

Interview with Roger "Pip" Moyer

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Interviewer: Beth Whaley

**WHALEY:** This is Beth Whaley and I'm interviewing Pip Moyer at his office at the Housing Authority in Annapolis.

I just wanted to explain to you, something about what we're doing with this project. It's called "The Annapolis I Remember," and therefore, it's going to be different from everybody's point of view.

**MOYER:** Of course.

**WHALEY:** I'm particularly interested in the human-interest stories. You know, we need the facts, but we need some color, too. Because what we're planning to do is have a dramatization, or read a script, of the story of Annapolis between 1900 and 1960. And then there will be an accompanying photographic exhibit which will be on display while we're doing the presentations.

**MOYER:** Sounds like a great idea.

**WHALEY:** And we'll invite the audience, then, to join in after the presentation.

**MOYER:** Great.

**WHALEY:** I think it should be really interesting. I understand that you were born and bred in Annapolis. Is that right?

**MOYER:** I guess you could say Annapolis, Beth. It was actually Eastport. I'm actually the fifth generation--my children were the sixth generation--raised on the Eastport Peninsula. And it comes from my mother's side of the family. My father came here in the Navy, in the middle '20s. Met my mother, who was an Eastport girl. Married, and of course that's where I was born and raised. It was actually not Annapolis in those days, though. It was still part

of Anne Arundel County. Yet, it was always considered Annapolis. Although legally we were still Anne Arundel County. And I think 1950 we were annexed into the city.

WHALEY: (Inaudible), 1950.

MOYER: And, of course, old Eastporters still resent that, too. We loved our identity as Eastporters and we like to be referred to as "Eastporters," not Annapolitans, which we actually are. [Laughter] But it's an interesting place. I can't think of anywhere--of course, I guess we're all partial to our home life. I had an extremely good family life and an extended family; grandmother, great-uncles, father and mother. And growing up in Eastport was like paradise. I look at it now and I just wish that it would be more like it used to be so my children and grandchildren could enjoy it the way I did.

WHALEY: Well, tell me about some of things that you enjoyed so much.

MOYER: Well, of course the water. I remember going on boats--oystering, fishing, crabbing--my very earliest memories. Before I think about walking or going to school or anything else, I can remember being taught about boats.

And it's a strange thing. Because I've had the opportunity to travel around the world and spend a lot of time around boats in other parts of the world, and no matter where I go, I still--although I've been away from it for a good bit of time--I still can get on a fishing boat and be accepted as part of the crew, anywhere in the world. But it's the things you've learned so young that they became an innate part of you.

I remember a great-uncle of mine telling me, "Only a damn fool would jump out of a boat without a taking a bowline with him because the boat will drift away. It'll (inaudible) back off of you. And you're showing total disregard for the rest of the people on board." But things about the water and fishing and crabbing, stuff like that, and making a living off of it, are my first memories. So it'll always be a part of me no matter where I am or what I'm

doing.

I was actually the first generation of the family that didn't make part of their living off the water. All my uncles and all--the things they'd like to do, usually, is get the combination of work in a good government job or at Trumpy's, where there was a lot of stability in health benefits and things, and then work on the water on the side for their money.

And in those days watermen never reported income. [Laughter] What you made in catch you ate or sold and it was yours. God put it there. You harvested it. And it belonged to you, by the sweat of your brow. And then you took care of, you know, your family and friends with that.

Well, these people ended up very independent financially, most of them. Because they lived very frugally and they saved their money and invested in real estate in Eastport. So those people--all their heirs--came out very well on it. We know what the values in Eastport are.

WHALEY: That's very interesting.

MOYER: Because it was considered an undesirable place really. It was blue collar, strictly blue collar. It was not looked on as one of the more acceptable areas of the city at that time or up until just recently, when Eastport became popular and became the place to be and the real estate values, you know, soared just astronomically to the point where it is the most expensive area of the city now. It's that simple.

There's a lot of good stories. With all the family being there, we knew lots of things. I always like to think about the story of my grandmother and where she was born. She was born in a little house right down on First Street. It's now a sailing school there. Her name was Maryanne Gunning. And her mother was also Maryanne Gunning. And she married a Ned Brown. Well, as you know, with the Irish, at least in the way it was explained to me

always--I was always told, coming up--there were lace-curtain Irish and there were shanty Irish. And of course, both sides pretend somewhat. You know us Irishmen, Beth.

[Laughter]

WHALEY: Sure I do, having a little Irish blood myself, more than a little.

MOYER: Well, I'm at least half Irish and I act more all-Irish. Because all my traits are what they associate with Irish people. [Laughter] Well, she was sort of disowned for marrying Ned Brown.

WHALEY: He wasn't Irish?

MOYER: He was Irish. Ned was Irish, but he was shanty Irish. He wasn't anywhere near the social--accepted the way the Gunnings were. The Gunnings had property, a store. They had some money and they had education. One of the Gunnings was a priest, Andy Gunning. My great-great-uncle was the first local boy to ever profess at the Redemptorist Order here in Annapolis.

WHALEY: Oh, is that so?

MOYER: Yes. So they were given a little place to live, down at the edge of the farm. It was a farm down on that part of Eastport at that time, the Gunning farm.

WHALEY: Where was that? Can you tell me?

MOYER: First Street and Fir Street, down to Spa Creek, and down to the harbor, and actually part of it going up toward Second Street.

WHALEY: So that was all the Gunning farm?

MOYER: The Gunning farm there. And they had a store down there. So they put their daughter, Maryanne, and Ned Brown down in that area near the water, which was considered somewhat undesirable then. The best land was up toward the center because that's where the crops grew better and things.

Every evening, the story has it, in the family they would send groceries and things down at night and, you know, place them on the doorstep so they could bring them in. And my great-grandmother died very young. And then my grandmother went out, at 12 years old to do char work. She worked with families and then married my grandfather very young, at 16, and had nine children. And that's the more immediate family, of which, my mother, Clara Lewis, née Clara Moyer, was one. And that's my ancestry, really. But I remember those stories so well.

And when my great-grandmother passed away, I always remember them talking about a very sad thing. That's how my great-grandfather was not allowed to be part of the funeral. That he had to walk behind the--Ned Brown had to walk very, very humbly, about a block or so behind the funeral procession going over to Annapolis.

WHALEY: Oh, my goodness.

MOYER: In those days you took the remains in a carriage; you know, the coffin in a carriage. And they always talked about how sad it was. People remarked about that. But evidently it was my great-great-Aunt Kate Gunning who was the matriarch of the family, and she dictated who could do what and who couldn't--a very strong-willed woman.

WHALEY: She must have been something to deal with.

MOYER: Very dynamic. I never knew Kate. She died before I was born. But everybody who ever talked about her said what a lovely-looking woman she was, and just how strong and austere she was. And she ruled with sort of an iron hand--Queen Victoria, so to speak.

[Laughter]

WHALEY: Do you remember from the stories what year that was when Ned was walking behind that casket?

MOYER: It had to be in the very early 1900s, probably 1901, 1902, or 1903.

WHALEY: It was in the 1900s?

MOYER: Yes. I have an Aunt Leanne--who was born about 1902--Speaks.

WHALEY: Is she still living?

MOYER: Still living and in very good health for, you know, being up in years.

WHALEY: Would she like to be interviewed?

MOYER: I would love it if she's feeling well enough and is comfortable enough with it. She's very, you know--remains with the family basically and all, and is not outward in that way. But I would love for you to do it because she remembers so many things about Eastport from the 1900s on.

WHALEY: I would love to do it.

MOYER: She still remembers about where the old schoolhouse was. All my other aunts and the people--my mother and all--went to where the present Eastport School is. You know, generation after generation went there. But my Aunt Leanne went to where the old Eastport fire hall was on Second Street. That's where the original Eastport School was.

WHALEY: Was that a one-room schoolhouse?

MOYER: One-room schoolhouse. Also, things like the old--there was a lot of industry over in Eastport, boat-building places, like Hella's (PHONETIC) Boatyard, at the turn of the century and through the '20s, where my relatives worked. They repaired the boats that came there. And it was Freemill's (PHONETIC) Oyster House, which is where the Severn Sailing School is now.

Everything you did in Eastport in those days, the water was part of it. That's the way you made your living coming up through then until World War II changed all this. Most of the streets in Eastport, up until World War II, were oyster shell.

And I remember when they first started putting plumbing over there. Because I still remember most of the houses didn't have indoor plumbing. We had outhouses. And we would carry our water from the well, heat it, and then take our baths that way. We had a bathtub, but no running water to it. We would pour the water in it from buckets after it was heated. And then go from there.

WHALEY: That's where the Saturday-night bath came from, I guess.

MOYER: That's exactly it. About once a week you had a good bath. Of course, we bathed every day. We were swimming all the time in warm weather. We just lived on the water as kids.

WHALEY: Well, a lot of people took sponge baths during the week, as I remember. And then took their big bath on Saturday night.

MOYER: And I always remember what a big thing it was going over to town. I don't know how you want to use this and all, but--

WHALEY: I want everything you can remember.

MOYER: Going to Annapolis, yes. I always remember it as--very early--as Sunday School classes at St. Luke's, which was down in Eastport, at Second Street and Chesapeake Avenue, before it was where it is now. The Reverend Smiley (PHONETIC), who was a true holy man.

He never married and he lived very humbly. What little bit he made he gave to the poor. But he lived in one room over on Randall Street. But as he walked around town the Eastport people would just follow him like the pictures you see of Jesus. It was almost like the man had a blessing on him and would bestow that blessing to you. You just felt so good when you were around him. Oh, he was something. And a brilliant human being. A very

small man, about 5'1" or 5'2" tall. But he just had a quality about him that you just don't see in humans. A true holy man. You know, like you think of the holy men of India and the Far East and all. He had that mysticism about him. And not a quirk. And not a kook. Very practical. Just an exceptional person.

WHALEY: Just spiritual.

MOYER: Yes, spiritual. But I remember when he would lead us over every Christmas and every Easter--I remember him coming over to St. Anne's Church. But it was known underneath that we really weren't, socially, the equal of St. Anne's Church. Because they had a roped-off section for us when we got there. And on Easter we were given a little plant to take back with us.

WHALEY: This was for the children?

MOYER: No, the children and the grownups.

WHALEY: Oh. But you were not from Annapolis.

MOYER: Well, I guess some people from the Eastport area sat in the general section. But we always sat in the roped-off section. And a strange thing: at about seven years old, I started questioning my mother on this because I always had a social conscience. And it bugged me.

WHALEY: And what did your mom say?

MOYER: She said, "Well, you're just not supposed to ask questions like that. This is where we belong." And she had no problem with that, in other words. And it burned on me years later and still. And I thought about that. Because, you know, St. Anne's Church was considered the--the board of vestry there was usually the board of directors at the local banks. And there was intermingling there. They were the so-called society of Annapolis in those days.

WHALEY: When was this? When you were seven? How old are you now?

MOYER: I'm 55. So that would be in like 1941, '42, through there--the early years of World War II.

WHALEY: So they were still roping off the section for Eastport?

MOYER: Oh, yes, then, sure. Definitely. When I was coming over there. So that's the way--we were looked at as the blue-collar crowd, so to speak. But I remember that well. But Reverend Smiley would lead us across. It was like a mission. And it reminded me of the scenes I see from Africa or the Continent or South America, when missionaries went out and brought souls to God. And that's what I always remember about, you know, that aspect of our religious life. But it was certainly good.

WHALEY: You were Episcopalian?

MOYER: I was raised Episcopalian, yes.

WHALEY: But St. Luke's, then, would have been your church?

MOYER: The church, home church, yes.

WHALEY: So you went to St. Anne's then for Easter and Christmas.

MOYER: Christmas, yes. [Laughter] It was a big thing.

WHALEY: The (inaudible) section.

MOYER: The (inaudible) section. Hard to believe, isn't it? But it did happen.

WHALEY: Give me some other instances of that kind of social strata that you remember.

MOYER: Annapolis was almost like an English town, in my opinion. The structure of the society was like that. It was just known around that on the invitation list and things of that sort it was very, very--you know, an upper echelon there. And they were the only people who really--like for example, I was raised thinking that a naval officer was some kind of a deity. You know, that a captain in the Navy was something that a boy from Eastport would

never attain. You know, it would just be beyond his reach or hope.

**WHALEY:** How did you get that impression? Did your parents instill that?

**MOYER:** Just in the talk of parents--grownups, in other words. Because our people, you know, were all just laborers or tradesmen working at the Academy--you know, our ancestors. Let me see. There weren't too many Eastport boys. When I graduated from college in 1957, there weren't a whole lot of Eastport children who had gone away and graduated from school at that time. Like we have a big family and a cousin of mine, Frank Speaks, and I were the first two to ever graduate from college.

**WHALEY:** Is that right?

**MOYER:** Yes. There was, you know, a good deal of relative intelligence in the family, but the opportunity wasn't there. You worked with your hands. You worked hard, saved your money, and . . .

**WHALEY:** And I guess you're telling me that the impression that you gathered from your forbearers was that this was your place.

**MOYER:** That's it exactly. In other words, this is what your forbearers did, etc. I always remember something very, very strongly with me. 1974 was an extremely tough time. I had been a mayor. It looked like I could be governor and go anywhere I wanted. A series of things. And my family life broke up, in other words. And I was having a problem with Phil Merrill, the owner of the paper. And I couldn't get employment anywhere. And there was a big scandal going on in Maryland politics. And I was extremely close with a lot of the men involved in that. They were close, personal friends. One friend after another was being indicted and sent away. And it was just a terrible, terrible time for me.

And I had a little piece of land down on Arundel on the Bay, 25 acres that I was trying to get developed. And I was clearing it. And an old-timer sitting there with me said,

"You know, we need some cash to keep going on here." He says, "\_\_\_\_\_, why don't we sell this firewood?"

I said, "There's no market for that."

He said, "You put an ad in the paper and see what happens." I put an ad in the paper and I got like 190 calls for firewood. And I used to cut the wood and put in on the truck and all, but I was embarrassed to go deliver it. Hell, the mayor--"He just got out of the mayor's office and he's delivering wood."

All of a sudden, I looked up one day and I said, "What kind of phoney are you?" I said, "This is the way your ancestors all made their living. And they were damn sure at least as good and a hell of a lot better than you are in every shape or form. Get out there and deliver that wood." And I had great delight. It was one of my happiest--other than when I was teaching at St. Mary's--from 1974 to 1980 was probably the happiest time of my life. Because I was having such a good time just doing manual labor and being outdoors. I literally lived in a tent for two years.

**WHALEY:** Is that right?

**MOYER:** But I had a great time with it; much happier than I am now. This is sheer drudgery, this work here. Because you're dealing with the poor and the indigent people who just can't help themselves. And it's all day long, every day. It takes an enormous amount out of you emotionally every day. It just drains you. And I'm really too old for the job, Beth. There's some burnout involved here.

**WHALEY:** I can believe it.

**MOYER:** There's one thing it did do for me. It made me realize what I had accomplished as mayor, as far as race relations in this city.

**WHALEY:** Yes, you did.

**MOYER:** And giving poor people a chance, a bite at the apple. Because I really truly know that, other than Joe Alton and I, of that time, there was no one with any real power who really cared about these people. They may do some lip service or just a pat on the back or some other small (inaudible), but Joe and I put our life and our careers on the line time and time again for integration, for betterment, and just changing things that were wrong.

**WHALEY:** Well, you should be very proud of that.

**MOYER:** It makes me feel good. I remember, like I say, getting back to--the one thing I do remember about Eastport--and which was great for that--is the way the black and the white people got along over there. And when I took Alex Haley through there in the '60s--when he was doing his research on the book, Roots, and all, and we were talking--he said, in his entire travels in the United States he had never seen better race relations.

**WHALEY:** Isn't that something.

**MOYER:** And one of the reasons, I think, is because the people live next door to each other. In other words, you'd go to areas of Eastport, even back in the '30s, where you had a black family living next to a white family, then another black family, then another white family. In other words, the salt and pepper neighborhoods mixture. And what the common denominator was--everybody made their living off the water. And when you're out there--

**WHALEY:** (Inaudible) pulling together.

**MOYER:** Pulling together. And so the color of your skin didn't mean any more than the size of your shoes. We were all human beings. It was what you had inside, not on the outside. And it's where, I think, my parents and with me--where we got our social conscience. And we thought that what people were doing in other areas of the United States was wrong, totally wrong. And we all, my whole family, was always dedicated to do something about that.

In 1939, at my birthday party, I always remember--my fifth or sixth birthday party, whatever I was then--there were as many black children there as there were white children. And we were all playing together. And nobody could tell us that we were different or anything else like that. We didn't want to hear that. We were friends. That's the way we grew up together and those contacts are the still the same. I look across the fence now and see people over there that were friends of my parents and my grandparents. There's been generations of us together. And that's the warmth I remember about it.

I'll tell you what I also remember, Beth. I remember the British sailors coming here in 1941 to get their PT boats from Trumpy's Boatyard.

WHALEY: Oh, really? Tell me about that.

MOYER: And (inaudible portion). It was a colorful thing and all. Because, you know, in everybody's mind, every talk--the war was front and center. And people from another part of the world coming in. And they were colorful guys and fun to talk to. You know, just brave young men, as I look on it now. You know, fighting a terrible dictator in Europe and going out to sea in these small boats and stuff. And I often wonder what became of them and how many of them survived the war. But they were really nice to talk to.

WHALEY: Where did they come in so that you could get to talk with them?

MOYER: At Lewnes's, where Sam's is now, where Charlie Lewnes just opened up. That was our local country club. Mr. Lewnes. Greek family. Ran that place from about 1920 through the 1960s--probably 1970. About 50 years they had it.

WHALEY: Where is that located?

MOYER: At Sam's corner. At Fourth Street. Charlie Lewnes runs it now. He's got some nice pictures in there.

WHALEY: Right at Fourth Street?

**MOYER:** Right at Fourth Street. Fourth and Severn Avenue. Go down there and talk to him. You'll enjoy it. And he's got some pictures of old Eastport in there, too. He's got some aerial photographs that are good.

The sailors would come there, of course, to have their beer. You know, in England they would call it their pint or their ale. And we'd talk to them and all. And we'd run errands for them and all. I always remember they were good tippers. Great honor I had. I was the youngest boy that ever got the job of shoeshine boy and rack boy at Lewnes's pool room. I was 11 years old when I got it. I was big for my age. And to me, that was the big honor.

**WHALEY:** You were probably very much envied by the other boys.

**MOYER:** Oh, I was, yes.

**WHALEY:** Tell me something about your family. I got a good picture about their feelings about class and so on. So that was within the family. But it also was reflected within the community.

**MOYER:** In the community itself, yes. I would have to say that my family was a typical Eastport family. My grandfather was a little more successful than most people, financially, because he had a great knack for real estate. And he saved his money and never bought anything on time and worked very hard--always with the government and on the water--and invested very heavily in Eastport real estate, which in turn, made it very good for the rest of the family. He had nine children and each child, as a wedding present, got a home of their own.

**WHALEY:** Isn't that wonderful.

**MOYER:** Which is a pretty nice thing, for a waterman to be able to pass that on. And plus, my grandmother owned--where Tecumseh is now, is where we were raised. That was our

home place, 312 Severn Avenue. That's where we were all born and raised.

WHALEY: How did you feel about that when it was sold?

MOYER: It was sad. You know, very sad. It was a strange thing when they sold it.

Because they researched and researched and they couldn't find where the mortgage was on the place. Well, there'd never been one. See, those old watermen didn't believe in mortgages.

It was a sin to pay interest. They bought everything in cash. My grandfather bought it for--I think it was \$1,200, in 1896. [Laughter] When it was sold in 1960, when my grandmother passed--

WHALEY: So there wasn't any deed or anything?

MOYER: They found the deed and all on it, but there was never a mortgage against it. It was cash sale, cash sale. It went back to the old--I forget what estate--the Frasier estate or one of the old estates here. And then that went back to the land grant from the king or something.

And I remember the old Eastport bridge, when they used to--the old turnstile, where two men would get out with a long pipe for leverage and put it in and open the bridge by hand.

WHALEY: Oh, is that right? How long was that there? Till what age?

MOYER: That was there until 1947.

WHALEY: They were still turning it by hand?

MOYER: By hand until 1947, sure. You talk about traffic tie-ups. What would that be now? [Laughter] But they're the things you always remember in going down. Like for example, early in the morning, going out and catching a mess of fish and coming back. And then having them and fried bread for your breakfast. Because then my grandmother always made her own bread and she would fry the dough. We called it pancakes. And then you'd

have the fresh fish and that for breakfast in the morning. It was just like I say, a very simple, clean way of life.

And there wasn't a sign of pollution in those days. The waters around here were still just--almost pristine. And a strange thing. The pollution, I can't really remember starting until about 19--late '50s. That's when it really started kicking in here. And I always took it as being the more boats causing it. But really that wasn't the big thing. It was the runoff from the development in Baltimore Harbor and the Susquehanna River had began.

WHALEY: Horrible things.

MOYER: Yes. It totally polluted the bay.

WHALEY: It's worse all the time.

MOYER: I get no joy at all out of the water around here now. To me it's like riding the subway. It's so crowded. And you can't swim. You'd be afraid to swim. There's no fish up this way. And about the only thing you can do is, maybe, do a little bit of crabbing now and that's even tough because you're in each other's way with all the 90-mile-an-hour boats and all out there and the big power boats and stuff. Like I say, it's like riding the subway.

WHALEY: You must really see it. It's such a terrific change (inaudible).

MOYER: I walk around the waterfront virtually every morning and then go down in the evenings and watch the sunset. I have a place where I always sit. My great-uncle and I-- that's where he explained to me about the solstice. And he and I would always meet there on December 21st and June 21st and just sit and watch the sun go down.

WHALEY: Where is this?

MOYER: Right down to Saddler's Wharf, where O'Leary's is now.

WHALEY: Oh, yes.

**MOYER:** Because there used to be an old red shed you could see on the Eastport shore, straight up the creek. Over here on this side of the creek the sun sets on December 21st. On June 1st, when you sit there it sets all the way around behind the Carroll House at St. Mary's. So you can watch it, at different points, go all the way around the sky.

**WHALEY:** So your uncle taught you that?

**MOYER:** My great-uncle taught me that. He taught me how to sail. He always taught me--

**WHALEY:** What was his name?

**MOYER:** Will Lewis, Mike Lewis, more often known as Will. And my grandfather was known as Plug Lewis, Harry E. Lewis. He was a very gifted shipwright. He could build boats very well.

**WHALEY:** Oh, is that so?

**MOYER:** Yes. And whenever they do research on the old shipwrights in this area, the name of Plug Lewis will always come up.

**WHALEY:** Oh. And where did he do his shipwright work?

**MOYER:** Right where Tecumseh is now, mostly. He built his boats and stuff on his own property there. They had an old railway there where they brought the boats up and lowered them and all. And we worked there as kids. You know, we all helped out, coppering boats and things of that sort.

See, the things that I miss so much and all--I feel like an Indian. Remember when they used to show this movie about pollution and how the Indian cried because he would look down in his old river and it would be polluted now? I feel that, too. I feel I am at times, when I look around and see that. It really, really hurts. And you'd walk through Eastport and you could always smell the copper.

**WHALEY:** What was that from? From the boats?

**MOYER:** From the boats. You know, they had them up, working on them. And you could hear the "clink, clink, clink." It was the sound of summer, I always called it. And that was the caulking hammer. Because boats would come open at the seams, the old wooden boats. And quite often they had to caulk them and then put red lead over it and then copper. And that would keep them from leaking for the summer. And some of the men who were looked up to the most were the guys who could really caulk a boat well.

I remember the name of--"Noisy Bill" Bentley, they called the guy. William Bentley was his name. And he was considered the best caulker around. You know, and different men were known for those trades. Melvin Smith was the best varnisher. I mean, things like that.

**WHALEY:** Were they all Eastporters?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. All Eastporters.

**WHALEY:** And all on that peninsula?

**MOYER:** Yes, all on that peninsula. A very important thing was to have a good soft crab. And there was a special way of making them. You don't seem them around any more now. But an old blacksmith was famous fabled because--his name was Ben Sykes. And the greatest compliment would be if you made a soft crab and somebody would tell you it looked like Ben Sykes made that. That would be a great, you know, compliment, if you could do that.

**WHALEY:** Oh, really? So everybody had something to try to work up to.

**MOYER:** Exactly. You know, you had people who--

**WHALEY:** Could you make one?

**MOYER:** My father made them very well. I could never learn the trade really. I was known as a gifted fisherman. I could always find fish or catch fish. I just had a natural luck

or feel for it. And I always used to get the biggest perch, you know, every year. You know, anybody could catch the little, tiny, bitty ones. But to come back with a nice mess of 11", 12", 13" white and yellow perch was a big thing.

**WHALEY:** You shouldn't tell me that. [Laughter]

**MOYER:** I could do that. And I loved to fish. (Inaudible) always get a big kick out of it. My relatives and all, my grandparents and all, always wanted to be in a boat. It was where I was most happy. To this day--I don't go fishing a lot now. I have to watch myself because I become totally addicted to it. Like if I went down to the Outer Banks and got involved in one of the boats there where it's still pretty and clean or even down in the lower bay--they tell me in the last couple of years it hasn't been good, but like in the '70s--I didn't come back. I become totally addicted. It's like someone with alcohol who has a problem.

**WHALEY:** It's really (inaudible)?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes, it's like here's where I was born.

**WHALEY:** Yes, really part of your system.

**MOYER:** Yes. I can tell you this. I had the same feeling when I went to Ireland. When I got over there and saw the greenery and just the people and talked to them, I knew this was where I came from. My strongest genetics were here.

**WHALEY:** I had the same feeling.

**MOYER:** Did you? And the Irish picked it up right away that I was Irish. I can't tell you how well I got on over there. I headed a group when I had just gotten reelected as mayor in '69. I took a group over for the Laurel racetrack. They had some horse people going to the country and all. But when I got around the water and all over there it was just like--they all looked like my relatives. Yes, it was home. This is where my roots are. I knew.

**WHALEY:** It's interesting. You can look into faces and see relationships.

**MOYER:** That's what I mean. It was a strange thing. I was at the Irish White House and this major came up and tapped me on the shoulder and said, "The president wants to talk to you." I thought he meant the president of the racing association or something. The next thing I know I'm sitting on a couch with Eamon de Valera.

**WHALEY:** Is that right?

**MOYER:** You know, I couldn't believe it. I was like I was hypnotized or something. And he picked it up in me right away, not only that I was Irish, but I had a great feel for the Irish people. And to this day I'm that way. I converted to Catholicism a long time ago in my mind. I just officially did it about two months ago.

**WHALEY:** I didn't know that.

**MOYER:** Yes. It's in me. That's it. The Irish Catholic origins. You know, I feel it.

**WHALEY:** Yes. I was interested when you told me you were Episcopalian because--

**MOYER:** My grandfather, Harry E. Lewis, Plug, was Episcopalian. My grandmother was-- her two sisters were sent to a special school, to a boarding school, Catholic-ran.

**WHALEY:** (Inaudible)

**MOYER:** Yes, like. And they got very good educations. You know, a very strong--it was only high school but it was like what college would be today. They spoke very well, wrote very well. Well, my grandmother had an innate wisdom and gift and understanding of life. She didn't get that opportunity. And then she married outside the faith. She married, you know, Harry E. Lewis. And that's where the family broke away from the church, so to speak. Then all the family was raised Episcopalian. But from the day I, you know, went back to St. Mary's and played ball, like in the seventh grade, I knew I would end up there.

**WHALEY:** Isn't that interesting?

**MOYER:** And, of course, I taught there for eight years. That was some very happy times in my life.

**WHALEY:** Well, you've led a very interesting life.

**MOYER:** I don't have a lot of regrets and I consider myself fortunate.

**WHALEY:** Great. Well, I love your story about going down and pitching your tent. It's really interesting. And it's wonderful because you kind of found yourself.

**MOYER:** Yes. Oh, I did. It was the luckiest thing that ever happened. When times are bad, instead of going to a bar or something and trying to drown my sorrows, I go to the Academy and work out with the midshipmen or I go out and cut wood. In that winter of '79, other than Christmas Eve, I spent every night out in a tent. I lived right on Jennifer Lane in a tent. I'd walk up to Denny's every morning and eat, and wash up in that bathroom there and then go back out and cut wood and deliver it all day. Got into incredible physical shape. Even today when I go and, you know, get examined, Beth, the doctors say that my circulatory and respiratory systems are just, you know, a phenomenon for a man my age.

**WHALEY:** That's wonderful, Pip.

**MOYER:** It got me together again. Truthfully. I found myself out there again. Really. I'm going to do it again.

**WHALEY:** Tell me something about the political life in Annapolis between 1900 and 1960. I know you got very involved into the 1960s.

**MOYER:** Oh, sure. Before that, well, there were names you were always brought up to remember. You know, Mayor Willis McCready. Frank Revell, who was a county politician. They spoke of these men as virtually kings. And, of course, former Mayor Louis Phipps. And I always remember the first time I met Louis Phipps because he had been spoken of as, you know, like a king.

**WHALEY:** By whom?

**MOYER:** The family and people and all. Just a great deal of respect and inordinate power. They were men who could call and get you a job if you needed it or a place to live or call a judge and make sure that you didn't get dealt with too harshly if you had a child who was in trouble or a member of the family. I still remember them. My grandfather was very active in politics. He built the first Democratic club.

**WHALEY:** Is that so?

**MOYER:** Yes, he was the first president; Eastport Democratic Club.

**WHALEY:** What year was that? Do you know?

**MOYER:** About 1914, I think. I've seen the original documents and the hand-written records of the first meeting. My uncle Rob Luongo was the first secretary of the place. A strange thing, later on I was asked not to come in there because my racial views were too liberal. [Laughter]

**WHALEY:** When was that?

**MOYER:** That was in 1960, when I was mayor.

**WHALEY:** Oh, really? [Laughter]

**MOYER:** Yes. So my grandfather was the first president and founder and the financier of it. I was the first member to be elected, you know, mayor of the city from the club. And I was asked not to come there because I spoke too liberally. [Laughter] Sort of strange.

But getting back to that. Of course, like meeting Mr. Phipps, I always remember what a fine man he was. And just how kind he was and all when you got to know him. And just one of the people. And that was his gift. And that's one of the things that was a great lesson to me, Beth. The men who really had power and really had done something with their lives were very humble men in many ways. You know, they cared down inside and they

didn't have to put on airs or pretend. You know, the confidence was there.

**WHALEY:** And they really had the people's good at heart.

**MOYER:** Exactly. Speaking about the cutting of wood, I'm going to go back and do it again. I'm going to work here until probably next June and then I'll go back to working in the woods and stuff afterwards. I love to be outdoors.

**WHALEY:** Well, that's wonderful. Maybe you can get a job with the forest people.

**MOYER:** Something like that. [Laughter] That's the way I feel about it, Beth, really. I grew up believing and being taught that I was my brother's keeper. That was the central thing in Eastport in the old communities and the family. You are your brother's keeper.

You can make a difference. And you never turn your back on someone needing help. You know, that was (inaudible) no-no.

**WHALEY:** (Inaudible portion) It can put great demands on you (inaudible).

**MOYER:** The other thing in Eastport, growing up there was an incredible sense of family and extended family and in service to your country. You know, you didn't wait to be drafted when World War II started. Almost all my relatives stood in line to enlist, you know. And it was considered a great honor. They're the things that you remember about a community.

And you had to participate in sports. If you were young and healthy, that was your ticket to acceptance.

**WHALEY:** It was expected?

**MOYER:** Yes, expected of you. And you can never show cowardice. It was no sin for a bigger boy to whip you. You know, you took your whipping. You didn't wimp. You didn't cry about it. In other words, you knew that one of your older cousins or some member of the family would settle the score for you. [Laughter]

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**WHALEY:** There are great stories about people in Annapolis proper fearing to come into Eastport. Do you remember that (inaudible) side?

**MOYER:** Oh, very well. Oh, sure.

**WHALEY:** Did \_\_\_\_\_ people smile, and were smug over here, saying, "We'll keep them out"?

**MOYER:** We didn't say we'd keep them out. We just knew we were tougher. [Laughter] That's what we felt anyway. Now, of course, (inaudible portion) around with us or even maybe give us (inaudible). But, you know, generally, like I say, you were--every day you were in a boxing bout or a fist fight or something of that sort. And it was considered no animosity. After it was over, it was over. We didn't hold the grudges or anything. But you were expected to compete.

I was always fortunate. I had a couple older cousins; especially one, Donald Luongo, who was a gifted athlete and very strong. And I always knew that--you know, that was always my answer back if some older guy would be hitting on me or something, which you would have sometimes. You had a couple local bullies who would drink a lot and they would tend to pick on people who couldn't protect themselves. And I would generally just say, you know, "Do what you're going to do now. Donald will settle things for me tomorrow." [Laughter] That would back them off.

You know, when I was running the pool room there, for example. And someone would get drunk or something and cause me a problem.

**WHALEY:** Where was that?

**MOYER:** Where Sam's is now, right in the back of that. That was our country club.

**WHALEY:** So this is when you were in your teens or older?

**MOYER:** Yes, early teens. I couldn't think--and I've travelled in a lot of parts of the country, many parts of the world--of a better place for a young person to be brought up. We always had the Naval Academy here that was great for employment. And it gave us a sense of pride. That type of thing. You know, things to look up for.

**WHALEY:** Did you ever have the opportunity to participate at the Naval Academy in their sports or use of the pool or anything like that?

**MOYER:** Constantly. I was virtually adopted down there by Ben Carnevale, the former basketball coach there for many years. And I used to have the total run of the place. Somehow or another, as a civilian I could go anywhere I wanted there all the time. And I served as an advisor on their athletic staff for quite a few years and worked with different programs and all in the Academy. To me it's a godsend. You know, I can't think of a better institution anywhere.

**WHALEY:** Were you one of the fortunate ones from Eastport? Or were there others?

**MOYER:** Yes. I was one of the fortunate ones.

**MOYER:** How did that happen?

**MOYER:** I had a cousin take me to see a boxing bout. The man's retired from the Marine Corps now. He became a general. I've got a picture fixed in my mind. A plebe, Bill Chip, was boxing McGlouglin from the University of Virginia, who was the son of Victor McGlouglin the old movie actor, in the heavyweights. And the first punch thrown was a right hand by Chip and he knocked McGlouglin out, the Virginia freshman. I remember that plain as day. And I virtually lived at the Academy from that day on. And many of the guys who became war heroes and stuff I knew while they were there.

And my big benefactor down there--and I was a mascot for Bill Busik, who's head of the Alumni Association. Bill and I were great friends and I followed--you know, he was one

of the best, if not the best, athlete that was ever at the Academy.

**WHALEY:** Busik?

**MOYER:** Busik--great athlete.

**WHALEY:** I didn't know that.

**MOYER:** Football, track, baseball, and basketball. And I was always--he used to rub my head for luck before games. I was seven years old. And we would ride to the games--anywhere between Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, if they were playing--would ride in the equipment truck. We'd get under the blankets.

**WHALEY:** Oh, tell me about that. Tell me about your trips to the games as a youngster.

**MOYER:** Oh, youngster, yes. Seven, eight years old, I started going to the games. I saw Notre Dame play in Baltimore; great quarterback they had, Andrew Bobetelli (PHONETIC). I saw him play. And I went to the Army-Navy games in Philadelphia; quite a few.

**WHALEY:** And you didn't go on the train like most people?

**MOYER:** No, we rode in the equipment truck, an old Navy equipment truck. We'd get in the back of that. And players would throw us up in there. See, we were their mascots.

[Laughter] A cousin of mine, named Peter Luongo--we used to go all the time. He's the one that first took me to the Academy. He and I hung around there until he went away in the service. And I still kept going there constantly.

And there's one thing about my basketball career. I played a lot of basketball. I got a scholarship to college on basketball.

**WHALEY:** At the Naval Academy?

**MOYER:** I worked out down there with the midshipmen and with the coaches. So I got much better coaching than any of the local boys. It was not a big sport around here. But I'd be playing with kids who had grown up in New Jersey and New York, where there were real

basketball centers. And Ben Carnevale was constantly helping me. He'd take me away to the camps with him during the summer. So it gave me a bit--

**WHALEY:** You were very fortunate. You must have had a lot of appeal.

**MOYER:** Well, I don't know. Whatever it was, I was extremely lucky. And I ended up, like I say, getting a free education out of it and travelling many, many places in sports. It's one of the things that helped me so much in politics, the competition of it and meeting humans from all walks of life, you know, travelling so many parts of the country.

**WHALEY:** Yes. You were fortunate.

**MOYER:** I was laying out on the playing field at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in 1957. And I see these two enormous men come by. One of them is this guy Sherman Polk and the other is Roosevelt Greer. Have you ever seen Greer on television at all?

**WHALEY:** Sure.

**MOYER:** I was roommates with Rosey for about three months, it ended up being.

**WHALEY:** Is that right?

**MOYER:** Now, this is how sports can teach you. This guy was as gifted as any athlete I've ever seen. He was 6'3" at the time and about 265 and he could run and jump like a deer. After he was out of pro ball, I got a call one day. He said, "Moyer, I want to come down and talk to you." We'd stayed in contact with each other even after I got out. I was mayor of the city then. You know, it was like '66, '67--somewhere in there. So it had been ten years since I'd been at Fort Dix with him.

He came off and he said, "I'm going to level with you, Moyer." He said, "I'm broke. I have no job and nowhere to turn." He said, "If you can help me, I'll never forget it." He said, "And I'll do a good job for you."

I said, "Sherman, I haven't got anything." I said, "Really, there's not that much here in Annapolis." I said, "In your league," I said, "you know, the salary you'd need." I said, "I've got a job in the Rec Center that would be great, you know, but it only pays \$12,000 a year."

He said, "I'd be the happiest man in the world to get that." So it says (inaudible), having him come to Annapolis and taking an offer from me. And he worked with me for 17 years.

But getting to know these big proud men and all. And talking to them so much about, you know, different walks of life, different people. You know what I mean. And they helped me so much in governing the city. You know. But I had a great relationship with him. Hard to believe. One of the biggest, strongest men there was and cancer took him away like that.

**WHALEY:** It's sad.

**MOYER:** It is.

**WHALEY:** You know what I'd like you to do? I'd like you to go back in time, close your eyes, and describe Eastport and your trips into Annapolis when you were a kid, just so that I know what it looks like.

**MOYER:** Somehow or another, when I think of Eastport--always, mostly, closely like this--I think about the shoreline. I think about the old Hartge mansion, where the Eastport bridge comes into Eastport now, up on that bank. And I think about the oyster-shell streets and walking down to the water and getting in a rowboat. And I think about shrimping, catching your shrimp, and my cousins, and maybe a couple of soft crabs. Going out and using them for bait. And setting under the old Eastport bridge and catching a big mess of perch.

Then coming back home with my grandmother bragging to us on how good they were and everything. Probably that afternoon, after selling some soft crabs or hard crabs, or coppering a boat for--

**WHALEY:** Where did you sell them?

**MOYER:** Walk around the neighborhood, knocking on doors and asking people if they want to buy them. We had a few people here who weren't oriented to the water, or not but but they liked seafood, so they knew where there were good sales.

I always remember one of the biggest things that ever happened to me. Oneal Russell, former--a dentist here, who's retired--he bought 11 soft crabs from me. They were huge, for \$1.00. But it was the first time I ever heard of anybody getting \$1.00 for a dozen soft crabs. It was like a fortune. And Oneal was a very benevolent man, a very kind man. And he paid me. He said, "Oh, they're so big and so pretty, I'm going to give you \$1.00 for them." And I couldn't believe it. Because, you know, that was an incredible score.

**WHALEY:** What would be the usual price?

**MOYER:** Back then it would have been 60, 70 cents, maybe.

**WHALEY:** For a dozen?

**MOYER:** And these were huge ones. And we used to get the big \_\_\_\_\_ crabs late in the summer by going up on the mud flat real early in the morning. And they would shed then for the last time for the summer. We would get them. They were jumbos--super jumbos.

But I can remember now, us thinking--we'd be talking like a big thing was going to happen. We were going to go over town to the old Republic Theater to the movies. And, of course, if you went to the movie--and usually it would be a western on Friday with a serial behind it or something or a good movie--you always stayed to see two or three shows.

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Plus I always remember it as being air conditioned. I don't know if it was or not, but to me it always seemed like--even from a very early kid, the old theaters here were air conditioned. And so on a real hot summer day it felt very good to get in that air conditioning. And we would stay--like if we went over at 6:00, we'd stay till the movie closed that night and then come home. We'd always tell our parents where we were going to be, of course. And then we would walk home. But it was a big expedition to go over to that big city of Annapolis and see all the excitement and everything.

**WHALEY:** Gosh, isn't that something? Were you afraid of going on your own over there?

**MOYER:** Never.

**WHALEY:** So it was never of that fear like some of the others had, to go into Eastport?

**MOYER:** Oh, no.

**WHALEY:** Would you go with pals?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes, we would go with buddies, sure. There'd be a couple of us--at least two, sometimes four or five.

**WHALEY:** Somebody told me, and I think it was Tom Worthington, that the Eastport boys used to sit in a certain section down in the front. And nobody else would dare to go there even if you didn't show up. Is that right?

**MOYER:** I don't remember us, you know, having any problems inside the movie house. But we all did sit down front together. That was Eastport territory.

**WHALEY:** So you're corroborating his story? [Laughter]

**MOYER:** Yes.

**WHALEY:** And then you walked home at night?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. And coming back home at night--now, of course, you remember that--you know, just the feeling of security there. And like I say, coming back across the Eastport

bridge that's the feeling you always got, special like that. I am back home. And I still have that to this day. No matter where I travel. Around the world. I may be away for a month or two at times and all, but when I come home it's still there. It's a warmth. And I can still hear those sounds and see those people and the boats being worked on and all. I'll take that to my grave with me. It's still there. It's still all there in Eastport with me.

**WHALEY:** I don't think I've ever heard the caulking sound that you mentioned, that ping.

**MOYER:** Oh, it's something like this [demonstrates], exactly what it would sound like. It doesn't have the ring to it.

**WHALEY:** It doesn't have the right sound.

**MOYER:** No, it doesn't have the ring.

**WHALEY:** But isn't that interesting?

**MOYER:** It was like that. Here it is, right here. [Demonstrates] Something like that. That's plastic but it should be \_\_\_\_\_ metal.

Now, if you held your line of caulking coming out of the box--it's like a cotton that goes in--and the old broad-nosed--it looked like a chisel but it wasn't; it was thicker.

And if you held your line too tight you didn't get enough. You didn't have the caulk into the seam. It was too thin, as they would say. If you let it too loose, it would drag and get in the dirt. Okay? And then the seam could never come closed.

So that was part of learning it. Bump. Bump. There was a timing to it. Every two seconds you would hear that rap. And you would hear that through Eastport, along Trumpy's and stuff. Well, that was the sound of summer.

I still get a kick. They're doing a lot of work on boats now. Right as you come across the Eastport bridge, on the left-hand side, where the yacht basin just bought.

**WHALEY:** Yes.

**MOYER:** But it's fiberglass and it's just not the same. No. It's not part of us. You know what I'm saying? It is good to see them working and all, and the sails up on some of the boats and stuff like that. But fiberglass boats don't do anything for me. It's not part of me.

**WHALEY:** You went to Eastport School?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes.

**WHALEY:** Did your teachers take you on trips around the neighborhood? Was that ever part of (inaudible)?

**MOYER:** Sure, walked around the neighborhood. But they've also taken us on trips anywhere. The thing I always remember about Eastport School are the teachers who were totally dedicated to their profession.

I remember our former principal there, who taught like 50 years at Eastport, Jeannette Russell. A beautiful human being. I can't tell you what she did for me. And she was one of the people who first taught me that, "Hey, you know, you have the ability to go to college. You have the ability to be a professional. You're bright enough to do anything you want in life. And you should aspire. Nothing wrong. You be proud of your ancestors being oystermen and watermen. But if you want to be a doctor you can--or an attorney. Whatever you want to do, you can."

**WHALEY:** She was the first one?

**MOYER:** That really put that in my head, yes. And I always remember getting the results back on an Iowa test once. And it sort of set me apart from a lot of the students there. That type of thing and all. And she started working on me about that. Because I'd always insisted to her that I was quitting school in the eighth grade and I was going to go in the oyster--you know, get my own oyster boat. And she's the one of the first to talk to me about it.

And Elizabeth Harmon, who taught there 52 years. People like that. I mean, they were totally--it was their life's work, the children there. And I can't just tell you how much good they did for us and how much they helped.

**WHALEY:** Were your parents pretty much connected with the school in those days?

**MOYER:** My mother. It's one of the gifts--and I left this out--it was something I got from my grandmother, a feeling--and my mother, both--is how good they were with children. I could take the most troubled child in Eastport School--or they could--every year, until she got very ill about seven, eight years ago. Of course, she's since passed away. Up until then, she always was working with at least one child from the school.

**WHALEY:** Is that so?

**MOYER:** And you could take the ones that the courts had given up on virtually. You know, it was just chronic problems. I don't want to call any names that might embarrass somebody. I'll tell you who they were associated with. The Eastport Pharaohs, for example. Have you ever heard of them? The group that used to hang over here. The so-called biggest problem there would walk into my mother's living room and he'd call her Tutu. "Tutu, how ya doin'?"

She'd say, "Oh, how ya doin there, so and so?" Like that. He would just melt and never raise his voice. And they would become friends.

[End tape 1, side 1. Begin tape 1, side 2.]

**MOYER:** If Eastport School were to close down now and Leon's barbershop were to close, that would be the end of Eastport as I knew it.

**WHALEY:** Yes. Those are the two mainstays.

**MOYER:** Yes. And it was a great mixture over there. There was some redneckism in Eastport and all. But, for example, Leon Wolfe's family was a Jewish family. And they

took some rough times over it. But they were tough enough, you know. They could fight back and withstand--

WHALEY: (Inaudible portion) Irish (inaudible portion).

MOYER: Exactly.

WHALEY: Was there a lot of Irish in that community?

MOYER: Oh, yes, lots of Irish families.

WHALEY: A lot?

MOYER: Yes.

WHALEY: Would you say it was heavily Irish then? Or was it a pretty good mix?

MOYER: Mix, a pretty good mix. A lot of blacks. A lot of Irish--Irish-English. Very few Jewish families.

WHALEY: Some English?

MOYER: Yes, a lot of English and, of course, the Lewnes--Greek family. You know, the Lewnes family was Greek. And they were a central part of it because they owned the store and were totally accepted. And (inaudible) had to worry about the Lewneses because they could fight and were as good athletes as anybody over there, if not better.

So they became--Sam Lewnes, the grandfather--Papoo, as we called him--is still totally revered by old Eastporters. There was never a finer person you could ever meet in your life. He never served one beer to a person if he'd had too much to drink. He'd monitor his place. And you couldn't use bad language. And while it was a bar and all, he kept it as straight--you could bring your family there and no problems--the whole bit.

WHALEY: It's interesting to me that the Irish became watermen. Because I don't think of the Irish, ordinarily, as watermen. Although I know the north coast of Ireland--

MOYER: Oh, there the great ones over there.

**WHALEY:** Is that where they were from, northern Ireland?

**MOYER:** No, they were--

**WHALEY:** Southern?

**MOYER:** Yes, but I think most of them came from the--I don't know why. I don't know this to be so, but I think a lot of them had been watermen in their backgrounds, because they took to it so well here.

**WHALEY:** I just hadn't thought of it that way before.

**MOYER:** Oh, the Irish are great fishermen.

**WHALEY:** Well, I know they have great streams and so on.

You were taking me on a little tour around your neighborhood. Can you describe to me how you entertained yourselves as kids? For example, did you have a ball field or anything?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes, several.

**WHALEY:** Tell us about that.

**MOYER:** One was down at Horn Point, where Chesapeake Landing is now. There was a big empty field there. And that was the home of the Eastport Wildcats.

**WHALEY:** What was that?

**MOYER:** That was what our--our baseball and football team was known as the Wildcats. And we would play the Bone Crushers, up from this end of Eastport, right here, where this place is sitting, was the old Feldmeyer farm. And they had a big--

**WHALEY:** Right here?

**MOYER:** Right here. Right where we are now.

**WHALEY:** At the Harbor House?

**MOYER:** The Harbor House complex. It was the Feldmeyer's farm. And the Eastport Bone Crushers held forth up here. [Laughter] And that was the big rivalry. And every week we'd play. In between time we'd choose up and play amongst ourselves. But every day there was an athletic contest of some kind--a track meet we would improvise, or a baseball game, or a softball game, mostly softball.

**WHALEY:** And you played mostly there or here or back and forth?

**MOYER:** Back and forth. It was a whole thing. [Laughter] They'd walk down or ride their bicycles down and play us. Or we'd come up here and play. Or we might hike out through here and have all kinds of fun out in Truxton Park.

**WHALEY:** Well, Truxton Park wasn't a park. It was just a wooded area.

**MOYER:** A wooded area then, that's right.

**WHALEY:** So what did you do there?

**MOYER:** Just hiked through it and all. We'd fish off the banks and stuff. It was good perch fishing up this way. All I ever think about is that we'd either be fishing or doing something on the water or playing sports. That was our basic life. And, of course, we all had some kind of a little job of some type, like cutting grass. Mostly, I always would catch fish and crabs and sell them. That was my way of making money during the summers.

**WHALEY:** Do you remember the Depression?

**MOYER:** Yes. I remember the ends of it. I wasn't born till '34, but I remember in 1938 my father talking to my mother and saying, "Clara, I've got to do some extra work because we're going to have to buy \$10.00 worth of coal for this winter. And I still owe Mr. Holland \$5.00. And I've got to pay the man. He's been very good about it and all."

**WHALEY:** So it did hit?

**MOYER:** It did hit. But now Annapolis was much better off than most places, and Eastport. We didn't suffer like the rest of the places. Because the Academy usually--one person from each family had a job with the government somewhere. They wouldn't hire two or three, but they would hire one. Plus the fact you could always catch--you know, we all had gardens and stuff and we'd catch--there wasn't any cash to really throw around but I never remember really being, you know, any abject poverty in our family. We had more than most as far as--on account of my grandfather's ingenuity. And my father always had reasonable work.

**WHALEY:** Did you see other people suffering, though?

**MOYER:** Oh, I saw other people suffering. You know where Murphy Street--Jeremys Way is now?

**WHALEY:** No.

**MOYER:** That's down on First Street. And it runs down along the water. They call it Jeremys Way. There are some apartments there, right next to Chesapeake Landing.

**WHALEY:** Oh, yes, sure.

**MOYER:** That was called Burk (PHONETIC) Row and that was one of the poorest sections in Eastport. And usually families that didn't have much--you know, were hurting financially--lived down there. And they didn't dress as good as the other kids when they came to school and that type of thing. But very seldom did you ever see someone come in ragged to Eastport School. They might not have had any money, but their clothes were pressed and clean. And they looked nice. We had very, very few families that you would, you know--

**WHALEY:** Did anybody come without shoes?

**MOYER:** We never wore shoes in the summertime. But boy, going back to school you had to wear shoes. I never remember anybody coming to school barefooted. But I never put a pair of shoes on from the day school was out until the day I went back to school. That's one thing I forgot. And we'd even walk over to Annapolis and go the movie barefooted. You know, it was just a tradition. An Eastport boy went barefooted. — BOOK

Still to this day, when I'm not working and can get outside and all like that, I go around barefooted a lot. I still like to do it. The thing we used to always laugh about--your feet are so tender the first couple days but after that they become like rawhide. You know, they callous up and all. It was one of the great things, too, when I was a basketball player. A lot of basketball players have trouble with blisters or feet problems. I never had anything. Blister never bothered me because my feet were so tough from the summer, being in the saltwater and walking barefooted everywhere I went. [Laughter]

**WHALEY:** Well, I was just trying to think about the Depression times and how difficult it could have been for some people.

**MOYER:** Well, I can remember my father telling me how happy he was to get a job working on the streets for \$12.00 a week. He'd been unemployed for--but, you know--he told me about that.

**WHALEY:** What was his work, besides the water?

**MOYER:** Welder.

**WHALEY:** A welder?

**MOYER:** Yes.

**WHALEY:** So the welders were out of business?

**MOYER:** Everybody around there. It was hard finding work.

**WHALEY:** There were no boats being built?

**MOYER:** No. Things had really slowed down to a great point. And the Depression had hit. Eastport was much better off--and Annapolis--than most areas of the country. But, you know, they were feeling it. And, of course, I always remember them talking about when the banks failed here. You know, that was a big story.

**WHALEY:** Do you remember any real sad stories out of that Depression time here in Annapolis?

**MOYER:** I'll tell you a story I remember talking about in Annapolis because it's hard to believe. And I think this happened in the '20s. We had a man who was--he was, I guess, lynched--legally lynched, but he was lynched; an ice man by the name of Snowden. And the people used to talk about that a great deal. Where the old county jail was on Calvert Street, (inaudible) a black man--

**WHALEY:** Why was he lynched?

**MOYER:** A woman was murdered over in the area near where the Anne Arundel General Hospital is, one of those streets along there. And they couldn't find out who it was. But somebody had said, "Well, Snowden was the last person that was in there, delivering ice." And Snowden was a drinker and had a cantankerous personality. He had enemies, both in the black community and the white community resented him some because he wouldn't play the part of an Uncle Tom and all.

So he was picked up and charged with the murder. And a black woman was the key witness against him. And what later came out, because someone made a deathbed confession--another man, about 15-20 years later, he had actually killed the woman. And then the woman said later on that she was coerced into testifying against Snowden. But they still talk about him saying the Lord's Prayer as he went up on the gallows and all. His voice was quavering and all. It was a very hard thing. But definitely it was a lynching. He was

legally lynched. You know, it's a paradox.

WHALEY: How is it you use that word?

MOYER: Well, that's what I'm saying. I mean, he was hung under the law, but, you know, it was just a lynching. I mean, Annapolis has some skeletons in its closet. And some of that attitude still persisted when I got into sports and stuff--I mean, when I got into politics. The banking community was extremely prejudiced people. I remember one of the presidents of a bank here beating his fist on his table, saying, "And I thought I was freeing the slaves or something. What the hell's wrong with that young man?"

WHALEY: Good grief.

MOYER: That was in the '60s?

MOYER: '60s, yes. So there was still some of that within certain circles in Annapolis; innate, horrible prejudice.

WHALEY: Do you see any difference now?

MOYER: It's better, yes. But, you know, there's still some underlying things. The law doesn't hold people down anymore, however. There might be society itself or certain segments of the society. But, you know, the law--the social legislation of the '60s was just--you know, great miracles were performed during that time. It should have been done 100 years ago. But it was at least--thank heaven, it did get done.

WHALEY: Back to your neighborhood. There were two playing fields then.

MOYER: Well, Eastport School was there. Feldmeyer's farm. And then, down the Horn Point area. And there was an old apple orchard, that had a lot of room in it, we used to play down in, near the Horn Point area, also. That would be where Chester Avenue and First Street and Second Street run through.

WHALEY: Whose apple orchard was that?

**MOYER:** I think a family by the name of Elliott owned it. They owned a lot of property down in that area. And I think it was the Elliotts that owned it.

**WHALEY:** So there was a lot of open space?

**MOYER:** A great deal of open space. I still remember, like, patches of woods and gardens and all, all through Eastport. Probably one-fifth as many homes down through here. And, of course, this whole area where we're sitting right now was just a huge farm and woods. The Feldmeyers had it. That's one of the things I remember.

In fact, the thing that's hard for me to believe now is up until 1970 I knew everybody in Eastport, from Sixth Street down to Horn Point and across the peninsula--in other words, the old, lower, Eastport peninsula. I knew everybody \_\_\_\_\_. I might not have known them well, but I knew everybody. Today I know about one in ten. And I've lived here every day of my life with the exception of going away to college and the Army.

**WHALEY:** So it's really an influx?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. It's changed a great deal. And, of course, we never dreamed that they'd be paying the real estate prices that are now. I personally think it'll probably, in another 30 or 40 years--maybe 50 years, but probably not that long, probably 30 years--Eastport probably will be one of the most expensive communities in the United States.

See, its closeness to Washington and Baltimore is going to dictate that. And you can live here and still commute. You can sail and that type of thing. And I think you'll see probably another entrance into Eastport, either through a tunnel or another bridge, probably another tunnel. I'm saying that. I even look for the day when, at some of the lower areas--see, in Eastport, that peninsula is extremely low. It's only a couple feet above sea level. High tides used to wash up across a good part of the peninsula. I could see--like, maybe where Third Street or Second Street are--a canal being cut through from Spa Creek to Back

Creek.

**WHALEY:** Really?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. And I just think that homes will be selling--you know, you won't hear of anything over here for less than \$1,000,000.

**WHALEY:** Good grief.

**MOYER:** That's just an opinion. I could be wrong. Now, I called what happened here. I said this many years ago. I told my friends and all, in the early '60s--you know, "Invest in downtown Annapolis. Because we're going to pass an Historic District ordinance and once that's passed, and when everybody's property is protected, it's going to be astronomical what happens to real estate prices." Well, it happened. And then three years later I said, "Now move to the Eastport peninsula. It's going to be incredible there."

Unfortunately, I didn't have the finances to do it myself or my mind never worked that way. All my family are much better business people than me. They're much more conscious of the dollar and saving. I was always geared toward the social aspect of life. In other words, you know--my political enemies used to always say, "He's just a social worker."

[Laughter]

**WHALEY:** Thank God we have you.

**MOYER:** I don't know about that. How I'd sum it up with Eastport is just like I say, it was all family there. You felt like everybody was really related to you, growing up there.

**WHALEY:** Was there a lot of caring for each other?

**MOYER:** Oh, absolutely.

**WHALEY:** How would that manifest itself?

**MOYER:** How did it manifest? For example, if my grandmother were to cook--or I remember the Brown family, Martin Brown and his mother--whenever she cooked, she would

cook for the neighborhood. You know, you could run in there if you were hungry and get a bowl of soup or a sandwich. And that was just accepted. If somebody came by and said, "My, that smells good, Mrs. Lewis,"--that was my grandmother--she would say, "Well, come on in and have some."

And if one of your children or your brother or someone had outgrown a sweater that no one else in the family could use, perhaps the neighbor or the person down the street could use it. And you'd pass those kinds of things back and forth.

**WHALEY:** Was there a lot of visiting back and forth?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes, every evening we would gather on each other's porches and stuff--different families.

**WHALEY:** Was that just the kids?

**MOYER:** No, no, the adults and all, a lot of those people.

**WHALEY:** What would you do?

**MOYER:** Sit there and talk about different things that were going on and all. And just exchange, you know, comments about what each other planned to do. Just general conversation. Extremely close-knit community. It was more like family than just neighbors.

**WHALEY:** (Inaudible portion) with the blacks, too? Would they share your porch?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. Oh, sure. At least with my particular segment of the family and my mother and father, yes--especially my mother. Miss Clara was known as sort of a patron of the community. She was always taking care of people and doing things and all. When I ran for public life the first time, as alderman, I was only 26 years old. It was really my mother getting elected, not me. [Laughter] Or Miss Clara's boy.

**WHALEY:** How about family outings and things like that? Did you do much of that kind of thing?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. But it was always by boat, the family outings. And we'd go up to Truxton Park. It was nice swimming up there then. Or over to Carr's Creek, where Greenbury Point is now. That was a great beach there. We'd go there and spend, like Fourth of July. That was a tradition to go there by boat.

**WHALEY:** The whole family?

**MOYER:** Yes, swim.

**WHALEY:** Many of you?

**MOYER:** Aunts, uncles, cousins--40, 50.

**WHALEY:** Oh, my goodness.

**MOYER:** Big family. It was a prolific family.

**WHALEY:** How many brothers and sisters do you have?

**MOYER:** I only have one sister. But my mother was one of nine children. And all the girls had from, like, two to five, six children themselves. There was a lot of cousins. There were 19 of us cousins. Two have died. One was killed in a terrible accident and another one passed away a few years back. It was 19 of us grandchildren. And, of course, they all married and had families.

**WHALEY:** So you'd all go up on the Fourth of July?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes.

**WHALEY:** How many boats were involved?

**MOYER:** About two boats. They had big oyster boats. You know, the old (inaudible), sure. The old \_\_\_\_\_, as they used to use here.

**WHALEY:** Describe to me about getting ready for that. That must have been something.

**MOYER:** Oh, my God. The potatoes being cooked and all. Getting ready and all. Gallons of potato salad. And all types of lunch meats. Things like that. And fried fish. Crab cakes

were, of course, you know, a staple. That was part of us.

WHALEY: So you'd bundle all that up. But you didn't cook when you got there?

MOYER: Oh, no, no. All precooked and all. Of course, you'd carry--you know, plenty of ice tea and things like that. Lemonade was a big drink. No alcohol.

WHALEY: Did your family get alcohol during the Prohibition days?

MOYER: Oh, yes, always.

WHALEY: How did they get it?

MOYER: From bootleggers around.

WHALEY: And were there many bootleggers around?

MOYER: There were a couple well-known ones around, too. And, of course, the people were confident and looked up to them really. Because, you know, they were--

WHALEY: How do you mean that?

MOYER: Well, just felt that they were a very central part of the community. [Laughter]

My family didn't drink a lot, but about one night a week my grandfather would entertain.

And some of his political buddies and stuff would come over. And that's how they had the connection with the bootleggers.

WHALEY: I see.

MOYER: Grandmother was very much against any kind of alcohol of any type. And most of my aunts and uncles are the same way. Very few of them drink any at all. We had a tragedy back in--it was my great-uncles, two great-uncles, that lost their lives to bootleg whiskey. Someone had made poison whiskey. And one of them, after having drank it, got to the railroad track and was hit by a train. And then the other one died from the results of the poison liquor about four days later. So just a horrible, suffering death.

WHALEY: They had purchased it?

MOYER: Up in the county somewhere, in Anne Arundel County. And then it was poisoned.

WHALEY: How awful.

MOYER: It was tough. And that runs through the family, the resentment toward that kind of thing--you know, toward alcohol.

WHALEY: When was that? Would that have been in the '30s?

MOYER: Yes, late '20s. I think the late '20s, whenever Prohibition was in. The late '20s or early '30s. It's on the tombstone out there, the John Brown.

WHALEY: It is a John Brown?

MOYER: John Brown and Roland Brown are the two names there.

WHALEY: And they both died?

MOYER: Both died, yes.

WHALEY: Of the same batch?

MOYER: The same batch, yes.

WHALEY: There must have been other deaths, too, then?

MOYER: I think there was. There were quite a few from that batch, or permanent injuries from it and all, and men who were never the same again; either blindness or stomachs just eaten up.

WHALEY: That's awful.

MOYER: That is terrible.

WHALEY: Well, it's a terribly hard way to learn a lesson, but I guess it affected everybody else and kept them away from it. Were there any other stories from Prohibition that you recall?

**MOYER:** Just some of the places down in Annapolis. I don't want to call any names now. But for example, right at Chester Avenue, right across from where Ellen lives presently, was a house that was known as sort of a place--a lady of the evening ran it. And you could get your bootleg booze and all there.

**WHALEY:** Right on Chester Avenue?

**MOYER:** Right on Chester Avenue, yes. It was a rather famous place. Because one of my uncles used to go up there. He has since passed away. He was like 80. He'd be 85 now. He passed away, I think, three years ago. He was 82. But he used to go down there and spend the evening quite often. [Laughter] I used to hear him talk about it. It was sort of hush-hush, but I'd hear him talking about it.

**WHALEY:** I wonder who owns that place now. Is it still existing?

**MOYER:** It's still existing. The house is still there.

**WHALEY:** Right across from Ellen's?

**MOYER:** Yes, right across from Ellen. If you looked out of her front door toward your left--about three doors to your left and across the street--it was a brown, shingled house for many years. I don't know if they've recovered it now or not. It's a rather substantial-looking bungalow-type home.

**WHALEY:** Were there other houses of ladies of the evening?

**MOYER:** In Annapolis? I don't know them but I've heard people talk about them, yes.

**WHALEY:** So even though it's a small town it had its share?

**MOYER:** It had its share, that's right, of good-time places.

**WHALEY:** What about other places? As you were growing up, where did you go to high school?

MOYER: Annapolis High. My people before me went at Green Street. It was at Green Street. When I went to high school, it was at Amos Garrett.

WHALEY: Oh, yes.

MOYER: And we went to Green Street for our seventh grade. And that was a little difficult for me, leaving Eastport and going over to that school. It took me a little time to adjust.

WHALEY: Into Green Street?

MOYER: Yes.

WHALEY: That seemed a long way off?

MOYER: Yes, it did. I don't know why but it seemed totally different to me. It was one of the bad years I had in school; one of the few bad ones, but I did have a bad year there.

WHALEY: What would that have been? The seventh grade?

MOYER: The seventh grade. So I would have been, like--

WHALEY: (Inaudible portion) hardest year for--

MOYER: '46, '47, somewhere in there. Once I got to Annapolis High I loved it out there. Because I became part of the sports program there and all. And I was a big jock, as they say. [Laughter] And back in the '50s, if you were an athlete--that was the thing to be in those days.

WHALEY: Oh, was it?

MOYER: Yes.

WHALEY: That was the big thing?

MOYER: Yes. [Laughter]

WHALEY: Was their plenty of social activity involved with high school?

MOYER: High school was like a big family again. The town paid so much attention. And everything that the high school was doing was known around the town. Like the sporting

events were attended by people from the community. And, you know, we were totally part of the community and part of each other out there, extremely close. There were about 800 students at Annapolis High then. And we all knew each other. It was a very, very great atmosphere.

**WHALEY:** And do you keep up with those people now?

**MOYER:** Yes. Oh, sure. A lot of them I still see around. I'll tell you an interesting thing. The fellow that sells papers in front of St. Mary's Church every Sunday morning, Tommy Stewart--he's been doing that for 50 years.

**WHALEY:** He didn't go to school with you?

**MOYER:** No, he graduated with me. He started when he was about five years old, or six years old--doing it there.

**WHALEY:** I am so interested that you told me his name, because for all these years I have seen him and never have known his name.

**MOYER:** Tommy Stewart.

**WHALEY:** And sometimes he speaks and sometimes he doesn't.

**MOYER:** Just go up and introduce yourself to him. And tell him you know me and I was telling you how long he'd been there.

**WHALEY:** I will.

**MOYER:** It's close to 50 years. It's close to 50 years that he's been doing it. Every Sunday morning, rain or shine.

**WHALEY:** Does he do anything besides sell papers?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes. He has a job, either with the state or someone there. He's probably close to retirement now. He and I graduated from high school together.

**WHALEY:** He's been doing that since he was--

MOYER: Five, six years old.

WHALEY: Who was he doing it with?

MOYER: By himself. He just started.

WHALEY: At that age?

MOYER: Yes, very young. Very young.

WHALEY: So he's a fixture, really.

MOYER: Fixture there, yes.

WHALEY: How interesting.

MOYER: Well, things in Eastport (inaudible). For example, my first haircut when I was three years old--Leon Wolfe cut my hair.

WHALEY: You remember that?

MOYER: Very well. I remember it plain as day.

WHALEY: Well, that's interesting. Do have any memory before that haircut?

MOYER: Yes, I got some. I can remember back to about two years old very well.

WHALEY: What things do you recall?

MOYER: I have an exceptional memory. First, being taught how to fish, going down to the boat. You know, you never go down to the water by yourself. We never had a fatality that I remember in our family. And with all those children. You know what I mean? And with the generations. And we were around the water constantly. We never had a bad accident or fatality due to the water. And that showed an incredible training that was instilled in me.

I mean, it was absolutely unforgivable if you did something--like, for example, if a storm was coming and you went out in a boat. It was, like, 30 days, not only of punishment, but shame. You know, "You're a jackass!" You know, "What is wrong with you?" And that was instilled in you; the dos and don'ts in a boat or around the water. Because you knew

how you could lose a life so easily. And yet every year people coming from out of town or something would have a drowning or two around here.

**WHALEY:** That's right.

**MOYER:** Because they violated safety. They didn't realize what could happen out there.

**WHALEY:** So your first haircut was with Leon?

**MOYER:** Leon.

**WHALEY:** When you were three. And he had been cutting hair there for how long, I wonder?

**MOYER:** I think Leon started cutting hair about 1934. It was not in his present place; it was up the street from him. The building is still there with the old shop. But Leon's been cutting hair in Eastport for well over 50 years, almost 60 years.

**WHALEY:** I bet you still go to him.

**MOYER:** Oh, yes.

**WHALEY:** So does my husband.

**MOYER:** We meet there every Saturday morning, the Eastporters basically. And more often than not, I'm there for the meeting, the bull session.

**WHALEY:** Every Saturday?

**MOYER:** Yes, just about every Saturday morning. I don't get a haircut every Saturday morning. But we go and we talk.

**WHALEY:** What time do you go in there?

**MOYER:** I get there about 8:30 and stay till about 9:30 or 10:00 every Saturday morning.

**WHALEY:** Is that right?

**MOYER:** Yes.

**WHALEY:** So it's usually the Eastporters? And have you been doing that for many years?

**MOYER:** Ever since I was a child.

**WHALEY:** So even during the 1940s and '50s you were doing that?

**MOYER:** Yes. Oh, yes.

**WHALEY:** So that's been a gathering place then?

**WHALEY:** And what do you all talk about?

**MOYER:** Politics, sports, mostly politics. Eastport was always very active politically. You know, you had some of the most famous local politicians: Joe Griscom, who was in politics many years, and Joe Walton--you know, all grew up in Eastport.

**WHALEY:** No. I didn't know that Joe had. I probably did, but it just escaped me.

**MOYER:** Yes. He grew up in Eastport. I remember Joe's father very well, the old Sheriff Walton.

**WHALEY:** And what about McCready? Where was he from?

**MOYER:** Annapolis. Willis McCready. He was one of the more substantial or prominent Annapolitans we had. We would consider--the Eastport men--as having money--him--McCready's furniture store and all.

**WHALEY:** I remember it (inaudible).

**MOYER:** Names you always think of as the "prominents" in Annapolis: Lazenby, Melvin--you know, Clark. Names like that were always very--you know, prominent and prestigious.

**WHALEY:** Well, have you got any other stories that you really want to share with me?

**MOYER:** Oh, yes, I'll give you a story. Just some different things that you remember. For example, Beth, one of the things is putting the mast in a sailboat. They didn't have cranes and all in those days so--you're fighting leverage all the way--so it took very strong men to do it. So whenever they had a particularly big one or something, you'd always hear, "Go get Lightening Strikney" (PHONETIC), or "Wally Strikney." Sometimes they called him

"Lightening Willy." He was a huge, black man--one of the strongest humans I've ever seen in my life. He looked like Gargantua. I mean, he was just so big and strong. And what a wonderful person. A handsome, big man.

**WHALEY:** Did he live in Eastport?

**MOYER:** He lived in Eastport. He just passed away a few years back. He was 90-some years old. And I used to see him and talk to him. And I could stand there as a grown man--I mean, I'm 50 years old and I'm standing there talking to this man about my grandfather. He and my grandfather were contemporaries. That's what you call really going back.

But I always remember those kinds of things, the interplay of life in Eastport. Men were known for what they could do. But it was usually, basically, going back to physical strength or ability in some trade. And usually dealing with the water because that's what everything was geared to here. You know, it's a peninsula. You could roll a ball in Eastport from any street to the water. Either way you rolled it, it would go to the water. You know, it's almost an island. It was our total orientation.

It's not that way any more. People make their lives in so many different areas. I think maybe there are one or two watermen left in Eastport. The Mahoney boys.

And, of course, one of the legendary people I haven't talked about much, the Saddler family, Herbie Saddler. He taught so many of the Eastporters about the water. I learned so much from him about the water, going out with him and all. He'd be out crabbing. He'd have seven, eight, ten boys on the boat, young guys just hanging around--you know, with him and all. He was just always good to everybody, he and Mrs. Saddler. Their home was always open to the kids. They gave us a party when we went back to school every year and tell us how important education was. And they were working hard for their money.

**WHALEY:** Oh, isn't that neat?

**MOYER:** They didn't have a lot in those days, as far as finances are concerned. But just good people. I can't tell you how many good things Herbie and Gladys Saddler did for the kids of Eastport.

**WHALEY:** Isn't that wonderful.

**MOYER:** Just wonderful people.

**WHALEY:** You really do feel committed to everybody here. Well, what about this large man that you told me about that helped with the mast? How did that work?

**MOYER:** Well, you have to get a mast. You pick it up like that and you almost start wrestling it up. You start working it on board like you're bear-hugging it until you take it and tilt it so it goes straight up like that. Then it drops down into the hole for the mast. And it took enormous strength to do that.

**WHALEY:** One person couldn't do it?

**MOYER:** Well, basically it's one man who gets the main hold on it. And he has to be the strongest person, who, of course, Willy was. [Laughter]

**WHALEY:** Well, that's really interesting.

**MOYER:** Well, I hope this helps some.

**WHALEY:** It's very valuable to us. I really mean it. And I appreciate, very much, you letting me come. I know how busy you are.

**MOYER:** You bet. I'll talk to my cousin in the next day or two. And if he can get his mother, my Aunt Leanne, ready for it, we'll go down there and try to get some of her pictures out and all. She can tell you a lot of things.

**WHALEY:** Oh, that would be wonderful if you can.

[End of interview]