

Interviewee: **Clinton Holland**
Interviewers: **Ernest Demby, Julie Hawkins-Ennis, Linda Moore-Garoute, Noah Waters, Ryan Craun**
Date of Interview: **January 22, 2020**
Location of Interview: **Eagle Harbor Community Center, Eagle Harbor, MD**
List of Acronyms: **CH=Clinton Holland, RM=Ray Miller, LP=Lisa Adams - Pinkney
BT=Beverly Jean Wills-Taylor, ED=Ernest Demby, JE=Julie Hawkins Ennis
LG=Linda Moore-Garoute, NW=Noah Waters, RC=Ryan Craun**

[Begin Transcript: 00:25]

ED: Thank you for doing this interview.

CH: I try

ED: Let's start of by stating your full name.

CH: Clinton S. Holland

ED: How long have you been in this area?

CH: 84 years, except two of em's in the service.

ED: Are your family from this area originally?

CH: Some are from Aquasco. I was really born right here in Aquasco, next door to Adam's Funeral Homes, big two-story house that my grandfather owned, and I was born and raised there. And of course, after they passed things were gone, but I've been in Aquasco most all my life.

ED: Who were your parents?

CH: My parents were Hellen B. Holland and I was adopted.

ED: So what was your childhood experience growing up around here?

CH: I'm going to tell who that parent in this area was. it was okay, it was freedom. He (Ray Miller) did a good job because... My family worked on the next farm to their farm. The farm was Greenwood Farm at that time, now Shaffer's Farm next to theirs. Then we left there and went to Aquasco Farm where the park service owned down in Aquasco Farm Road, I was there for five years. But Aquasco haven't changed much. Few changes but it has deteriorated to me more than it has grown in a way speaking. Because we don't have a store, gas station or nothing in this area now. And I remember when Aquasco had six stores. Grime's Store, right across from that store that was Kneller's Store, then you came up the road by the Catholic Church where Montgomery Store, you left there and you came up to St. Mary's Church Road it was a big two story building used to sit there, I can't remember when that was in operation but it were called County Store. It had post office and everything was in that store. And you came up the road a little further, Mr. Glass called my uncle he had a store. Then you came up... Banks, Ms. Nina Walls she had a store. And you came on up from there, there was another store right across from where the hardware store was, and now it is called Reyman Young Store. And as you went up on the road the stores grew. There was a store at Arm Road called the Adam's Store. And you went to Westwood Store. All those store were in cahoots together – let's put it that way. The Grimes' Store, the store that's sitting right in front of Eagle Harbor Road now, that was the old original store. And it

was close to the road but when they're widen that road they sled it back to where it was sitting that now. And a few years after that, Mr. Jean Grime purchased this land where the store is now over St. Phillips Road and he built that store. Now don't ask me what year it was, but He built that store right there which is very much missed. Now to me it is because I live right behind it. It was so convenient to run out there and get what I want. But now, I have either go to Baden, or St. Mary's County to get what I need.

ED: You mentioned that they moved the store back. Just trying to think back, I noticed the roads around here, lot of roads aren't straight. It made me believe that a lot of this was like, passed, in a way. At some point in time and then it was made a road.

CH: No, it was a regular road. It wasn't wide as it is now. They widened that road from Eagle Harbor turned down to the County Swamp line which is Charles County is now. Then they widened it all the way to 2-31. And it was a very narrow road and they straightened it because a lot of curves was in it, and it went around different areas to get down to Hughesville, let's put it that way. But they contractors moved that store back. And across the road from they tore that down, it was little small store.

ED: You brought up that your family did farming. What kind of farming did you do?

CH: Tobacco. That was the way of life then.

ED: What are the responsibilities did you have?

CH: That's a good question. I am trying to stay out of trouble and stay away from work. No... We raised tobacco like he (Ray Miller) said, the barns are went by rooms. You'd have eight-room barn, 10 room barn, most of them are even numbers – 12 room barn, 14 and it went 4-foot wide as what they were. And you hung the tobacco on the ties from top to bottom. It was seven ties high. Some were six or seven, seven was most of them. You might run into one with eight. They went to the ground. And we used to have old saying about tobacco. Raise in the sun, sold in shade, get a little money we got it made.

ED: How was your mode of transportation?

CH: Your feet. Maybe once in a while when you have to go along you might get to ride a horse, but mostly your feet. I can remember when cars were very scared thing in this area and most of older folks called them machines. They didn't call them cars but they call them machines. My great grandmother, she say "sonny, there go one of those old machine going up the road" Cars didn't really go on existence until World War II. A lot of people were commuting back and forth to DC to work for the government. That's when people started going up to the hi-way to work. Down on this area the only thing was farming. And there are few businesses like stores and all that but... Like I told a lot of you that they didn't know we once had a new car dealership in this area. Right up that 3-82 where it came to 3-81, right across on the left where there are houses now. It used to be a garage there called Amis Davis. Sold for cars. And I was just very little boy when I got there. It was [08:33] and auto-mobile dealership right on that corner.

ED: What were you like as a little boy?

CH: What was I like? I told you... Trying to stay out of trouble on our old house and stay away from work. See at that time we boys we see men doing something. We wanted to learn to do it too. Then after we get big enough to do it, and men put us to work. And we were sorry we never seen them. But yes, we went to farm to farm with our parents knowing wherever they could run a piece of land like I told you. It was sane a boat by my grandfather, he built that house by the funeral home. He had three acres there at that time when we were

there. And he would try to get a couple of acres, maybe away from the home, and work corn land, but that's about it.

ED: You said your grandfather owned property? Is that a difficult thing at that time especially here?

CH: Sometime maybe they had a few acres of land in different places. Some of them were in main hi-way or main road where you couldn't see back in the woods like but, they had a little bit of property. Most of them had a little house or some kind. In my time coming along, but I bet before that they didn't. And are you (Ray Miller) talking about that Grich Mill?

RM: Yes, sir.

CH: Yes, that Grich Mill was on Dr. Bowman Road. Rest before you get into Charles' County, on the right hand side, the Mill was back over in there. There's a house over there but I've never been there since they put the house.

LG: The big farm.

RM: It's across the street from there.

CH: It's across the road from there.

LG: Yes. This one?

CH: Let me see, the Grich Mill?

LG: Yes, it's a mill, Aquasco Mill. The Bowman Farm.

CH: That's Dr. Bowman's House right there. It's after you passed right here. It's just before you get down to the county line, there's a wide road from down that hill. You could turn in that to mills. Between there and the county swamp. They used to sold lumber and...

LG: The farmer's live across the street a little further down.

RM: Yes

CH: Just after you passed the farmers.

LG: DeSales

CH: On the same side the farmers on. But you come down there's a wide road, come down that hill. You turn in that road... Just at the top of...

LG: The mill used to be.

CH: Yes

LG: Because they call that Aquasco Mill and the Truman.

CH: I don't what they call it because I was...

LG: And the Truman used to own it.

CH: Yes, Truman's. I only went there one time and I was hunting then. I only went down and seen where it used to be. But it was old Grich Mill down there.

LG: Yes, close to Charles County.

CH: Right on the county's swamp.

RC: What school's did you been into?

CH: I went to Aquasco School which is still standing up there now.

LG: Woodville?

CH: No, at Aquasco. Right were Knights of St. John Hall is. Woodville School is after you passed that, the old one, the old school. Where that big house is now on the right hand side.

LG: Was it used to be a White school? Aquasco used to have a White and a Black school.

CH: No. That school was back in the road at St. Mary's Church Road.

LG: That's Aquasco School, right?

CH: That's back in that road.

LG: Is it still there?

CH: Yes, it's still there. But I went to the one up on the curve. Coming down to 3-81.

LG: You tell me if it's this one?

CH: Let me see that one. That's the one that I'm telling him about that back in St. Mary's Church Road.

LG: But you're telling me about Woodville.

JE: White...

CH: The one that's up the school at. It's up before you get down at St. Mary's Road. Where is Knights of St. John Hall is now?

BT: It's where the little garage, where all those cars...

CH: Where all the cars sit there...

LG: That's Woodville.

CH: We call it Aquasco. But that's where we start our school at. I left there and I went to Westwood to Junior High School.

LG: Where is Westwood.

CH: Westwood was up on the right up the Baton. Up the Baton then you turn in. You know where Baton Elementary School is now?

LG: Yes

CH: You went around that road and you just keep going straight, and you go off of Westwood Road. And you go down there's a house where the school used to be now. You go down and there's elementary school where they convert it to Junior High School. Then when I left there I went to Upper Marlboro at Douglas High School, but not the one that there's now. I went to the old one.

LG: These are some of the schools...

CH: That's the one I started at.

LG: Woodville

CH: Yes, that's it.

RC: Can you show that to the camera?

CH: That's where I started Elementary School. It has six grades in it. And when I left there I went to Westwood Junior High School. On our first year we had a school bus.

LG: Really? You didn't have to walk.

CH: No. We did to walk to school at that (Woodville). From down here they had to walk to school. It was a long walk. I was fortune that I didn't have to walk but you think that the kids have to walk from down here or either where the plant is. That was Chalk Point. Those kids had to walk all the way up there to that school. And it was a long walk.

ED: Were there any like people... Like important community members that everybody known.

CH: You mean like doctors?

ED: Yes

LG: Community leaders. Somebody that when you get in trouble you would go tp.

CH: That's a good one.

LG: Or they helped out families.

CH: They would here but I didn't know too many of them. I really didn't. He was speaking of Ms. Margie – I knew her. Because she had a lot of kids that raised, and I remember that old car she have. That was old

Chevrolet, I think it was.

LG: The machine.

CH: Yes, machine. Had spoke wheels, wooden spoke wheels. What is the guy named... He still liv... He got an automobile shop just before you get down on Hughesville, on the right down there. Ms. Marjorie raised him. He's one of the kids that she used to have over there but I can't think what his name is. He got rollbacks and things like that now. Just before you get to the town of Hughesville – on the right hand side.

LG: So Ms. Marjorie used to raised kids?

CH: Yes, she used to have a lot of kids.

LG: Like community children?

CH: I guess.

JE: That's the orphanage.

CH: Yes, that's the orphanage she was talking about. But I'm trying to think of this guy's name. Nini Hobo – down in Hughesville. Ms. Marjorie raised Nini. I am trying to think some more kids that she raised in this area. Most of them have left, I guess. Because they've got big enough to go.

JE: Was Ms. Margie a White or Black?

CH: She's White.

LG: And she raised Black kids?

CH: No, I can't remember many Black kids. I didn't say she didn't, bit I can't remember.

LG: And everybody would just play together?

CH: Yes

LG: out in the field?

CH: Any place. But they live at where he talking about. They lived back in where he talkin about, back in there. They had a school bus, she would come out of Dr. Boweman Road and St. Mary's Road and pick the kids and take them back here.

LG: On a school bus?

CH: On a car.

LG: I think women used to drive school bus back in those days, it's a man's job.

CH: I never seen woman drive school bus until the late years.

LG: Yes

RM: Ms. Margie when I was younger, she would drive and no business driving. She got a newer car that she was driving, and she would pull up to the front of the IGA to the front of the Grimes' and whoever was there, she would just stop on those kids or stop whoever was walking by and give you the money and you walk in and get what she needed and bring it after because she couldn't walk.

LG: I wonder Debbie never took any, what, credit cards? or anything like that?

CH: I don't know. I can't remember.

BT: At few years she did.

CH: Yes. Let me see. Debbie and one of daughter's graduated together. That's the only job they will ever have, working in that school.

ED: Was that a family store?

CH: Yes. And they had a lot of people that work in the butcher shop back then. They trained a lot of them and they would move on after they learned the butchery. DeSales did there. He's the only one I know who stayed and didn't leave and he turned out to be a good one. DeSales went there since high school. I think Sydney County worked there and he went to work for Safeway – it was about three or four of them that trained in that butchery shop but I can't remember who they are. I remember Sydney and DeSales and they were good butchers.

LG: Now, were the Grimes originally from Aquasco?

CH: I don't know. I remember when I norm they had underatake a pal, I was a small boy. My grandmother sent me down to the store – the old store, with a list and I need to get down before 12 o'clock. Because Ms. Jean, she would come home to have launch, and she would live down the road from us. And when I got down with a list before she got down from lunch, she'll bring a food up the road and drop if off the house from my grandmother. The only thing undertake a pal was, right were the old sitting down, where the road widens there, that's where I undertake a pal – where the wide part is and we used to sit on that area. I really don't know nowadays if they still have them or not. But up at her house it was a barn behind that house. You couldn't see it from the hi-way. And they had two old horse drawn hearses in there and old Packard hears,ethat they had in that barn and I don't know if they are still there or not.

BT: Do you remember when the milk-truck that used to come around, and we'd get milk delivery, And the fish-man would come.

CH: Yes. Was it the Emerson?

BT: The milk in a glass jar and it was sent outside of the door of our home. They would put the milk in the mailbox.

CH: Yes, I remember that truck. I remember when the ice-truck used to come around.

JE: Can we talk about the number-man?

CH: No, we are not going to expose the number-man.

LG: Why? Because was it one family who do it, that can control...

CH: But it was. That's the way they did it though. They have men who go around which is illegal. They would go around and people would bet on numbers just like they do now. But before, they would bet two-cents, five-cents. If they would hit the number for five-cents they would have a lot of money.

LG: And did you hit a number?

CH: No, I never played them. I wasn't allowed to play numbers. I was raised by a "church" family and I had to walk to church every Sunday.

ED: Which church do you attend?

CH: Well let's see if I can explain to you where the church is, where St. Thomas church is. It's a Methodist, up where they built the new Parsonage.

LG: United Christ... And the first church they had.

CH: I went to the one that was down there where we go at church now to. I went to that old church too.

LG: Christ Church?

CH: Yes, I went to the old one. But my original church was... You got up to 3-81, across 3-82, straight on up. Go down at that hill and come up at the top of the hill, there's a rick realm on it. Where that old church is behind that house.

LG: Across Camp Smith?

CH: Yes. The old church behind the Parsonage. They didn't use it anymore, it's just a building sitting there now. But the Parsonage is the brick house. Right across the where used to be old conic state. Where the [25:16] and things use to be. Big brick house. It used to be Mr. Conic, that old big brick house sitting back on the left hand-side if you're going go up.

LG: Down Camp Smith?

CH: Just before you get to that. Where that brick house sit back, there would four chimneys on it.

BT: If you missed this church.

CH: Back up behind it. Back in the woods, a church and a hall back there.

RM: They stabilized it, just repairing it.

CH: Yes. That's where I went to church and walk down from where the Adam's Funeral Homes. That house, I used to walk from there to that church.

LG: Horses are there at the Adam's. Leaves...

CH: Yes, they've got horses back behind there. They got the carriage, what do you call that, carriage? What do you call the carriage company – I can't think of the name of it now. But he do weddings and funerals and whatnot with that.

BT: You mean Derik?

CH: Yes

JE: Do you have any memories or any type of information that your parents gave you about this was like?

CH: Yes, they have me so much until I cannot remember. But they talked about Truman's Point, then Eagle Harbor. What do they used to tell me – that this area down here Eagle Harbor was one of the oldest Black settlements in Prince Georgy's County or in Maryland. One of the two, I can't remember what they used to tell me about that but, I do remember when Eagle Harbor used to be open from the 30th of May to Labor Day. After that this area was closed down until that time again. Because you had so much trouble getting out of here when snow storms and things like that come.

LG: And what about Cedar Haven? Was that closed down too?

CH: Yes, all of it. Nothing in this area down here until 30th of May – everybody start coming back. People from Philadelphia, New York, DC come down here too.

LG: And New York, too?

CH: Yes. You know that's a strange thing. When I was in the service in Colorado, we were just sitting down and talking. Where you from – different states. And I said where I am from and nobody knows about this area. From Maryland I say but, I am from a little town called Aquasco. One from New York spoke and said "Aquasco, I know where that's it" I said "how did you know where Aquasco" until he tell me that he's grandmother used to own a home here in Eagle Harbor and he used to come down in the summer. Her grandmother would bring him down to Eagle Harbor and he could tell me about this area.

JE: Because it was resort area.

CH: Yes, it was a resort area.

LG: All the way from New York?

CH: Yes, his grandmother owns a land and a home here.

LG: I mean but did they live in Washington?

CH: No, they live in New York, in Brooklyn. We were in the service and I ran into a couple of guys who knew where Eagle Harbor was, out of State of Maryland.

LG: What about Wilmar's Park? Did they ever come to Wilmar's Park?

CH: I don't know about Wilmar's Park.

LG: Yes, because you're a Christian.

CH: No, I went to Wilmar's Park.

LG: Who did you see at Wilmar's Park?

CH: I don't know. At that time I used to go there for picnics and baseball. But sure, I went to Wilmar's Park, what we call it – Beer Garden's. Yes, I did.

JE: So what's the name of the baseball team you played for?

CH: I played for Aquasco Roars. Down at the up right of the road, where the little league, we played right there.

JE: The Banks' field?

CH: That's it.

LG: Did you ever play against TB tagger?

CH: Sure, I played with them.

LG: My father was on that.

CH: What's your father's name?

LG: Little Joe – Moore

CH: I played baseball with him. I am sure I did. I played with TB.

LG: And who won?

CH: Because I think Aquasco used to beat.

CH: All the time. Poor TB, we put a team together. Do you remember Chad Brookes?

LG: Yes

CH: All of us put that team together.

ED: How many teams were there?

CH: Every little town have one.

BT: Do you remember when my grandfather used to pitch?

CH: I played against him.

LG: Beverly, was your grandfather from Aquasco?

CH: No, Brandywine.

BT: He was a, looking at Cemetery?

CH: No. He played with Brandywine.

LG: Was it TB or Brandywine?

BT: Brandywine

LG: Yes. Because my father said the scouts came there and look at him and he was...

JE: So you did got a lot of scouts?

CH: Yes

LG. He was 23 and they said he was too old for baseball.

JE: What position did you play?

CH: Anywhere they put me, except catcher. No, I played first base. But she's [Beverly] speaking about her grandfather and he was one of the best.

LG: Really

CH: He was one of the best. That man could throw a ball about 90-95 miles per hour. And I never seen him any better.

LG: What about my father, was he pretty good?

CH: He's pretty good. The Moore's and the Brooke's had a team at TB. And Mr. Grey... He live on...

LG: Floor Park?

CH: Yes

LG: The bricklayer.

CH: Yes. That's right. He was our manager.

LP: That was a baseball team in Brandywine.

CH: In Tb. Moore's Road.

LG: That's my family.

RM: Ray Miller, on Moore Road. It was a house being built and it has a basement that they lived.

LG: I know what you are talking about.

RM: That's my father's side of family.

LG: And that's my side of family, too – my father's side and the Adam's on my mother's side.

BT: We are related.

LG: My mother was Julia Adams.

ED: How did you get that nickname?

CH: My name? It was a hard name, hard to say. They picked up some and they didn't let it go.

RC: What was his nickname?

ED: Bus

BT: My sister gave him that nickname, Bus.

CH: They started... yes.

BT: Because when he would come to the house and we will see him and he's like "here come's Bus"

CH: They were small kids then. And I had to go to pass their house to go to the farm – we all work there, me and her grandfather. I miss that man when he passed.

RC: And what's your grandfather's name?

CH: Mr. Harry Pinkney. When my grandfather passed, I was kind of at a loss. So he picked me up and carried me along. I learned a lot from that man. What do you used to tell us Beverly? Everything has season or reason? Even dog must have had for someone's seed. That man could tell us up.

JE: What do you know about Truman Point?

CH: I can't... Truman Point is right up here. I never seen a boat up there. The only ships that I was see coming from this river were going to Nottingham to pick up logs. We were working on the Greenwood Farm then. And it's kidding me so bad out of milking cows, I look out and there's this thing blowing of horns. And I looked out on the river and seen that big... I was like "what is that?" And that was it. They would picking up logs in Nottingham and bring them down in the river and take them all down to where the Bay came to the river. And then they take them up the bay to Baltimore.]. See that bridge, it was in that end.

LG: Is it all the way down to come back?

CH: Yes... The bridge was built in the 50's I think. Wait a minute... I can't remember but I know when they used to have ferry down there. Do you [Beverly] remember the ferry? No, you're not old as I am.

LG: That's a ferry from Benedict.

CH: Benedict. Across the river, down to Adelina. You know where Adelina Road – at the top of the hill. That was the main road. And then you go down to where the ferry would come across the Benedict – that's where you load and unload. Then they built this bridge across that. I think some of the old parts of the ferry is still in Benedict, but you got all the way to the back. I am trying to think of some changes we're talking about... The only business that I know that has been established in Aquasco was Adams Funeral Homes. I can't think right off hand since they closed.

ED: Is there anything you would like to see?

CH: Anything I'd like to see? I'd like to see a lot of changes in Aquasco but... I am not on the main hi-way and I don't have the money. Right now, I am trying to figure out what was the Pox Service of Prince George's... What was happened with the land... If you're coming down to 3-82 from Upper Marlboro between 3-82 and this river here. I don't know if they got something to put on these area, I don't know what it is.

LG: That's what everybody thinks.

CH: Yes, they got something to plan because I knew you've got five acres of land to build a house down here now. And that's...

ED: One house and you got five acres of land.

JE: Yes, that's what I guess.

CH: Yes, but it was three at first then they raised it to five. But maybe some of you have been in meetings or something and hear them say something on what's with this area.

BT: What's coming up.

CH: Yes. Because it's from 3-82 down all the way to the county, then back to the county's swamp line behind where we live and to the river. This land that's right in here. No, no. I am wrong. It come from Bowie. From Bowie until they get to 3-82. It runs to the river. See this river makes up just the side of Bowie. But there's not much building going on in this area and I don't know.

RC: I believe the State of Maryland has a Department of Natural Resources. They purchased a lot of land and making them the parks. Some of the land that you're speaking of is a state park but then there's also a county park and that is owned by Maryland National Capitol Park.

CH: Right. I know back on the river, I do remember back in 1946. The Pox's is trying to try to purchase all that land, like Aquasco Farm. And all farm lands coming down from Bowie they try to buy them all for Pox's.

LG: A lot of owners want to sell their land.

CH: Yes, but what they did with a lot of farm land the bought? At that time it wasn't so valuable. But, do you remember when... What was his name? The county executive that wanted to build a house along this river – on the land that the government had purchased. He already died.

LG: Wing Curry

CH: Yes, Wing Curry. They wanted to build houses along these land that the county had purchased, some of it. They wanted to turn it to a development... And they wanted to build big houses with five acres land with them. And they would be like, I guess they wanted a revenue.

LG: Just like they did on Chew Road on Upper Marlboro.

CH: Yes

LG: All of them owns a land with five acres and build their home.

CH: Up on Chew Road...What was the guy... I don't know the people up there.

LG: And it's right across from them...

CH: The Ville's. Down where the Ville's at. The Ville on Chew Road. They were back in the river back then.

BT: We got many offers for our property up on the hill

LG: I can imagine.

CH: This land out here not go alone.

BT: But he would sell it for nothing. They want a quick back, and what it is not the older... The older generation has died and a lot if it is inherited land and the young people don't want this. So they sell it for \$100,000-\$150,000, \$200,000 maybe.

CH: We are cheaper than that.

BT: My girlfriend used to live here and they sold their property for around \$85,000. The main built house over here, he build a garage up because she couldn't build out down or this way. So she built a garage right here on the left and they sold that land for nothing.

CH: You might remember when all that land running to Cedar Haven, on the left hand and both sides we'll call "No man land" and they auction that land at the court house at Upper Marlboro. And little nothing... Right today I don't know that some of that land don't still belong to the county.

LG: You mean the waterfront?

CH: On the left hand side going up Cedar Ville. Going on the left hand side. See, they have a lot of arguments about the land over there because nobody owns it and the farmers would fighting over it because they all did make on it. And they would try to plant crops and tobacco along that road there. And then they had a auction in Upper Marlboro and they sold a lot of it for tax sale, tax revenue. That's right here on Cedar Haven Road, going up right here and make a left and going up.

LG: On the left hand side?

CH: Yes, those big fields in there where some of those house where.

LG: Really? Because there are now trees...

CH: But that used to be farmland on that road.

LG: But they still want big farm up there. Mr. Davis.

CH: Yes, that used to be Mr. Kitsch Farm

LG: Who's Mr. Kitsch?

CH: It used to be two of them. Do you (Beverly) Moore Kitsch? He lived at the corner, he had a little farm up there and his twin brother lived over St. Phillips Road. When you turn in St. Phillips Road coming that top of the hill on the right, his name was Lee Kitsch.

BT: Yes

LG: Have you seen houses on St. Phillips Road? Big beautiful mansions behind IGA?

RM: He got to go by it every day

BT: Yes, he lived out there.

CH: He's behind me.

LG: He's amazing.

CH: I know he's amazing. How he got those houses in there is a mystery because that is a wet land. One of them right down of the hill behind my stable, it used to be pond down there. And we used to always the rain comes we get frogs out there. And I said it to my wife "you know you won't hear the frogs anymore" I said "wait a minute, I wonder where did they built a house close to the pond and let it go" I went back there one day and look one day and they didn't build a house close to, they build a house in the pond. That house was built right in the pond.

BT: But don't they sell them? The basements...

CH: And they have to be careful...

ED: They can dig down on the pond and breaching up to build a house on it.

CH: Yes. Another is that they have to be careful on the molds sitting there, that is a thing about it.

ED: Is there anything that you want to say that you think feels important to be known on this area?

CH: I am trying to think. Well one thing about, I'd like to see some rules for transportation get in this area. If rules of transportation get in this area, there would be more buildings and a lot of young people that's leaving because there's no transportation in getting to Washington or to work. Because that's where the majority work in this district, with the government and the likes. And they living by condominiums or something in the upper part of the country now. I have 8 children and most of them live in the upper part of Prince George's County.

LG: Bowie

CH: New Carlton, Clinton... I have two daughters in Clinton, I have a son in New Carlton. One of my son still lives with me.

LG: I have one more question... This, St. Phillips Church. Do you remember that pastor there?

CH: Sure, I do.

LG: What happened over there because there are some slave's cemeteries around there.

CH: They still use the cemetery.

LG: No, I mean the two stones there (on the photo)

CH: The church burnt down.

LG: Yes

CH: But the cemetery they still use it, now I think it's filled up right tight.

LG: So what really happened to that church?

CH: It just burnt down.

LG: Some they said "they" burnt down.

CH: They...

LG: Because I've been hearing a lot of...

CH: Don't get me in to that...

LG: Why? Did you hear something?

CH: You know, when I bought my place down there, it was an old house there and the house had termites in it. So they told me ahead to destroy it. So the day we knocked the house down, we had to get rid all of the lumber and we had far burning it, but what happened from there I don't know. Because I went home up to where I was living back in there and I heard fires are running. And I said "wait a minute, I guess that fire down on is I am working on that and the guy didn't control that" So I jumped in the car and I went down the church was on fire. And what happened? I don't know. All I know is just it caught a fire in the same day and destroyed it.

LG: And this lady, this preacher there...

CH: This one right here.

LG: Yes

CH: I don't remember her but I know she was at the church. I've seen her few times.

LG: She was in civil rights group in DC.

CH: What is her name?

LG: Pauli Murray. A lot of people know her.

CH: Yes. But what really happened, I don't know. Because I'll you what – I do know this much it was a lot of old birds flying around there. And there's a certain bird, if you got anything like breath or something in a far, they would pick them up and carried. I don't know, don't cook me on it but I don't know. Those birds I don't trust them because I remember when I am on base one time, we had a fire got way up there, come to find those birds that carried trash and got a fire started out on the pines.

JE: Birds... They carried trash. They drop it somewhere.

LG: Makes sense.

CH: Who knows? You know birds just to be on their nests and flew lines, who knows. They might have a nest down in here, I really don't know. But I know it caught a fire the same day we were demolished that old house down there.

ED: I don't have any more questions for you, sir. Anybody else?

CH: Thank you. I hope I was helpful some kind of way. But him [Ray Miller], I want to tell him that I was raised right across the swamp there from your farm there where your mother and father live. And I knew them very well, all the max and Chittister's. You know where Shaffer Farm where is now? Right across the swamp from where your mother live. The one that raised the flowers down there.

RM: Right

CH: That's where I worked when I got big enough to work.

RM: Okay.

CH: And the farm that you're talking about that were divided down on the flex, Ms. Cath's... do you remember her?

RM: Yes

CH: Because Ms. Cath's.. AH smith used to have backed up plants.

RM: That was his daughter.

CH: And they have a farm up in Roseville Road, where she would have them blacktop, remember when you are on Roseville Road, there was a grab of portion in that. That was AA Smith.

RC: Okay

[End Transcript: 50:25]