

Jayne Oyenoyama
Interviewed by Larry Tye
Transcribed by Ariel Kim

[0:00-0:03 are difficult to distinguish because of wind — “ask you something before you” by Jayne Oyenoyama is clear]

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:03
This is a Larry question.

Larry Tye 00:04
Okay.

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:04
How in the hell did you end up in Cotuit? You weren't sent here.

Larry Tye 0:07
So that is part of what I want to talk to you about. I want to talk to you about two things.

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:14
Yes.

Larry Tye 00:14
One is jazz and the book that I'm writing on jazz. And the other is a project I'm doing with somebody I think you know, which is a strange project that I don't really have time for, but I'm also passionate about. I'm intrigued by the village of Cotuit.

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:30
So you're talking to Betsy.

Larry Tye 00:31
Yeah so, the, my, um —

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:33
I'm sure.

Larry Tye 00:33
Uh, my in-laws first came here thirty years ago and the —

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:40
What's their name?

Larry Tye 00:41
My wife and I, their name is a strange Polish name, [Furztir? Unsure of spelling] But the, and, my wife and I have been here for nearly fifteen years, and I'm intrigued by the, and, uh, hahaha. Are you a dog person?

Jayne Oyenoyama 00:58

Well, I'm not, but I love that dog. Look at that dog.

Larry Tye 01:01

This dog is —

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:02

Ugh, gorgeous.

Larry Tye 01:04

She is, okay to let her out?

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:05

Yes!

Larry Tye 01:08

You be good.

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:09

You beautiful thing. Oh —

Larry Tye 01:11

So she is a strange kind of rescue. She was a breeder dog, and when the people who are doing breeding get done with breeder dogs, get done with the breeding, she'd delivered 28 puppies. And that was all they had use for her. So she is the most grateful dog in the world —

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:32

She's so beautiful.

Larry Tye 01:34

— to not, yes, and the sweetest dog in the world. Now, you gotta be good —

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:37

She's a golden, or a —

Larry Tye 01:38

She is a golden.

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:39

Yeah.

Larry Tye 01:39

And the um. So, I'm intrigued by Cotuit partly because I think this village is um, I'm just fifteen years, a newcomer to it. and I think this village is an incredibly special place on the Cape, and —

Jayne Oyenoyama 01:58
It is.

Larry Tye 01:59

I am, I started to do a series of interviews of long-time residents of Cotuit, called summer people [2:09-2:20 is largely unintelligible due to wind] And I've already started having students transcribe them, and we've done it [2:24-2:28 is unintelligible due to wind] we'll do some sort of program with the library, and with sort of a, um, at some point I want to write at a minimum a magazine story on this village. But when I told a friend what I was doing, he's now become my partner in it, Phil Oden

Jayne Oyenoyama 02:46
Oh, I know, I babysat Phil.

Larry Tye 02:49

Yes, and he said that you were in his [2:53 to 3:00 is unintelligible due to wind] so we've done four or five interviews so far, but we're going to be in the library to put out word that we're interested in the names of interested people who understand not just the history of Cotuit but to me more importantly what makes this village not just another place on Cape Cod but a different place a special place

Jayne Oyenoyama 03:24
Yes. Yes.

Larry Tye 03:24

But the more central to what I want to talk to you about now is so I did a book years ago on the black men who worked in the railroad called Pullman porters

Jayne Oyenoyama 03:36
Oh I know about them.

Larry Tye 03:38

So you know about the Pullman porters.

Jayne Oyenoyama 03:40
Yes.

Larry Tye 03:40

When I interviews the Pullman porters, they made me promise that someday [03:44-03:47 is unintelligible due to wind] that I would write two other books that were special to them. One was a biography of a African American baseball player named Satchel Paige.

Jayne Oyenoyama 03:55
Yeah, Satchel.

Larry Tye 03:56

And, so his, I ended up writing a biography of Satchel Paige but as it if not more important to them was that I would write about the three favorite [jazz singers? Unclear what is said], who were Ellington, Armstrong, and Basie.

Jayne Oyenoyama 04:10

Yes.

Larry Tye 04:10

And I think that as much as I think reporters helped set the table for what happened with civil rights and lots of other good things and much as I think the Negro Leaguers did, I think African American musicians, and especially these three jazz guys, were playing in mixed race bands —

Jayne Oyenoyama 04:30

Yes.

Larry Tye 04:31

— were playing for mixed race audiences.

Jayne Oyenoyama 04:32

Yes.

Larry Tye 04:32

So I'm writing a book. I'm not smart enough, I don't know enough about music, to write about them as musicians and say something original, but I'm trying to write about everything from their travel across America and they often rented Pullman [04:48 unintelligible] —

Jayne Oyenoyama 04:50

Yes.

Larry Tye 04:50

— to the venues they played at, including places like Cape Cod —

Jayne Oyenoyama 04:54

Yes. Yes.

Larry Tye 04:55

— and Storyville and Boston, to their side men and side women, to most importantly, or most interestingly to me, what they did in terms of three guys who were not part of the conventional Civil Rights Movement but did more. I think if Martin Luther King were sitting here today he would say —

Jayne Oyenoyama 05:13

He would definitely comment Louis, particularly.

Larry Tye 05:17

Absolutely.

Jayne Oyenoyama 05:18
Yes.

Larry Tye 05:18
All three of them in terms of their music, in terms of what they did with their lives. So what I'd love to do is I would like to stop talking and hear your stories about jazz generally, about the family inheritance in terms of —

Jayne Oyenoyama 05:35
I will tell you —

Larry Tye 05:37
— understanding the love of it, and about anything that you know about my three guys [05:40 unclear].

Jayne Oyenoyama 05:41
Well first I want you to shut this off but listen to why I know your house here.

Larry Tye 05:47
Haha.

Jayne Oyenoyama 05:47
Because I babysat the Henderson children here. Edie Henderson and [Terry's? name is unclear at 05:52]

Larry Tye 05:51
We just, we did in fact, Phil and I did a interview, a phone interview, last week with Edie and she was —

Jayne Oyenoyama 06:00
Ninety-something.

Larry Tye 06:01
— wonderful, and she was telling us, so she calls that house the ship, this was the helm, [06:08-06:09 is unintelligible] was the anchor.

Jayne Oyenoyama 06:11
Well, I babysat here for the five children. All of them. Peanut and jelly sandwiches every morning, and Edie would go to the loop to knit. I paraded the children down. Babysat for Robin and Philip Odence, and it was at a tough time. Susan wasn't too well, and then I really was their babysitter. But beside that, after this became the Henderson house, [Tom Hoder and Ivette Pushard??] were here, and I was here a lot for their parties. She was a wonderful artist.

Larry Tye 06:44

So Phil was telling us that they used to call downstairs, and this is something that Edie only vaguely knew because it was the children, the groovy room and that the that the great parties with the um, so I'm intrigued by all of that history of the house, I'm intrigued by the fact that —

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:01
That was her sister's.

Larry Tye 07:02
Yeah so she said that —

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:04
Anna.

Larry Tye 07:05
— back then, the reason they initially came here was there was such pandemonium there with all the kids [07:10 to 07:15 are unintelligible due to wind].

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:15
Yes.

Larry Tye 07:15
And this was —

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:17
A small house, very.

Larry Tye 07:18
It was a small house, and they've been sending, so all of her pictures went to is it her daughter in Maine and they've been sending some pictures.

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:28
She's up with that daughter in Maine.

Larry Tye 07:30
Yeah, so the it is I'm intrigued by all of that, and I really post-pandemic look forward to seeing Edie in person. She was really —

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:41
Well Edie —

Larry Tye 07:42
— her memory is still —

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:43
And [Dake??] her son brought her to my beach last summer, before the pandemic the year before, every afternoon to swim. Now it's a private beach, but we said the hell with that. She

came down with Dake out to the water, and she swam. I don't mean piddled around. She swam. At ninety-whatever.

Larry Tye 08:04

She talked about her that her parents and her mother were concerned enough about them not wandering around town that her life was sort of here to Loop Beach

Jayne Oyenoyama 07:41

Yeah, and, and, and I later became the lifeguard there for five years at the Loop. Taught swimming, rescued a couple of people, had two deaths of heart attacks. We didn't have cell phones or anything, not even a [toilette?] in those days, so it was primitive but fabulous wonderful, and I have great thoughts about you'd never leave a woman alone on that beach now, ever, all day. But it was fabulous work. Fabulous.

Larry Tye 08:47

So I love hearing all of that —

Jayne Oyenoyama 08:48

So let's go back to this.

Larry Tye 08:49

I'm actually, inspired me to think about that was I just read a little note that the historical society sent out celebrating [08:58 to 09:04 is unintelligible due to wind] supposed to be with this family

Jayne Oyenoyama 09:04

Now?

Larry Tye 09:05

Yeah so he is going soon [09:07 to 09:11 unintelligible]

Jayne Oyenoyama 09:11

Good.

Larry Tye 09:12

And he inspired me, thinking about other people to talk to and —

Jayne Oyenoyama 09:17

Good. Good. I will go back to this.

Larry Tye 09:18

Yeah that's great.

Jayne Oyenoyama 09:19

My father who lived only to be 69 but as a young man went to Bowdoin College and was in the Polar Bear Five jazz group. He was a wild guy. He was [09:31-09:34 unintelligible] he got dapper Dan, they went out on the road, and I know one night out on the road —

Larry Tye 09:40

[Asks a question that isn't caught on tape]

Jayne Oyenoyama 09:38

He graduated in '34. So I know one night out on the road they were playing around a pasture and excited a bull, and they got arrested because my father was playing the trumpet. They ended up in jail, and he played the trumpet too loudly, and they let them all go. That's how my father was about things. Let's do it fun. Louis was his absolute shining light and from my first remembrance, Dad had a library, as he does now, at the farm where we lived first

Larry Tye 10:14

The farm was where?

Jayne Oyenoyama 10:16

Uh, Marstons Mills. We still have a plot there where my parents are sprinkled among other places and we played my uncle Ray made records so we had the uncle who made the records and then we played them. We moved to the house I'm in now, on Ocean View —

Larry Tye 10:34

What was your dad's name?

Jayne Oyenoyama 10:35

Robert Ferguson Hayden the Third. Bobby's the fourth. So my house has a library, it had a library in the corner with books and music. When he built the house on Piney Road that has the library now, he had it built in again with huge bookshelves and that's where the library is now. And I said to my brother's girlfriend, his wife died five years ago, I said to his girlfriend this morning, I'm meeting a man to talk about my dad's library. She said what library? I said Jane you mean you've never been in the den? Well we lock it. We have people rent that house, and we don't want them in there —

Larry Tye 11:18

Wow.

Jayne Oyenoyama 11:18

fooling around with the records. So we put valuables in there, china, dollhouses, lock the door. So later on today I'm going to take her to look at it. But it consists of just over 100 LPs that I've counted and catalogued. Then the 78s go around the whole thing up above excuse me are the big albums of 78s so that's Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Beiderbecke, you name them, Duke Ellington. Those are on the top shelf. I finally bought not just a turntable [11:54-11:56 unintelligible due to wind] so I could play everything. And I'll often just go up and put one on and play it for the fun of it.

Larry Tye 12:01

And that library was the all things [12:05 to 12:07 unintelligible] collected later as well?

Jayne Oyenoyama 12:08

Yes. He kept collecting. Every time a new album came out, we'd try to get to [High Anna's??] to the Louis Dean record store. They had booths where you could listen, and we'd try to get the album for him for a gift. Oh, he'd already been there. So, um, but, about this time, when we moved to Cotuit, it's now 1945, the Bradleys live up the street in between Freedom Hall and the mariners lodge.

Larry Tye 12:35

[Jack??]

Jayne Oyenoyama 12:36

Jack. Jack, Bobby, Polly, Bonnie, Emmy Lou. Children. Alright, so, I get friendly with Polly. We just are inseparable. We do everything together. Jack started hanging out once we built milestones, which was 1951, he started hanging out with my dad in the den where the library was, listening to jazz. They did that night after night, the doors shut not our [bailey wood?] girls keep the doors shut we're talking. So dad started taking us from the time —

Larry Tye 13:12

This is [13:13 to 13:15 unintelligible]

Jayne Oyenoyama 13:17

He was a young man then. He wouldn't have been involved. He was probably, I was then eleven. How old do you think Jack is now, eighty-five —

Larry Tye 13:26

Something like that. So I made the mistake, I really am, uh, when you're doing a book like I'm doing, this is an eighth, eighth or ninth book, and my only consistency in all the books is I am getting to people at, the, number of the people I want to talk to are getting older. I mean, everybody who is still, you know, who knew Basie or Armstrong or Ellington by definition is older. That was true when I was writing about Bobby Kennedy or Satchel Paige.

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:00

Yes.

Larry Tye 14:01

And with Jack. So with some people, there are three stages you get to people.

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:05

Yes.

Larry Tye 14:05

One is when their mind is working brilliantly and they're vibrant. A second is when you read about them in the obituary pages and you've missed them entirely.

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:17

Yes.

Larry Tye 14:17

And then in between is Jack. Jack I spent a couple hours with him —

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:22

Good.

Larry Tye 14:23

But his wife was incredibly helpful trying to stir the different memories.

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:30

Good.

Larry Tye 14:30

But it didn't, he was remembering things because she had just told him what he should be remembering —

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:36

Ohhh.

Larry Tye 14:36

Rather than he was remembering. It was just, it was a, um, it's painful. He was trying so hard.

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:42

Oh —

Larry Tye 14:43

Clearly loved —

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:44

He's the, then, this is within a year, you say?

Larry Tye 14:46

Yeah, it was in the last year.

Jayne Oyenoyama 14:48

Well, and I went two years ago. When he was better, and I brought chocolate cake, which he adores, and he had his scotch. And then he had given me a tour downstairs you know take the chair lift down and all that. So meanwhile, Jack is a young boy as I'm talking. My father was so crazy for Louis that if he was within a hundred miles of our house, we went. Whatever. All of us.

Larry Tye 15:15

To places like where?

Jayne Oyenoyama 15:17

Oh, Symphony hall. Storyland. Otis. He played at Otis. The Melody Tent, that's where I really sat down twice and talked with him myself. So, Symphony Hall, I'm ten years old, and my father

packs the Ford with Jack, Bobby, Bonnie, Polly, me and my mum and him. No seatbelts of course. We drive through Dorchester and down Mass Ave. All these neon lights, I'd never seen, and it's raining. We get inside and my seat happens to be behind a pole, but it doesn't matter. You can move over. It's the Dixieland Five, and he has Velma Middleton singing. I will never forget it because she sang with him in her aqua dress. She was about 300 pounds. My great big butter and egg man and did a split on the stage, jumped up. Now I was a cheerleader leader. You cannot jump up easily like that. And Bonnie and I, she's, Bonnie's still living, but had a stroke and she would have some memories, but not like Jack and I have. So, we go from there to Otis base, one time, Otis Airbase, he plays out there, and we see him there still with his group, Barney Brigard and Trummy Young and I can't even think who his drummer was at the time. Now he goes to the Melody Tent, and now I'm a teenager, and I've gone many times now, but at this point he's lost a lot of weight, and he looks haggard.

Larry Tye 16:51

So what year do you think we're talking?

Jayne Oyenoyama 16:53

I'm talking 1957.

Larry Tye 16:54

Wow so this is later stage.

Jayne Oyenoyama 16:57

Yeah. So, out he came, and then dad and I visited him in his dressing room. I don't remember my mom, but I think my friend [Dan? Ann??] did. And I had the audacity to say —

Larry Tye 17:07

You were able to visit him in his dressing room because your dad —

Jayne Oyenoyama 17:10

Oh, my dad was close with him. Yeah. And that's how Jack got to know Louis, I'm sure was through dad.

Larry Tye 17:17

Wow.

Jayne Oyenoyama 17:17

I'm sure it started that way. Because Jack wouldn't have had that interest if he hadn't had all the music flowing through his head. And dad, I can still see his leg, his leg bounced like this a certain way listening.

Larry Tye 17:30

Was your dad doing music as his occupation?

Jayne Oyenoyama 17:36

No, my father was a building mover, like my brother.

Larry Tye 17:37

He was.

Jayne Oyenoyama 17:38

He only did this at night.

Larry Tye 17:39

So this was just his passion —

Jayne Oyenoyama 17:40

Oh, this was. Playing the trumpet in the den at night or his cornet and playing for events occasionally, never with a band.

Larry Tye 17:49

And there was, so I've read this book on jazz [17:53-17:55 is unintelligible]

Jayne Oyenoyama 17:56

He was very close with all of them.

Larry Tye 17:57

He was. So there was a real [name of the society? at 17:59] here that —

Jayne Oyenoyama 18:00

Yes. Well, Jack and dad began the [name of the society] society —

Larry Tye 18:05

They did?

Jayne Oyenoyama 18:05

And so, when Bobby Hackett, have I got his name correct, when he died, he was a trumpeter, there was a huge funeral in Chatham, and my dad went, and unfortunately on the way home he hit a fence. Luckily he was alright. And I think he'd had a few scotches, so he was okay. But dad loved the jazz society. Lou Colombo became very close to dad, Lou passed away a few years ago, and Marie Marcus. So when dad passed, they played at his memorial service. They played —

Larry Tye 18:42

[unintelligible statement]

Jayne Oyenoyama 18:43

Oh, she wouldn't bother. They played Stormy Weather, they played other things [18:46-18:47 unintelligible]. It was a service like no other. It was grand. So anyhow, meanwhile I'm sitting in Melody Tent in the dressing room, and I said to Mr. Armstrong, "I'm worried about your weight I think you really need to eat better," and my friend has never forgotten that I had the audacity to tell him to eat better.

Larry Tye 19:06
And what did he say?

Jayne Oyenoyama 19:08
He laughed, of course. He was so jolly, oh, he'd never criticize a soul. He would, he was just, he was fabulous, he really was.

Larry Tye 19:18
So you're how old then?

Jayne Oyenoyama 19:19
I was seventeen.

Larry Tye 19:20
Wow.

Jayne Oyenoyama 19:21
Yeah. I was a junior in high school. Yeah, and I mean, whenever he played at the tent, we went. But that's only twice did I get to sit with my dad in that outside. The old Melody Tent had a small shed-like affair out to the left where they kept the performers in between. They would stay across the street at what was then [Dunfee's??]. But, so dad, dad never missed a concert. It didn't matter where it was, we were there. We were there. And we were not a family with access to computers, money, anything. He just somehow would get us just there. The excitement of Symphony Hall was absolutely extraordinary though, for me. And then learning about music, he would say to my sister and I, you've got to understand the phrasing in music. And he has it, and a lot of people don't, he has the phrasing and the pausing and so at the end of dad's service, he'd written on a piece of legal paper what his service should consist of, including Marie Marcus and Mr. Colombo. And at the very end, he said, I want you to make sure that his version, Louis' version of the West End Blues, the 1938 version, is played. Talk to Jack Bradley and Uncle Ray, and they will do the sound system. And of course it played, and if you remember how that begins, the riff at the beginning is what makes that whole recording. You can't play a trumpet all the way down like that.

Larry Tye 20:56
By the time your dad died and this service is being —

Jayne Oyenoyama 21:00
1969.

Larry Tye 21:00
Yes.

Jayne Oyenoyama 21:01
No, I'm sorry. Not, he was 69. It was 1980.

Larry Tye 21:05
Oh, 1980.

Jayne Oyenoyama 21:06
1980.

Larry Tye 21:07
So, by then, Jack Bradley, has developed this —

Jayne Oyenoyama 21:11
Oh, Jack has already been his manager by now, is his photographer, is his everything. He probably is instrumental, though I don't know it, in establishing the museum in Queens. I'm wondering if Jack was.

Larry Tye 21:24
He is instrumental. The guy who initially pointed me to Jack Bradley is the guy named Lauren Shineberg who runs the museum in Queens

Jayne Oyenoyama 21:29
Oh yes.

Larry Tye 21:30
I'm sorry, not the museum in Queens. He runs the museum in, jazz museum on the Upper West Side, and he is a huge Jack Bradley fan as well as friend, and he said, we gotta get to Jack. Um, so, how unusual for Cape Cod [21:55-22:01 largely unintelligible due to wind]

Jayne Oyenoyama 22:01
Definitely mixed race. And I have always been impressed with that fact wherever we've been. Is it there of some things where you can be of mixed race and some things you just don't have that opportunity, and Symphony Hall that night was the most electric I've ever been to in my life.

Larry Tye 22:18
So explain. What was the, what was it about it, it was the music, it was the audience —

Jayne Oyenoyama 22:23
It was the music and the audience and the thrill of me finally seeing him for the first time as a ten-year-old, alive. With my good friends, Bonnie, Polly, Jack, and Bobby. And my parents who were so excited. But when he came on that stage, I can feel it now. It was electric. It was electric. And his always blue surge suit white hanky you know the whole picture, and the trumpet. And he always began 'When It's Sleepy Time Down South.' I hear that now, and it just makes me heart go.

Larry Tye 22:54
So what do you think when you hear 'When It's Sleepy Time Down South' —

Jayne Oyenoyama 22:58

Oh!

Larry Tye 22:58

— and you know was a controversial song because —

Jayne Oyenoyama 23:02

Very.

Larry Tye 23:03

But he felt like he was saying something that was important that he wanted to say. What did you think of when you would hear —

Jayne Oyenoyama 23:10

As a ten-year-old, nothing because he'd he would start with just the melody, and then he might not sing much of it. He'd just sing when it's sleepy time down south, and then he'd begin roll in to the first one which might have been Muskrat Ramble. Often it was. Something zing-y. And then out would come, in a while, his singers, Velma, whomever. Ella, I don't believe I ever had that privilege. Velma, more often.

Larry Tye 23:39

Did you feel like you were watching an artist or performers —

Jayne Oyenoyama 23:44

Oh, yes. Oh, an artist. An artist, artist, of the highest caliber. In the world. I knew from what my father had said. Here's my father, a white boy, who hires blacks to work for him, mulattos, you name them, smokes as he called them sometimes. In those days he had 41 men working for him. Hand did the ledgers and he listened to music while he was doing those ledgers at night. I think it calmed him. When we had parties there, lengthy parties, we danced in the living room, we rolled up the rugs and we listened to the radio. Jack came to one of the parties. I'll never forget it. It was my mother's seventieth. Dad was gone. And we danced in the living room, and we gave a prize for the person who could best define my mother. He won, and the prize was a toilet seat. He said, I'm, I'm going to name Libby as the best because she had the best pink boobs when she nursed her babies. And we said of course, he would come in the house and my mother was nursing one of these kids, for sure. But Jack loved Libby and Bob. He, see, they didn't have a dad then; they had a stepdad. We never knew Mr. Bradley, so Jack came down and got familiar with my dad in a father way, in a father way.

Larry Tye 25:09

When, so your dad clearly loved music and loved Louis Armstrong. Did he also, was there any sense of either of my two other guys, Ellington or Basie —

Jayne Oyenoyama 25:20

Uh, Bix Beiderbecke.

Larry Tye 25:22

Yeah Bix Beiderbecke.

Jayne Oyenoyama 25:23

Loved Bix Beiderbecke. Count Basie, some of Duke, yes, he has some of his, but he was such a Louis fan that when I was a teenager and one of my friends said oh Harry James you know plays better, I had a terrible fight. I was a teenager I said oh he doesn't play better he has no phrasing. Like I knew what phrasing is. He has no balance. I didn't know. But I did know, and I was able to touch certain records, not without dad's permission, in the library could pull one out and it was Harry James, Flight of the Bumblebee. Polly and I would pull it out [25:59 to 26:01 unintelligible] got to be a genius to play that. It is spectacular. So but I was so appreciative and had no idea of civil rights stuff later walked with Martin Luther King in '62 and you know protested, married a Japanese man, you know, talk about who knows what you're going to go in your life. So was very openly involved with the biracial theater group in Boston. Probably the openness of my parents and never having them discuss anything negative contributed to that openness, I would have to say.

Larry Tye 26:37

And did Louis Armstrong contribute to that openness?

Jayne Oyenoyama 26:40

Oh, oh, sure, of course. I thought he was a genius, a brilliant wonderful man. I know he got into trouble himself later for changing his style, doing high society and the great ambassadors and people criticized that. But he loved going to Africa; he loved being an ambassador.

Larry Tye 27:00

He was an extraordinary ambassador.

Jayne Oyenoyama 27:02

Yes, and I never felt a sense of criticism myself about that. The way other people in the black society did about him. [But/for] sure.

Larry Tye 27:13

So, did the, you grow up thinking that Armstrong is this godlike figure —

Jayne Oyenoyama 27:22

Godlike figure, yes, that my dad absolutely adored.

Larry Tye 27:27

And, so tell me first of all the, when you were talking Marstons Mill in Cotuit —

Jayne Oyenoyama 27:32

Yes.

Larry Tye 27:32

This was year-round, all the time, or no?

Jayne Oyenoyama 27:34

Year-round, Marstons Mills, we had a dairy farm, really poultry, turkeys, chickens, couple of cows, a horse, and my parents, God bless them, moved there in '37. How in the world did they survive, bring up two little girls. I think of it every day it. It's the start of my book. Is always about living in that house on the hill. I have to do my book, I have to.

Larry Tye 28:00

And then came, so we'll talk about —

Jayne Oyenoyama 28:02

Then we moved to Ocean View, which was my grandfather's house. He was a dentist; they came for the summer. They came because Mrs. Coolidge, the President's wife, was my grandfather's patient on Beacon Street. And she said, Robert you have to take your children to Cotuit. Which he did.

Larry Tye 28:22

How did she know Cotuit?

Jayne Oyenoyama 28:

Oh, Coolidge Street. The Coolidges came here, President Coolidge.

Larry Tye 28:27

Did they really?

Jayne Oyenoyama 28:28

Oh, that's why we have a Coolidge Street.

Larry Tye 28:30

[indistinct statement about Coolidge Street]

Jayne Oyenoyama 28:31

And the house across, where Coolidge Street ends and you go over, that big house my brother has turned around three times, doesn't look like it did then, was the Coolidge home, and then later Anne Moore's home, and her husband whose name escapes me. The Moores. And then they sold it, and it's been sold twice. So, this house for me is always the Hendersons. That's always the Coolidge house.

Larry Tye 28:55

And what houses, tell me where you —

Jayne Oyenoyama 28:58

Start down Ocean View, my house. There's a field where everybody stops and looks out and mine is the next house. Right now it has a big table out front with a pumpkin. It's a farm house so a white 1858 house and grandpa added a room to the left where he did his dentistry only in the summer.

Larry Tye 29:15

So between what and what, just —

Jayne Oyenyama 29:17

Uh, we moved, they bought it in 1915.

Larry Tye 29:19

But I'm saying where, where exactly

Jayne Oyenyama 29:23

Start down Ocean View and I'm the first house. Very first. Here's the field where the moon came up over the other night, the blue moon. I had 20 people for Halloween on my lawn. I'm expecting. I was having my neighbors and then people [29:39 to 29:43 unintelligible]. So we moved, they bought that in 1915, then after my grandfather passed too young, pneumonia, after hunting, he's gone. Now my grandmother holds on to that house. She's got three kids. She holds on to that and the house on Humarock, near Marsh Field. So lucky us because she held on to it after she, she came and moved in with us at the other house, she excuse me allowed my parents to move there in 1945.

Larry Tye 30:13

So they were, they had gone from Marstons Mills to Piney to there.

Jayne Oyenyama 30:17

No, Marstons Mills to Ocean View.

Larry Tye 30:19

To right there, okay.

Jayne Oyenyama 30:20

Right there.

Larry Tye 30:20

Wow.

Jayne Oyenyama 30:21

And then we had five kids and the house was too small. It's old fashioned, it has two bedrooms —

Larry Tye 30:26

So they gave up Marstons Mills —

Jayne Oyenyama 30:28

Oh we, oh no. You can't give up twenty-five acres that you've bought with your life.

Larry Tye 30:33

So they, you still have these.

Jayne Oyenoyama 30:35

Yeah, here's what we did. We sold the back twenty-five that had nice houses, Kimberly Drive and Britney, we've sold that. The farmhouse, they finally after renting it for years sold it in the 50's. Kept the acre on the pond, and I just had our fire department man Paul Rood, clear the trail down, and my family just walked down it two weeks ago.

Larry Tye 31:00

Wow.

Jayne Oyenoyama 31:01

My daughter hadn't been there in years, my granddaughter, my son-in-law. They were enthralled. You can swim in that pond. Paddy's pond, nobody every hears about it. So we kept that. We own where I am. We own the little house next door. The little Hansel and Gretel house. Because dad moved that there. Now he's decided he's got to build a house to fit us all in, on Piney Road. He has saved artifacts from hundreds of houses, ancient pieces of wood and every so when you go in you'll see. You'll say, oh —

Larry Tye 31:34

So where on Piney is this.

Jayne Oyenoyama 31:35

You go up Piney, at the intersection of Poponessett, Poponessett goes boop, right there, there's a flagpole, and at the kitty corner is our house. There's a oval drive.

Larry Tye 31:49

I, one of our interviews, one of our first interviews, was with an old-timer named Rita, and she knows —

Jayne Oyenoyama 31:55

Rita Neal.

Larry Tye 31:55

Rita Neal, yeah.

Jayne Oyenoyama 31:56

Yeah, see now what you're telling me, I'm going to be a little bit of a pain in the neck, when they did the Cotuit chronicles a year ago about Cotuit, Ronny [Mycock??] and I felt the same, someone said my cousin said to him, wasn't that fantastic? And he said, no it's horrible; they didn't interview a real Cotuit person in the whole thing. They were all come-aboards —

Larry Tye 32:16

Yeah, so that's a, uh —

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:17

— wash-ashores. So that's a real tough feeling.

Larry Tye 32:21
Yep.

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:22
So when you do your artifacts, interview people like my brother or me or Betsy [last name??]

Larry Tye 32:30
So —

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:30
Phil is great, but he's also a wash-ashore.

Larry Tye 32:32
Yes, so, um, that is, uh, a determination to get to, but I also want to interview so I'm intrigued on Cotuit again —

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:46
Yes.

Larry Tye 32:46
When I read the [Jim's?] book or picture book or whatever you call it —

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:54
All of which isn't accurate, excuse me.

Larry Tye 32:55
Inaccurate.

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:56
Some of it is inaccurate.

Larry Tye 32:58
Is it really?

Jayne Oyenoyama 32:59
The picture where he described somebody named Bill Perry, opening a water hydrant, is my dad, and I never have corrected it, but there are a couple of times Jim hasn't been exactly correct. Be careful. Forgive me, Jim.

Larry Tye 33:12
Yes. So, honestly, when you are writing anything that [indistinct word at 33:16] what anybody says and —

Jayne Oyenoyama 33:20
Well his biggest gaffe was when they took down Evergreen. He and Jessica [last name?] whom I adore, did the video. He said that it had once been a [Rubello??] farm. It had never been the

Rubello farm, and they corrected it and took it out of the video. That was not, that was always related to the family who had had the fire and lost the son and all that. It's making a funny noise.

Larry Tye 33:43

It did, but it's still picking up us.

Jayne Oyenoyama 33:45

Oh, okay. So anyhow, that, that house, the Evergreen, sadly was taken down the summer I was recovering from heart stuff. 2017. I could hear that noise every day. It was an elegant, elegant home and when the Pines was there, you know about the Pines hotel —

Larry Tye 34:07

I know, when I say I know about anything, I know, um, I've heard about the Pines and the yes but I don't —

Jayne Oyenoyama 34:13

I will say something interesting. The Pines was a restricted resort as still are the Wianno Club and Oyster Harbors. You couldn't go there if you were Black, Asian, Jew. You couldn't live in Cotuit because Helen McClellan made sure you didn't get a house here.

Larry Tye 34:31

Seriously.

Jayne Oyenoyama 34:32

I am as serious as I'm sitting here.

Larry Tye 34:34

So, I'm intrigued because that was one of the things in that book it was clear the closest thing you saw to a non-white face was one, um, the, uh, I'm trying to remember the guy's name, but the, one Native American guy.

Jayne Oyenoyama 34:53

A Native American, sure.

Larry Tye 34:55

Yeah but the, no Blacks, no Jews, no —

Jayne Oyenoyama 34:58

You see, growing up my children, well, go back to me in high school. There were no Blacks, there were Cape Verdeans in our class, maybe ten percent max.

Larry Tye 35:07

And what high school are we talking about?

Jayne Oyenoyama 35:08

Barnstable.

Larry Tye 35:10

Barnstable. There's no, none —

Jayne Oyenoyama 35:10

High school. No blacks. No. Cape Verdean, yes. David [Pina?] who owns the big company here was the closest thing, but I believe they consider themselves Cape Verdean. So that being said, my children now, fast forward, I marry a Japanese man. I move back here. He dies. I have two kids.

Larry Tye 35:30

Was it, was it difficult for him to [35:32 to 35:40 are unintelligible due to wind].

Jayne Oyenoyama 35:40

Everybody adored him. He was one of those guys they/he just clomped onto. Handsome, charming, the prince. So, and in my sister-in-law's eyes my son is still baby Dennis. Her husband is, her brother is Dennis. My son who's 49 is baby Dennis.

Larry Tye 36:00

Mm.

Jayne Oyenoyama 36:00

That's all we can say about that, that role. So anyhow, my kids go through high school. We've already faced racial issues at the church where I was teaching Sunday school, and someone [36:11 to 36:15 are unintelligible due to wind]. I didn't know they had troubles —

Larry Tye 36:15

[unintelligible statement due to wind]

Jayne Oyenoyama 36:18

Oh, right. Katherine was ten, 1978.

Larry Tye 36:23

And they're writing I hate Japs

Jayne Oyenoyama 36:25

Yes, and I knew who it was, and I confronted them. I said I won't tell your folks if you try to never have that happen again. never did and I knew her father well. He was a police officer, and I loved him, and I loved the mom. So that being said in high school, yes, they ran into prejudice. They never told me about it, ever, ever, ever. So now when my daughter recently ran into something, she who'd been a police officer here before other things in her life, said, I will not have this happen to me. I have made my name as a Japanese American woman. I am a good woman with a great reputation in the town of Barnstable. I'm not going to have this happen. Done. She feels strongly about it, very strongly. She still maintains her relationship with the Barnstable police. They have been fabulous to her. They have been wonderful. Are, all that being said, you see, we had very few Blacks in, or anything, anything, anywhere.

Larry Tye 37:29

And you're saying that was not accidental. It was people who were selling houses.

Jayne Oyenoyama 37:34

You'd, never would have. Marg, um Helen McClellan never would have. My son, as a teenager, now we're talking 1971, at fourteen years, '85. Worked as the, at the Wianno Club, as a counselor on their camp. Now he would have never been allowed in the club. He would play the back nine at the end of the day, he's a great [indistinct word at 37:58]. And he still goes over there and does that. But you can't go into that club house.

Larry Tye 38:01

Still?

Jayne Oyenoyama 38:02

Still.

Larry Tye 38:03

It still —

Jayne Oyenoyama 38:03

Still. And so is Oyster Harbors, yes. Now he was at a fundraiser there two years ago, dressed to the nines, he could go then. I mean it's different. If you say you have a wedding there and your, your wedding guests, one of them in Black or whatever, yeah that's going to be okay. But that's why Mr. Fireman built Willowbend.

Larry Tye 38:25

Sure, now that —

Jayne Oyenoyama 38:26

Clearly.

Larry Tye 38:27

Yes. So. Huh.

Jayne Oyenoyama 38:28

So, Cotuit. My parents didn't know anybody Black. But who did my father revere? Louis Armstrong. So when I was home one day at milestones, and there was a knock at the door, and I opened it, my little sister opened the door and she said mom, Louis Armstrong is here. It wasn't Louis Armstrong. It was a black pastor with bibles. It was, we had never seen anybody but Louis Armstrong, and he looked like him, and it must be Louis Armstrong. So through the years that's how you know Barney Brigard and Trummy Young and all those people were revered. Revered. Truly revered.

Larry Tye 39:11

That's incredible. Now I did a, my last book was a biography of Joe McCarthy and the, and I did a talk, my only, it was out this past summer, and I did fifty, seventy-five talks. But there were only two live ones because of the virus. And one was at Lowell Park, where —

Jayne Oyenoyama 39:36
Which I missed. How did that go?

Larry Tye 39:39
So it was a blast, and they had marked out on the seats where the people could safely be spaced, and they limited tickets, but it was 75 or 100 people at Lowell Park.

Jayne Oyenoyama 39:49
Wonderful.

Larry Tye 39:49
And it felt so great to do it, but the strange thing was, when I got back home after the talk, I had a voicemail on my cell phone, and it was from Bill Clinton's press secretary —

Jayne Oyenoyama 40:00
Ooh.

Larry Tye 40:00
— that President wanted to talk. And he wanted to talk, he had read the McCarthy book, and he wanted to tell me his feelings about McCarthy, but when he heard what the next book was, he's got pictures on his wall in his office of Armstrong and Ellington —

Jayne Oyenoyama 40:17
Ohh.

Larry Tye 40:17
— and at their house, there are pictures of Basie. So he was, in, just —

Jayne Oyenoyama 40:25
How thrilling.

Larry Tye 40:25
I started realizing how many people have got stories of being inspired by these guys growing up.

Jayne Oyenoyama 40:31
Oh, our family was totally inspired by Louis.

Larry Tye 40:34
Mm.

Jayne Oyenoyama 40:35

My sister, I could hear her last summer saying to people who asked about it, if he was on the eastern sea board, even as far away as Maine, we got in the car and drove. Rhode Island, Maine wherever. Never to New York. He wouldn't have dragged us down there. That would have been unknown ground. But if he was within a 2-hour, 3-hour drive, yeah, we'd go.

Larry Tye 40:58

All inspired by your dad.

Jayne Oyenoyama 41:01

Oh, yeah. Because you see, and mother believed it all too, I mean what did she know, she was the wife of a dairy farmer, poultry guy, and she loved it too. Yeah.

Larry Tye 41:15

So you've just described to me, the way your story is wonderful for lots of reasons. Partly because of your dad and his love for [41:24-41:27 is unintelligible because of wind] because of Jack Bradley. Also [41:29 to 41:31 unintelligible] why he restricted Cotuit to, this entry into the [41:37 unintelligible word] that Louis Armstrong was.

Jayne Oyenoyama 41:38

Yes, and yet see dad hired 41 men of mixed race.

Larry Tye 41:41

Right so he was different in terms of what he was doing.

Jayne Oyenoyama 41:43

Yes.

Larry Tye 41:44

Yes.

Jayne Oyenoyama 41:44

And Saturday afternoons, if he, you know, money was tight. If he might not have gotten the paychecks out on Friday, they were strolling across our lawn at Milestones. All these different men, these Washingtons from Hyannis were mixed race. All the different guys from the Portuguese Costas and the Souzas. They'd all come over. He only hired one white man in all that, pure white, and I can picture him because he did carpentry for me, and his son later became a ranger over at Sandy Neck. He hired all these men because they not only were honest, they showed up.

Larry Tye 42:19

Where were they living if they were restricted in terms of —

Jayne Oyenoyama 42:22

Oh, Hyannis. There's a whole section called Sleepy Hollow right across the Melody Tent.

Larry Tye 42:26

Yeah.

Jayne Oyenoyama 42:26
East Falmouth has always been heavily Portuguese.

Larry Tye 42:30
So they would have to come in —

Jayne Oyenoyama 42:31
We were never allowed, now here's the prejudice part, teenage girls, we were never allowed to date those guys from East Falmouth. No. Now the Pina boy, David, who's my age, could fix me up with a friend that was white, but he couldn't invite me out. In high school, my sister went to the prom with a guy who was Jewish, that was a big deal. David, what's ever happened to, Gold, he owns the restaurants, what's his first name, I can't remember. But my daughter in high school, now we're talking graduating in 1987, Timmy Rice was the only Black guy at the time, great hockey player, wonderful kid. But her, the woman who later stood up for Katherine, her parents would not let her go the prom with Timmy. So Katherine said the hell with you, I'm going with Timmy. The pictures of my Japanese daughter and the Black boy at the prom. Fab. So she is culturally and they adopted when they couldn't have another child, went to China, and they have a little girl. Crazy.

Larry Tye 43:35
Did your dad have any Wampanoags?

Jayne Oyenoyama 43:40
No, but he was close with [Earl Mills??] who's still living, thank God. He loved Earl Mills and we loved the [indistinct] and we went there all the time. He loved Earl Mills. So and, and that gang, Paul Newman, people will tell you about Paul if you talk about Cotuit because he was the heart of Cotuit in a way. I keep pictures of Paul in my house, and I put one at the coop. He was the clerk there. Paul was gay as a Christmas goose and had everything to say about everybody. If you were Republican, you better not even go in the coop because he'd say naughty things. And he adored my dad and my grandmother. My very Boston Brahmin grandmother, who talked like this. Jayne dear, fix your hair. She was a Wellesley girl, she lost her husband early, and she held it together. Never remarried, moved down with us in the little house dad moved for her behind our house, he moved a little house there, and she lived there 'til she died in, when I went to Europe, '67.

Larry Tye 44:46
What siblings of yours are here now?

Jayne Oyenoyama 44:49
Bobby, who runs the building moving business.

Larry Tye 44:52
Mm, and where's the business is —

Jayne Oyenoyama 44:54

Is still where it was. We, we, so what is now Marstons Mills Stop and Shop and all that, was my father's yard, we called it. It was filled with railroad cars, buildings, outbuildings, everything from screens to toilet bowls, the whole thing was full, and so when he knew he was dying of emphysema in '75, the front building is now Bank of America, that was his office, where he had an annex with antiques. He started cleaning up that whole area and decided he would sell it and, and build a shopping center. We had no grocery stores then nearby. He did that by the time he died that was all in motion, and we opened it in '82. Was it happy? We had terrible business partners. That often happens, that was awful. However, it's very handy for everybody. We sold the piece [45:50 to 45:52 is largely unintelligible due to wind]. Did we make out as a family? No, and you have business partners like that. No. We kept land on Industry Road, which runs behind Bobby's business is there, he owns all down Industry Road. He was a smart boy; he held on to it. So he has tenants down there. He still every day is on the vineyard, that's where the work is. He takes the ferry. Today he's not there, today he's doing other things. But most days he's on the vineyard.

Larry Tye 46:22

Can I tell you what I'd love to do —

Jayne Oyenoyama 46:23

Oh, I'm sorry. Cindy's here. She bought the house across from the house on [Piney??] Road. She has a daughter, and four grandchildren that are in and out. She has maybe Parkinson's, we're not sure. I would call it pseudo-Parkinson's, it's something going on. This sister died of breast cancer, Cathy. This sister lives in California but owns the house across from me in Cotuit. You know, when you hit the vortex, Main and Ocean, there's a house right there. [46:52 to 46:56 is unintelligible due to wind.] And see this, this picture is 1971 so everybody is grown up. She passed in a car accident, and he has a girlfriend now. But that's who's still left. There are three siblings, I'm sorry, four siblings left.

Larry Tye 47:12

Four siblings left and three are here.

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:14

Uh, three are here. Yeah, and Betty's here so often, she was just, she's flown here four times in the COVID. They figured out how to do it, with the big shield and suits and —

Larry Tye 47:26

Crazy.

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:26

— [depends??], and you name it. So yes, we all feel that this is home.

Larry Tye 47:31

So if you'd ever be game, what I'd love to do the three of you or when she's here —

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:39

Yes.

Larry Tye 47:39

To sit down and turn on a tape recorder —

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:42

Yes.

Larry Tye 47:42

— hear memories of Cotuit. Would they have memories like you do?

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:45

Well Bobby's are even, well, I, Betty would. Oh god yes, because she's three years older. She got to do —

Larry Tye 47:51

Betty, that's Betty.

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:52

This is Liz. Betty here, and Liz in California.

Larry Tye 47:56

Okay, great.

Jayne Oyenoyama 47:57

Liz moved out there like some people do and escaped everything. She got very involved, was a nurse, got very involved in politics early on. She's been the mayor of Palo Alto three times. She's still very much involved. So Rick has retired from Hewlett-Packard; he was their worldwide covering for marketing. Bob runs our building moving business crazy. That's what I want to a book about.

[48:25 to 48:32 are unintelligible due to wind.]

Larry Tye 48:32

I must be naïve I didn't realize that enough buildings were still being moved.

Jayne Oyenoyama 48:35

Well here's what happens. If you live on the vineyard, and you want to have your house upgraded or wherever you live now, you must have a foundation. Most of them didn't have foundations.

Larry Tye 48:47

So moving sometimes —

Jayne Oyenoyama 48:49

You have to lift it up and as my nurse says where I go to the doctor. I said have you ever heard of my brother, Bob Hayden, and she went like this.

Larry Tye 48:57
Incredible.

Jayne Oyenoyama 48:58
She knew exactly what he did. You have to lift it up and move it however you far you've got to go with it, take it apart, divide the house, flake it as we call it, move it around, build the foundation, and that can always go. Thee one at [Hyannis Port??] they did last winter is as long as from here to that house.

Larry Tye 49:17
So this must be also a [49:19 to 49:23 unintelligible due to wind].

Jayne Oyenoyama 49:23
He's called all over but there are when he did the big one on Ocean View for the Crawfords, that had a stone cement foundation, that's rare, that poured all the way down. They had to cut it to move it. He called two men from Virginia and New Hampshire. That was fascinating because they did that and then they moved it very, very, very slowly, it was so heavy and then they moved it with laser beams into fitting it under its new foundation within seconds of one another. That was magnificent.

Larry Tye 49:55
Did he learn this from your dad?

Jayne Oyenoyama 49:56
Well also everything is improved from dad.

Larry Tye 49:58
Sure, but he —

Jayne Oyenoyama 50:00
The basics he worked for him. And it wasn't easy. Sons of bosses. SOBs.

Larry Tye 50:07
Yeah. But he did it and —

Jayne Oyenoyama 50:10
Yes.

Larry Tye 50:10
Thriving.

Jayne Oyenoyama 50:11

Thriving, and he's 75. And he's thinking about what are we going to do and all. I think if he put if I put out a notice in the Times, and I said, did Bob Hayden ever move a house for you tell me a funny story, I would have a book like that.

Larry Tye 50:26
A million stories.

Jayne Oyenoyama 50:26
A million. The, one of the best is in Truro where the house was shaped like this. They had to lift it. There was a [50:36??] here. Because the neighbors didn't like the way that they, that he was moving the landscape and this and that. So he had put a new foundation, but lifting up a house like that, with two sections that were long. It took 17 hydraulic jacks. Each one moving exactly the same. [50:55 to 50:58 unintelligible because of wind] And when they were done, Harry the wife and the husband, threw a big party with a pork roast. Now it was pulled pork. Back then what we didn't know about that, this was the 1995-ish. That was a great, that, I mean there have been so many great ones. I can't even, dad moving the Unitarian church of Provincetown. With the beautiful inside has the [51:25 name??] paintings inside. I mean, I'm now nursing this one, Betty's nursing that one, and we're on the front lawn. We have great stories that are full of building moving. I want to do a book about that.

Larry Tye 51:40
So, we've got to, so I want to, I want to say, um, in ending now —

Jayne Oyenoyama 51:47
Yes

Larry Tye 51:47
That I hope this is [51:48 to 51:50 unintelligible] continue our conversation, and if there's anything that I can ever do to help you tell your family story, we should —

Jayne Oyenoyama 51:58
Family story. I have to say something but after you turn that off.

Larry Tye 52:02
Okay.

End of Interview.