye

So can I ask you that for one second, so I'm intrigued by this because your mother denied knowing what the groovy room was. The um, so, but she actually named it?

Jody

She probably wanted to forget it.

Tye

Can you say who you are?

Dake

Yes. I'm Dake Henderson, one of Edie's sons.

Unknown Speaker

Re-repeat what you said.

Dake

Uh, yeah, so the um the groovy room was named by my mother, uh, because it was just a spot in the cellar that had, uh, used to be a garage before the house was redone. And got during the remodel it got you know, wallboard and such and there was a little kitchenette down there. And uh that's where, you know, we all hung out and uh my dad especially was very lenient. And she prevailed upon my mom for leniency also

Tye

Lenient in terms of what people were ingesting and music and everything?

Dake

E-Exactly. Yes.

Jody

They painted the, I was quite young, but my brothers painted the walls all psychedelic, and they had a black light down there. Um, anyway...

Dake

Great, great sound system and a good size for-

Tye

And it was a gathering spot not just for the family but for the community and people?

Dake



Uh, yes, Jackson's in particular who, you know, have been coming to Cotuit since their parents were, you know, their parents came to Cotuit when they were young, you know, so...

Tye

Was this the, were these the coolest people in town? Or was it just a family?

Dake

Well, the, the Jackson Henderson's were, you know, the, the connections between them, both in Cotuit and in Lincoln, and also in Belmont. Uh, you know, since my parents were little. So there's, you know, the Jacksons have always been best friends with Henderson's, and my generation and, and uh previous generations. Yes.

Tye

So can I ask just—

Jody

We should give you our brother's eulogy of uh my mom, who talks a little bit about

Tye

I would love to see it. Was this at the um

Unknown Speaker

Yes.

Tye

It was at the church of this past

Unknown Speaker

Yesterday

Tye

Just yeste, just yesterday wow. Um, I

Unknown Speaker

Friday

Unknown Speaker

Oh, Friday.

Tye

I'd like to ask just for people who might listen to this tape a year from now, or 50 years from now, to set the sense of what the community was like, what the village was like and what your families were like. You mentioned places, Lincoln, Belmont, did you say Lexington or the Lincoln, Belmont and but these are communities that are among uh the more affluent Boston communities.

Unknown Speaker

Yup.

Tye

Was Cotuit and were your families, was this a reflection of affluence or was Cape Cod and Cotuit less affluent than now? It was just a story in today's, Boston Globe and another one uh, in the Boston Globe, saying that the average house price on Nantucket has gone up 50% in the last year or so. And it's now at \$2 million. The average house price in Barnstable county, or maybe it was the whole Cape Cod is now somewhere north of \$500,000, which is a 30 some odd percent increase in just the last year. Did it take affluence to be living here in the area you're talking about? Or was it a more um, a less rich place?

Unknown Speaker

Um, no, it did not take affluence, affluence. But on the other hand, um, you know, we were all summer people. So by definition

Tye

You were by definition more affluent.

Unknown Speaker

Yeah.

Tye

So we have a, that's the point, and here's the counterpoint. Could you say who you are?

Mary

Well Henderson's like to disagree with each other in a friendly way. I'm Mary Henderson. I'm Dake's sister. So, so Cotuit was a landing ground for originally for sort of the Harvard intellectual. Uh Har, you know, the intellectuals from the Harvard community in Cambridge. And...

Tye

It was your husband who gave me this wonderful monograph written 100 years ago by Harvard President Lowell talking about what Cotuit was like in his era, and he brought a lot of his people in.

Mary

Right. And, and so on um my father's side, the Taussig side, um, that my my father's father was from Harvard and landed, uh, built the Taussig big house down there. And then my on my mother's side, my grandfather, and I don't know about Dr. Woodman.

Unknown Speaker  
Great Grandfather.

Mary

Great Grandfather. But my you know, I've actually not ever been clear whether Dr. Woodman's started it or whether our grandfather started the ship in the helm. But um it, doctor our grandfather was stock stock market broker, but he lost a lot of his money in the crash.

Unknown Speaker  
Joseph Madison.

Mary

Joseph Madison.

Unknown Speaker  
In 1929.

Mary

Right. So you know, in the relative scheme of things, and we all were summer people. So in the relative scheme of things we were well off. Uh we had a summer home, we had a winter home, we all went to Lincoln...

Tye

You had three summer homes. You did, you had, you always [unintelligible] here, and they just built this and that?

Mary

Oh, oh, and then—Right. And then as families grew [unintelligible] just finished the, as families grew, so on the Henderson side, my father's side, the Taussig's, they had the, before they sold the Taussig big house they had the Taussig big house, and then when when my grandparents generation grew, there were three sisters, Catherine, Mary, my grandmother, and Helen, who

built uh houses down toward Rushy Marsh pond. And, uh, but they built modest houses. Helen was a famous doctor. Uh, pediatri, basically started the field of pediatric cardiology. Um, uh...

Tye  
Helen...?

Mary  
Helen Taussig, um, Dr. Helen Taussig. So, so so when I was growing when we summered here when we walked down the street, there was the Taussig big house, there was Aunt Helens, there was Aunt Cass, there was our grandmother's down the road. There was

Tye  
Just to clarify which big house, what was the Taussig big house?

Mary  
It's gone. It's basically gone now.

Unknown Speaker  
It's across from the uh, tennis court. If you go up, and the road curves.

Tye  
But a different house or the is that the same house?

Unknown Speaker  
Uh, it's been moved several times and it's been rebuilt.

Mary  
Yeah

Unknown Speaker  
I don't think it was completely demolished.

Unknown Speaker  
I don't think it was completely demolished. But uh, um... it was, there was a point of land out over the water. It was built on that point of land, and that eroded during the years. So it was moved back towards the road.

Unknown Speaker  
A number of times.

Tye

But this was one of the grand houses of Cotuit?

Unknown Speaker

And it still is. I think it recently sold for um eight or 8 million or \$12 million. I mean...

Tye

Was that the one that just sold? Still got the sign up and the uh...

Unknown Speaker

Yeah.

Tye

Ah.

Mary

So just to finish

Tye

Yeah please, sorry.

Mary

the scene in Cotuit. And so then if we walked this way, we had, my mother's side of the family, we had uh, so my mother's sister Anna, who is, was Johnny's mom, and the Eblings lived in the ship over here, right next door, and eventually, those the two families were together and then eventually, that sort of got a little tight, I think, and uh uh the Eblings built, what is now the Austin's house?

Unknown Speaker

Yes.

Mary

The Austin's house, what's now the Austin's house, um over on the corner of Ocean View and Maine, and um lived over there. So if we walked out, so we always had our cousins to play with on this end. And then if we kept walking, you know, there was the Odence's and the Pecs and the Jacksons down there. So, you know, we had the run of the town. And that what you know, I'll just say what's special about Cotuit was, it was a place where you, with the Yacht club and with you had as a kid, the run of the town, you could be as stupid and crazy as a kid could be. But basically, everybody always had a half an eye out for you because you knew everybody. And

you had the Yacht Club, sort of as an organizational basis. Where you could take where you actually could take responsibility, and uh...

Tye

Is everything you're describing in the people Summer?

Mary

Summer.

Unknown Speaker

And what years—

Mary

Although I moved down when they, when my my parents moved down here permanently, I came down and went to Barnstable high school, and my older brothers had, you know, have would they were grown and gone. So I lived down here permanently

Dake

You know, after I dropped out of high school I was here some winters as well. They, they, I was 16 when they remodeled so I did spend some winters.

Unknown Speaker

And what year would that have been?

Dake

Um well so... yeah

Tye

Just say again who you are?

Dake

Uh, this is Dake. Um, I was 16 when the house was remodeled, so that would have been fifty fifty two, 68.

Tye

When this house was remodeled?

Dake

Yes. Or did somebody say 67? No, I'm pretty sure it was 68.

Murray

This is John Murray Murray. I'll give you a little history of the two, the two family houses here. Well, let me go back. My um great grandfather, Cyrus Woodman um lived in Cambridge. He was a doctor at a pedia, a doctor degree from Harvard. He lived near Harvard. I don't think he was ever a professor. Um I don't think he ever worked a day in his life. Um if I'm right on that, I'm not sure.

Dake

Wasn't he uh, having drug problems?

Murray

Uh Dake asked if he had a drug problem. Um, I know he was an alcoholic. Because my mother said, he came down here about 1890. And he rented a property on the hill just above Luke beach. And he put out a pier. He had a sloop, um, was the biggest sailboat in the harbor, it was called the Sheila. We had pictures of that. Um and he, my mother told me that he and one of the Nickerson's every Tuesday would sail to the vineyard, because there was a Chinese um laundry over there. And he said they did the best job on his shirts. Okay. But the, she said the other reason for them to sail over to um Martha's Vineyard, and back was they drank all day. And she said, when they came back, they were three sheets to the wind. I I don't know if you know that expression,

Tye

I know that expression which seems especially appropriate when you're describing them sailing back. But I'm just wondering how they managed to do it drunk like they were.

All

[laughing] [unintelligible]

Murray

So uh uh Woodman, um, had the uh vision for a yacht club for the youngsters. Um and he bought three....let me see, I want to make sure I get this right. He bought he bought the first three Cotuit skiffs in the early 1900s.

Unknown Speaker

Had them built.

Murray

He had them built. And the one that the family owned was the Trillium.

Tye

So is that where the name Cotuit skiff came from was by his pioneering that?

Murray

I don't know where the name Cotuit Skiff came from.

Tye

But he was, these were the first Cotuit skiffs of anybody?

Murray

These were the first Cotuit skiffs. Yes. And um he had the vision that the um, the yacht club should be run by the kids. And uh so he had, um, I don't know, three daughters I think that were, the original members of the club there were about 10 or 15. And um...

Jody

And so I'm going to interject, this is Jody, the name Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club, Mosquito was representative of the children. Not the parents.

Murray

Right. Um, yeah the [unintelligible] Cotuit, well Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club. We're not sure if the mosquito referred to the kids that were small or the boats that were small or both.

Tye

Or the mosquitoes that were big.

Murray

Yeah. Larry Odense's keeps asking me why is it mosquitoes and we, we're not exactly sure. But so the Yacht Club was formed in 1906. And our grandmother, Mary Woodman Madison. Well, she wasn't a Madison then she was a Woodman, was elected treasurer, I believe. And she had a couple sisters in the Yacht club. And the uh, one of the significance not to do with Cotuit is that um, this was an organization where woman, women could vote and hold office. So this is before the 19th amendment. I think it's the 19th amendment to the constitution. So Dr. Woodman was um, uh...liberal and ahead of his time I think in some of that thinking. So his daughter...Go ahead.

Dake

In that regard I think that the

Tye

Can you just make sure as you're talking that the bars are still moving up and down, which shows, I can't see the light here. Are the bars moving?



Dake

Yes, they are.

Tye

Okay, that's all.

Dake

And the initial makeup of the club was all woman except for one boy who uh the gals decided they needed this kid as their treasurer. But all the initial members were...

Murray

I'm not sure of that Dake.

Dake

Or initial officers

Murray

Officers maybe.

Dake

And probably the race committee, I

Unknown Speaker

We should ask the historian Larry or Chris or...

Tye

Were all of you Henderson's um Yacht club racers? Members and racers?

All

Yeah.

Tye

That was part of what your summer was...?

Mary

A huge part of our, this is Mary, it was a huge par, for me anyway, it was a huge part of learning responsibility. And being you know, you're taking responsibility for a boat, you're learning to be a good sports person, you're out racing, you're being a sea sea person. Jody taught prams, Jody taught me prams. And the first lesson was the tipping over lesson, you know, you go out, you'd

learn how to tip over and be safe and collect all your items. And you, you know, so, uh and it's your social life. So...

Tye

So explain on the social life level, you come here for the summer, you've got clearly a lot of activity that centers around the Yacht Club. What else did you do? Were you as kids was it carefree, and your parents knew that you were safe being out on your own? Or was it what was it

Jody

Exactly, most of the time, this is Jody again, most of the time, I felt they didn't know where we were. But I also knew that they could easily find out by calling any of their friends that we hung out with. But they never did that, they didn't need to know they knew we were safe.

Tye

Because this was a bubble?

Jody

Yeah, it was a big bubble, but it was a bubble.

Tye

So can, I'm gonna ask you a question that you can say is insensitive, and not answer. But since your mother answered it, I'm going to ask it. In a in addition to you mentioned that your father was um liberal enough that people having fun downstairs in whatever ways they were doing it with music with black lights with marijuana with um alcohol was um something that was okay. And you were the your was was the home that had the groovy room. Um, your parents there was a divorce. And they went their own ways, but stayed here and seems like they had thriving lives. Was it, this is all happening in the context of the 60s and 70s in America. Were they um uh a reflection of that time in this country?

Unknown Speaker

When did they get divorced?

Tye

When did they get divorced?

Unknown Speaker

I was 17.

Unknown Speaker

74.

Tye  
So 74?

Unknown Speaker  
Around then.

Jody  
Yeah. When, when they got divorced it was not easy for either of them.

Tye  
Or for you kids?

Jody  
No for us, kids we were okay.

Tye  
You were old enough by 74?

Jody  
Oh, yes.

Unknown Speaker  
I was the youngest and I was 17. Everybody was grown and gone.

Tye  
So everybody was okay. So it was difficult for them?

Jody  
I would say yes. Um, Mother and Charlie did not stay in Cotuit. They left Cotuit and went to Maryland and [unintelligible].

Tye  
And were never back in Cotuit?

Unknown Speaker  
Correct. Not for a long time.

Jody  
Not, not for a long time.

Tye  
But your dad stayed here.

Jody  
Yes

Tye  
Not here.

Unknown Speaker  
Down the road.

Tye  
Down the road.

Jody  
Yeah.

Tye  
And did you kids, would did this stay in the family and you kids kept coming here or no? That was you're already off and you didn't come back?

Jody  
Yeah. Now I wasn't around. I'd gone off on my own job and life elsewhere

Tye  
Were you ever back to Cotuit in any extended period?

Jody  
Not for an extended period. But I came back here and there.

Tye  
Did the house, any of these houses stay in the family?

Jody  
Well, obviously this one was sold. And so is the [unintelligible]

Tye  
Sold at the time of the divorce.?

Mary

Yeah. So this was sold, this house was sold, this is Mary. I was still around then. So this house was sold as part of the divorce settlement,

Unknown Speaker

And we think it's 1974 I think you said

Mary

This, this was owned by the Murrays, the ship was owned by the Murray so that state Anna and Archie continued to live there and they [unintelligible] continued to live there. My dad moved to his mother's house. You know, remember I said there were three sisters, one was his mother, down at the end of Rushy Marsh

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible] Main Street

Mary

At the end of Main Street at Oregon. Um uh my mother's um second husband was Charlie Gigg. The Gigg had bought the Tausigg big years before and lived in Cotuit. So Charlie was also a sailor and lived in Cotuit. And so when they, my mother and Charlie developed, fell in love, my parents had been, you know, drifting apart for many years, and so wh when mom and Charlie fell in love, uh, it was a scandal. They left town. This house was sold as part of the divorce settlement. My father moved down there. Um...and they eventually moved to Eastern Maryland. Um, and, you know, the scandals fade and, but for us, we were always able to go back and uh visit our dad, uh...

Tye

You still had a way to come back to Cotuit?

Mary

Oh, yeah.

Tye

It was easy cause your dad was here?

Unknown Speaker

Stay with Aunt Helen. What when she was she was killed in a car accident in 82.

Unknown Speaker

Right, and you stayed with dad.

Dita

And then we stayed, we made the kiddy shacks.

Unknown Speaker

The kiddy shacks [laughs].

Dita

We got garden sheds and made them with bunkbeds, and...

Tye

Can you say who's talking?

Dita

And, this is Dita.

Tye

And you call them the kitty shacks?

Dita

Yes.

Tye

I love it, and...

Dita

Bunkers dad. My husband's father, Jerry Henderson had moved to his mother's place in the mid 70s. And he had married a woman named Rica Klein, who was my generation. Um...

Unknown Speaker

One of my best friend's sister

Dita

Right. And it was like a couple weeks before I met Bunker in 1976 that Jerry and Rica had officially been married. And so they were living down there in that house. They also had a Cambridge apartment. Um, but as time went on, when we came to visit, we just slept in tents on the property there. Uh, but it was finally an idea that the family had to get a garden shed. A wooden shed for a couple thousand dollars. And we could put you know really official wooden uh beds um that would then fold up. So you could store skiffs in them during the winter but when

the skiffs were out in the water, the beds could be put down and you could have mattresses and there could be seven people sleeping in there. Our two kids

Unknown Speaker

They they built the boat shed right?

Dita

Right there was the boat shed

Unknown Speaker

Well I did the foundation and and Bunk and Jerry actually put the boat shed up.

Dita

Right. And then there were there was a kitty shack, was an extra place. And then we decided we need a bathroom and a kitchen

Unknown Speaker

That was my contribution.

Dita

And we got another shed and had the kitty kitchen, wasn't the kitty shack and we ended up eventually making a fantastic screened porch that had a ping pong table and and lots of chairs. But one one end was the full fledged bathroom that had an outdoor shower. A flushing toilet and a sink.

Unknown Speaker

Septic system.

Dita

Uh, uh septic system, yes. And, um, and in the kitchen there was a sink and a little refrigerator and a counter, a fantastic counter a dear friend of mine made that you have now Dake or is it still in there?

Dake

Uh, no I I wasn't able to retrieve them.

Dita

Ah It was just a gorgeous thing.

Unknown Speaker

Down at the under

Dake

These kitty shacks, yes

Dita

They are.

Dake

And and, yeah, mom grandma's house is [unintelligible]

Dita

House is still there. And it's the little cottage next to it that is now this close to the monstrosity.

Unknown Speaker

Yes, yes, I've seen that. They're building this thing and

Dita

That's being built there. And all the trees are taken down except, oh, it's just a big change. But the way that property was made into a very welcoming place for Dake and his family and Bunker and his family and Mary when she came to visit with her kids. All the kids would be down there and they'd all ride their bikes four miles down to the Yacht club because it had been moved down there. They got a property down there at Ropes beach where they have their official spot now and...

Tye

So this sounds like the perfect successor to the groovy room is the kitty shack and the

Dita

Yeah

Freesteir

[unintelligible] but it's really remarkable, it sounds like you all did a lot of hands on.

Tye

Say, say who you are.

Freesteir

Oh. This is Lisa Freesteir. It sounds like you all had a lot of hands on experience building things, constructing things, the front patio and the style of those houses down there it's very much like



this one. What spawned the expansion of this house? And then was the architect the same architect with whom your parents worked in Lincoln? You said Henry Hooper?

Unknown Speaker

Yes, I believe that's correct. Uh...

Unknown Speaker

Herb Hoover, she said it's Henry.

Unknown Speaker

Henry Hoover?

Freesteir

Henry Hoover is how he signed his name.

Unknown Speaker

Didn't they call him Herb?

Unknown Speaker

I think so but, you know, I always wonder why am I getting mixed up with the President?

Tye

Right

All

[laughs]

Tye

But he was a really creative. He seemed like a really cutting edge

Unknown Speaker

But what were they aiming to do with the expansion of the house?

Unknown Speaker

They sold the house in Lincoln which was our winter home, because all the kids were out of school except for Mary and, um, you know, they just decided to move down here.

Freesteir

Oh so okay, so they were here full time and that's when they decided to expand.

Unknown Speaker

Late 60s. And Edie started a business down here.

Unknown Speaker

They they did the remodeling before they moved down. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible]

Jody

This is Jody. When his house was originally built, there was no kitchen, because gran, grandma and grandfather didn't need one. They ate over at the ship with their children. Then, when was it the kitchen was produced uh downstairs?

Unknown Speaker

Do you remember when it was put in?

Jody

I don't.

Mary

I think it was before we were...

Jody

I think grandma put that kitchen downstairs.

Mary

I would guess it would be when, so originally, so originally, grandma was up here and mom and dad. So originally, this is Mary, our grandmother and grandfather were in the helm in this house. And our mom and dad were down in the little cottage, uh, starting their family. And as our mom and dad's family got larger they flipped. Because just gran grandma and our grandfather didn't need all this space.

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible]

Mary

Grandfather, I don't know when grandfather I didn't even know him.

Unknown Speaker

They split up and it was just grandmother that was here.

Mary

Oh, okay.

Unknown Speaker

And then moved down to the little house

Mary

Okay. And [unintelligible], and we moved up here and I would, if I had to guess it would be when we moved up here they put the kitchen down in the...

Unknown Speaker

Well, no, the first kitchen was put down when grandma put that kitchen downstairs in the part of the garage because she no longer needed to supervise over the [unintelligible] house.

Tye

So that, but somebody described and I thought it was your mother who described moving here because, um...

Murray

I have all of that. Let me give you that, let me give you the background. Um this is John Murray. Okay, uh, I told you about Dr. Woodman. His his wife, Mary, I mean his daughter Mary is my grandmother and she married Jo Joseph Madison, um, I can't remember the year. Um, she bought the the house that we're referring to as the ship in 1918 I believe. I might have to check that date but I think that's right. Um, and uh so they and their five children I think it was, summered here uh in the house. And then uh um...let's see, she she passed, no she passed away in 18. She must have bought the house in 16. She passed away in uh 18. And uh a couple of years later my grandfather married um, uhm...

Unknown Speaker

Edith

Murray

Edith. And as best I can tell, they must have, they had servants during those days that would come up from New York. And the ship has eight bedrooms in it. It's got three small bedrooms in the back. And I think that the maids or the help lived back there. Um, so I don't know what precipitated the idea to build the uh the helm. But apparently my grandfather and his new new bride Edith um wanted to sleep in a different house. So they built this house here.

Tye

So Edie said it was to escape the noise of the house over there.

Murray

It may have been to escape the noise because they had so many kids, but they um, anyway, they built the the helm and slept here but they had all their meals over—that's why this house did not have a kitchen. They had all their meals over at the other house.

Freesteier

Did it have a heating system as far as you remember? There's some that there was a duct that went from that house to this house.

Murray

I don't think there was ever a duct from the

Unknown Speaker

There was a tin can telephone that we strung up between houses.

Murray

Yup. Now the uh, the ship, the ship had in in my lifetime, the ship always had a coal stove in the base, uh a coal furnace in the basement. I don't know when that was put in. It was probably not put in originally. That house was built in 1880. It might it might have had a furnace, I don't know.

Unknown Speaker

And then the uh, this house the helm, did this have a furnace when you were kids?

Unknown Speaker

I remember standing over the vents, and getting warm.

Murray

Yeah, okay. The the addition was put on what year did you say, about...?

Unknown Speaker

68.

Murray

That sounds about right. And around 68, and uh, they've already mentioned the architect, the builder was Bucky Botello, who was um a uh local builder. Very, very good builder.

Tye  
Of the store Botello?

Murray

His son was the start of the Botello's Lumberyard. Um, his son worked for his father and his son um found that he could buy um lumber instead of buying it from one of the lumber yard, he could buy it in quantities and he was storing it in his yard wherever that was. And then he decided to open up the uh, the lumber yard.

Unknown Speaker

Do you remember by the way when there was a tree on this deck? When it was originally about talking about [unintelligible] and the tree died so it had to be taken down unfortunately, but that was here for years.

Mary

I forgot about that. Can I just say this is Mary. This is totally irrelevant, but I love your golden retriever. I had a golden retriever through high school living in this house. And I used to sit in the sitting area right over here. And I would chuck a tennis ball out the window there and the Golden Retriever would go zipping off the deck and around the house and down to the yard to get it back and retrieve it.

Tye  
[unintelligible].

Murray  
So one other piece—

Tye  
Can I just say one quick thing

Murray  
Go ahead

Tye  
About Golden's, since we're talking about Golden's. This is a golden who was a rescue dog who delivered 27 puppies. And she was a breeder dog

Freesteir  
In three litters.

Tye

In three litters. And every day we've had her, which is about three years, she looks she has this look saying I can't believe how good my new life is. pinch me is this real.

Jody

We also had a dog named Whiskey, this is Jodi again, that I introduced to my family. A friend of mine's uh parents had a dog with a litter and they wanted to get rid of the puppies and it was sort of a Cocker mix and black and white.

Unknown Speaker

With the tail.

Jody

With the tail. We used to sit on this deck, and Whiskey would come up with a stone. So we would take the stone and throw it as far as we could into the woods and Whiskey would go down there and usually it was about 10 or 15 minutes to bring that same stone back. Sometimes he'd be down there for an hour or something if we threw it really far.

Unknown Speaker

Well we would throw it, we would throw across the street down into the swamp.

Jody

Well, I didn't do that.

Unknown Speaker

Yeah, we were cruel, because he would come back. You know, you could, I would hear it hit the muck down there. You know, I was still had a pretty good arm when I was young and holy mackerel, he would, you know, be down there for an hour and come back totally covered mud, but he'd have the same stone

Tye

While you still have the mic there, can I ask, and this is for anybody, the idea that your mother hadn't lived here in a very long time but that you chose Cotuit to have her memorial service? Is that a reflection for her love for this place? Or your love for this place? Or some combination? Why why Cotuit?

Dake

Certainly both and, you know, so much of that uh derives from the Yacht club. Because it was it is, was and is, you know, the, the social heart of Cotuit for the summer people. Uh, you know, they're just, every day, every weekend, I started out at the Yacht club, and there's, you know,

there's probably 50 people that, um, you know, either I grew up with them, or you know, they're younger than me, and I've known him since they were little tiny kids.

Tye

So do you live here now, summers or year round?

Dake

I just retired and bought a house down here a year and a half ago.

Tye

Wow, where are you?

Dake

Uh, Crocker's neck.

Tye

Wonderful so this, so I'm convinced, my theory on Cape Cod is um if you look at the bridge, the people scooting off Cape Cod are people who grew up here who are trying to escape Cape Cod, maybe grew up here year round in less affluence and trying to escape Cape Cod, and coming the other direction are people who spent their youth here and this is the paradise that they want to go back to in retirement. Are you, you were away for a long time. Why come back here?

Dake

Well, I still, you know, my, my father, who was living, you know, got my his mother's house and we had the kitty shacks behind there. So, you know, when I was in college, we built the kitty shack so I was here every, every summer. Uh, or...

Tye

Did your father stay, was your father here continuously until his death?

Dake

Yes.

Tye

And when did he die?

Unknown Speaker

2002

Tye

Wow, so there was a connection here as recently as 2002.

Dake

And I and I, uh, you know, I for one came down virtually every weekend during the summers to sail, you know.

Tye

And is it good being back here?

Dake

Oh, yeah, it's great.

Unknown Speaker

And my husband has—

Tye

In case you couldn't see that, there was a big smile when he said [unintelligible].

Mary

This is Mary. So my father, you know, this was hom, this is home for all of us. Even if we spent our winters in Lincoln. You know, Cotuit is, Cotuit is yeah, you know, this is home for all of us. And, and, and mom before she died, you know, before it became apparent that she wasn't gonna make it back here. You know, we hit the pandemic and she was in lockdown. And we were sort of hoping the question was, were we going to be able to make a last trip to Cotuit. And uh...

Tye

She had been hoping for that when we talked to her, and we sort of talked about that.

Mary

Right. And, and I, and she, the Giggs also we're connected to Cotuit. And Charlie's grandson is pitching for the Cavaliers. And so she had really hoped that we could come down, watch-

Tye

He wasn't pitching last night I hope.

Mary

I don't know [laughs]. She was really hoping we could come down and watch Max Gigg pitch for the Cavaliers and see everybody and uh but you know, her health declined and it became apparent that wasn't going to happen even if the pandemic was gonna allow it. And so it didn't happen and and in her final days she said you could do, when when she realized she wasn't going



to make it to Cotuit, she said you could do a memorial service. And you could watch Max pitch and you've got to make sure the Giggs come and do the memorial service in Cotuit and dump my ashes and pack it South.

Tye

Easier for the service

Mary

[unintelligible]

Freesteir

But as you describe it, it sounds like she was excited or you know energized by

Mary

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And my dad just to go back to the, to how, you know, my dad when he was in his last summer before he died, he had had huge quintuple bypass and aortic aneurisms that had a surgery and surgery didn't go well. So he was pretty debilitated in his last summer. And unable to race himself, he would go to the club and go out on the committee boat. And he would and, and everybody made sure that he got on and off the committee boat all right. The crash boat would take him around, it was the joy of his summer to be able to go out and watch the races. And he would stand there. And it was the very best therapy because he would have to stand on the water. And it was just, uh, the Cotuit couldn't have been a better place for him to be.

Tye

Wow

Unknown Speaker

We're gonna have to go pretty soon.

Dita

This is Dita and I just wanted to give my interpretation of Bunkers situation in that his dad had this place, as Dake said, down on Main Street, and Jerry died in um 2002. And Bunker and um I and maybe the other siblings owned the property and kept it going, rented it to people during the summer and during the winter. Um and Bunker basically got sick of being a landlord and decided let's sell the property. And the siblings all agreed on that. And so in 2006 um we sold it. And when we packed up the last little things, uh, Bunker and I were leaving town to go back up to Boston where we lived. And he said, you know, let's stop and talk to Steve Gould, whoever the realtor was and just say, you know, we've got now this money from selling dad's house. And if there's something right in this neighborhood of Cotuit that's, fits that price, let us know. And we'd be interested, And literally within a week, there was a house that we bought, and re-did it so

that it works out well. And Edie has been coming since her husband, Charlie Gigg died in 2001. She has been much more in contact with all of her children and her grandchildren. And she has come many times to our place and has sailed in the old lady's race.

Tye

So are you still there?

Dita

We own that property and with the pandemic

Tye

All of you?

Dita

No, Bunker and I do.

Unknown Speaker

They kept our connection.

Dita

We're both retired now but we have a house in Jamaica Plain in Boston.

Tye

And where's the property here?

Dita

On old oyster road.

Tye

So can I ask, I know you've got to go to [unintelligible] and we want to see the pictures. Can we just go around for one second and say um what you all did when you left here and where you are now. So you're in Jamaica Plain [unintelligible] Cotuit.

Dita

And we've never left Cotuit permanently.

Tye

And what are the two of you or what were you doing before retirement?

Dita

I was a teacher at the Park School in Brookline.

Tye

Ah, Lisa went to Park.

Dita

[laughs]. I taught at Park for 20 years.

Freesteir

What did you teach?

Dita

I taught kindergarten and second grade a whole bunch of years. Um...

Tye

And Bunker?

Dita

He was a US Attorney in the US Attorney's Office uh and doing environmental work um around the city of Boston. He helped protect...

Tye

So I was the environmental reporter for The Globe, I probably interviewed him for the...

Dita

Oh you probably did. I knew your name well from the Globe so.

Tye

So, um, can we pass it around and just say are you full time in Nova Scotia now?

Jody

No. Um after my husband and I, yes this is Jody. After my husband and I were married in 72 we found a farm, a non working farm in Nova Scotia. And this was after really almost a family gathering in Nova Scotia. Somebody I think it was Terry came back and from Nova Scotia and said wow, this is a great place. And it was Terry and I that found our respective homes where we still live.

Tye

And what do you um do? Or did you do in Nova Scotia?

Jody

Guy and I started up a sheep farm and had that for many years. And then we decided, as we got older that it wasn't producing enough income for us and Guy went back to school and ended up teaching in the local community college. And I started my own business, Sanders office services SOS, doing accounting for small businesses and tax returns.

Tye

So can I just say one of the only places in the planet that I think is as pretty as Cotuit is Nova Scotia.

Jody

It is gorgeous up there. And my brother Terry and his wife then, Robin, also bought up there. now he has a big hill and he is still there.

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible] Golf Course Design work

Jody

Oh, yes, Johnny reminded me also of golf. I did not really design any courses, but I played a lot of golf up in Nova Scotia.

Unknown Speaker

You rated.

Jody

Oh, yes, that's right. I did. I rated all the courses in Nova Scotia as part of the Nova Scotia Golf Association and when

Freesteir

I've only been to Nova Scotia twice and one of the [unintelligible] was going to a couple of golf courses. I mean, it was an incredible

Jody

Do you play golf?

Freesteir

I had one golfing lesson in Nova Scotia. But it was really amazing.

Mary

Uh, this is Mary. Let's see I, uh, I ended up becoming a lawyer as well and moved to Maine and was in legal aid for uh most of my career, and um, first part in Pine Tree Legal assistance, and then uh we spun off after Newt Gingrich's Congress, we spun off and um I became an executive director of a small nonprofit to uh do lobbying and class action work for low income people in Maine.

Tye

Okay and where were you living in Maine, or are living in Maine?

Mary

Right now I'm in Topsham Maine.

Dake

Uh, this is Dake. Um, dropped out of high school when I was 16, partied like nobody's business for some years. Eventually got my GED and went to school at UMass Amherst, Bachelor of Science and Environmental Sciences, got into the lumber business with one of the Jacksons. Um, and he actually helped me set up my my business after I'd worked for him for a few years. And around that time, got married and lived in Hanover where my, Hannover Mass, where my shop was and and then around 2002 or so, uh, shop burned down, I went out of business, got divorced, and went back to school for geographic information systems and went to work for the Massachusetts Department of agricultural resources and worked there for 13 years. And um now right, just before COVID started, bought a house down here in Cotuit and moved down here permanently as soon as COVID hit, and I'm retired.

Tye

And sailing?

Dake

Oh, yes, yes. That's the, Cotuit skiffs are, they've got gigantic sails, they're way over canvassed. They're very challenging for, doesn't matter how much sailing experience you have. When you first get in a skiff it's it's very challenging, challenging for all of us. And um, uh, yeah, you know, it's a gigantic part of my social life as well as just terrific, fun. Terrific fun to see all the there's so many children out there young adults, whose are children of my peers. And, you know, I've been friends with all of them all my life, you know.

Unknown Speaker

And it's my understanding that your mom started a program for young children

Unknown Speaker

[unintelligible] program

Unknown Speaker

To learn to sail skiffs because they're so big, it's hard for a young child to sail. And she started the pram program. And her husband, Jerry and...

Unknown Speaker

Jeff Jackson

Unknown Speaker

Jeff Jackson and Larry Odense built all the first prams that were then used by the local, by the kids that wanted to learn to sail. And Edie was teaching them how to sail. And then Jody came along.

Unknown Speaker

It's the fact that the Yacht Club is a youth Yacht Club. That is the key to everything. Because if it was just old people, the kids wouldn't have any interest.

Unknown Speaker

They run everything.

Unknown Speaker

And now, right. It's the Commodore and the Secretary and the treasurer and the race committee. You know, it's all young kids, and they're in charge, and they love it.

Unknown Speaker

So you know, the Pram in the historical society. That's, that was our pram.

Tye

That was your pram. But I love the idea, so the Yacht Club in two ways it had women, um, in important roles before that was going on in the wider world. And it was smart enough to orient it to kids, which is why people when their parents and grandparents still have this commitment to it, because it was something they did that defined their youth here. I want to just say one thing, without, I didn't know your mother other than a, an hour long conversation.

Unknown Speaker

We gotta go, yeah.

Tye

But my sense is, she would love all of your devotion, not just to her, but to what was important in her life here and the, um, and I want to say that if somebody sends me an email, and my email

is just my name, Larry T-Y-E Tye, it's one word@gmail.com. If somebody sends me an email, I will send you a copy, since I only printed out one of the, um of the transcript of her interview. But more importantly, if you want the actual voice recording of her talking about her life, raising you kids and doing things like that, I'll send that and I will send you the um voice recording of what we're doing today. And when there's a transcript on this, I can send you that as well.

Unknown Speaker

Great.

Freesteir

Do you also have time to do the long way out? So, because the kitchen I mean configured as it was [unintelligible] the basement [unintelligible]

Tye

[unintelligible] I'd love to [unintelligible]

Unknown Speaker

You know maybe what we should do is I could leave them with you and then pick them up tomorrow or tonight or something like that.

Freesteir

Or we could drop them off.

Tye

Or we could drop them off.

Unknown Speaker

You know, I'm here year round. I know you're a historian, you must handle important papers before so...

Unknown Speaker

And lot of them you've seen because I I sent them to Phil and he sent them to you.

Tye

Oh so those were the um

Unknown Speaker

But they're not all of them.

Tye

Great. So I'd love to see these. I will make sure they get back to you or anybody that you want. You were gonna say a last word.

Jody

Yes, this is Jody speaking. I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank my mother for getting me first of all, I was one of the uh lady Commodores. She was I believe the first Commodore and

Tye

Your mother was?

Jody

My mother was. Well she, well I don't know. But anyway, she was up there. She was a Commodore. She also got me to teach sailing. And I, she taught the prams and she got me to teach, take over when she wanted to retire the prams.

Unknown Speaker

And I will send you Larry what my husband said

Tye

Wrote for the um

Unknown Speaker

For the service

Tye

That would be great.

Unknown Speaker

It's a wonderful, succinct description.