

**Interview with James Allison on:  
Fishing and boating in Chatham, Massachusetts (circa 1950s)  
Track One  
(29:38)**

**Brief Description:**

In this audio file, James Allison discusses some of his experiences of living in Chatham. He begins by talking about his father's job as a light house keeper and then transitions into his own service at the Monomoy Life Saving Station. Allison then goes on to discuss matters of boating. This includes engines, personal boat trips, and helping stranded boaters. Intermixed throughout this audio file, is Mr. Allison's interactions with locals.

**Beginning of Audio:**

And Mr. Jim Allison of West Chatham is recording his recollections of Chatham of long, long years ago for the Chatham Historical Society.

**Interviewer:** When were you born, Jim?

**Mr. Allison:** 1891.

**Interviewer:** 1891.

**Mr. Allison:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Interviewer:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Were you born in Chatham?

**Mr. Allison:** No, I was born in Rockport, Mass.

**Interviewer:** I see. And you came to Chatham pretty soon...

**Mr. Allison:** 1908.

**Interviewer:** I see.

**Mr. Allison:** My father went on the lighthouse in Thacher's Arm in 1900, yeah, 1900. And he was there until 1908 and then he came to Chatham. He was a lighthouse keeper.

**Interviewer:** Here in Chatham, at Monomoy?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh no, no.

**Interviewer:** Here in Chatham. And he was here for a long time wasn't he?

**Mr. Allison:** Well, he died 1976 and he was still in the lighthouse service. [Indiscernible] station [Indiscernible] I think he stayed two or three years in the service.

**Unidentified person:** Was that Monomoy station?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Interviewer and Mr. Allison:** No, that was Chatham.

**Mr. Allison:** Lighthouse down there, Chatham Lighthouse.

**Unidentified person:** Oh, Chatham Light.

**Mr. Allison:** Oh yeah, I was on Monomoy Point Station

**Unidentified person:** Oh were you?

**Mr. Allison:** And I moved up to, I moved up to Chatham Station which was brand new, on the hill there.

**Unidentified person:** Oh yeah, yeah. Well that was Cooker.

**Mr. Allison:** Eh?

**Unidentified person:** That was the Lifesaving Service?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, it was part of the Coast Guard.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, yeah that's right.

**Mr. Allison:** Well I was in there during the War too.

**Unidentified person:** Were you?

**Mr. Allison:** I was there seven years.

**Unidentified person:** Quite a while.

**Mr. Allison:** I was one year with Richie Handler down there at Boat House, Indian Point.

**Unidentified person:** Oh yeah, yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** And we was just a year there, and then they took the boat away from us and gave it to Monomoy Station, there was another station on Monomoy—and you know, happy for them.

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Mr. Allison:** Captain Pierce got [indiscernible]...big boat. We kept our big boat in the Point, you see? On account of [indiscernible]. And then I went back to Monomoy Point Station and Richie didn't want to go to Monomoy. Clyde Worth took care of the boat; he was something of an engineer. He was up on that station anyhow...

**Interviewer:** Is that so?

**Mr. Allison:** ...and he'd go back and forth everyday, it was only a little way, half a mile. So they didn't keep anybody there all winter [indiscernible]. And he, Rip Pierce got to get the boat. Captain Keller was glad to get rid of it. He had charge of it down at, it was under his station at Monomoy Point, see, Captain Bill Keller.

**Interviewer:** Was it a motorized boat or...

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, it was a big one; a 36 footer [indiscernible]

**Interviewer:** Oh gosh.

**Mr. Allison:** It [indiscernible] what's the name of it? It had cabins on both ends, had a [indiscernible] engine in the back, of course the engine was different.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, different kind of engine today.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** I don't know...I think... I don't know what the name of that engine was and I took [indiscernible] I think.

**Interviewer:** What did they use such a big boat for?

**Mr. Allison:** Well we had to go a way off, all the wrecks you know, down at Monomoy Point, a lot of tide and things. Sometime you had to go and rowing is too bad, too hard to go. And she was [indiscernible] too...

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Mr. Allison:** ...Go out on the water and it would suck these boats down, you know? They got better now, faster. She was very slow; she didn't have power on her. But she, get going and coming is well for bringing people in, see? We brought quite a lot of fellas in from vessels, you know?

**Interviewer:** Well, it wasn't as risky as going out in a dory. [Laughter]

**Mr. Allison:** Oh no, no. It wasn't... I did [indiscernible] in a dory.

**Interviewer:** Had you? Why?

**Mr. Allison:** You take one person in the dory and you could go across the ocean [slight laugh]. She won't be in the water [indiscernible].

**Interviewer:** Why is it better than a big...

**Mr. Allison:** Well, the dory is so light she floats on top of everything, you see?

**Interviewer:** Oh, I see. Doesn't ship so much...

**Mr. Allison:** Big powerboat plows through it like a steamer.

**Interviewer:** And it doesn't shift so much water I suppose as a big boat would.

**Mr. Allison:** Well a dory—plenty of water come aboard a dory if it's real rough...

**Interviewer:** Yes.

[Mumbled, intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** ...Yeah. and real windy but they're safe, you see, one of the safest boats there is.

**Interviewer:** Did you, did you do any rescuing when you were down in Monomoy?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, a lot of times. [Slight laugh] I can't tell you how many I went to. A lot of vessels going in, three masters, you know, and they get up off, off here, off Chatham Bars, and from then on going up over the shoals, they call it. To the south end, going up by Monomoy Point—to the southerners, all that Sturnoff's Shoal, you know, and those [indiscernible] dug it. And a vessel get up on there, you know, and the [indiscernible] shore [indiscernible] but a lot of them get to shore and there's a guzzle, you see. What we'd do, they get ashore, we'd go out there in high water, you could get 'em off; then, in the nighttime, [slight laugh] we'd leave 'em in the guzzle, anchor 'em you see. Next morning, get up go out to Mast Head and look to see where the guzzle went out towards the channel maybe, and you'd see up there, see the whole channel, see—I used to go up there usually, when I was younger—and...

**Interviewer:** Well, what do you mean by a guzzle?

**Mr. Allison:** Guzzle is a... deep water. Chatham still...

[Intermixed chatter]

**Unidentified person:** ...talk about the channel.

**Interviewer:** ...channel where the waters running quickly.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Unidentified person:** ...you have to maneuver your boat to go through otherwise... there's dry land on both sides with a couple of feet of water.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, it might be three or four feet deeper [indiscernible] ...threats and white caps, you know.

**Unidentified person:** You can't just walk out, in other words.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Well, the tide does it. The tide cuts him out and it changes too, year after year; you can't tell. And then of course they built the new channel while I was down there, for three years doing that. They call it the... they call it... [indiscernible] I don't know what they call it. [Indiscernible]. The other one, the other one come in towards Monomoy Point from the anchorage.

**Unidentified person:** Yup.

**Mr. Allison:** ...down to Monomoy Point and out to the Public Pier, you see, [indiscernible]. But this one come right from the anchorage, right straight out on the pier; cut right across the anchorage of the Sonar Shoal, see?

**Unidentified person:** Yup.

**Mr. Allison:** But they don't do that no more now, it's all filled up. [Intermixed chatter] Talking about doing something about it... [slight laugh]

**Interviewer:** How many shoals were there? There was probably...

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, there's shoals all over. Shoals all over. Public drip and there's the wreck—what we used to call the wreck—down there, that was right in the middle of the channel [slight laugh].

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Some big yacht sunk there. -Run into her... [indiscernible]. When the *Tyler Moore* got on there, on the barge too one time and she broke in half. My mother in law was born there and she was carrying my wife, you know? I was born for seven months long. Anyhow, she... that's where she was ship wrecked, Monomoy, Monomoy Station. Then, they didn't have anyone on lifesaving station then. That's before they, Max, William H. Max...

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Mr. Allison:** Axeman? And [indiscernible] ...she was born seven months after it. Well they got her ashore, it wasn't a very bad night though, and father in law... I took it that the tug boat went through there, there were three bodies coming from Westart to go to the Cove

**Interviewer:** Oh yeah?

**Mr. Allison:** And I can't tell you what the fella's name was but the barge's name was *Sulo*, a great big old ship barge and could tow a lot of a water and made it over into a barge, you see? And, *Sulo* was the name. And they parted, the last barge used to tow three barges, see?

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Mr. Allison:** ...and the last barge parted going over the shoals, you know, and hit bottom but I don't think he did but anyhow, he parted. And [indiscernible] and they kept, the tow boat kept a-going but he hollered at the old man, you know, to "go outside the channel a little ways," and he said "anchor, I'll be back to get you in the morning." He couldn't make-up a tow down the middle of that channel, see?

**Unidentified person:** Sure.

**Mr. Allison:** ... tight run and everything. There were two wool beds, you know? So he took it by Boston and he come back this morning but the Coast Guard, the lifesaving post, the Monomoy Station had to go off and get him. And of course Dan Hardman was with him; that was his brother, when Tyler Moore was captain, Captain Thanos Hardman, see, he was with him as one of the crew, and Sally Howes. You remember Sally Howes?

**Interviewer:** Sally Howes...

**Mr. Allison:** Manovich's father?

**Interviewer:** No.

**Mr. Allison:** Afterwards, he was keeper of the Monomoy Station.

**Interviewer:** No, I don't remember...

**Mr. Allison:** Well he was with him as one, one of two sailors, Dan and him. I think his name was Charles D. Howes or something. Anyhow...

**Interviewer:** Did they rescue the man and the Captain from the barge?

**Unidentified person:** Well, didn't he go lobstering or something?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** Charlie Howes?

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** I don't think so. Might of, I don't know. Of course another Charlie Howes used to run the fish pier there. [Indiscernible].

[Intermixed chatter]

**Interviewer and Unidentified person:** That's the one I'm thinking of.

**Mr. Allison:** His name was Charlie Howes too... Well, now this Charlie Howes, he was on the Lifesaving Station all the time and finally got keeper of Monomoy Station. And he got foolish, he needed a good job, he did not do a damn thing he know... and [indiscernible] that tug just [indiscernible] market down there?

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

[Indiscernible] and the next house to it or something... I don't know, but that's the same house. No, another house I usually lived in. Anyhow, he kept putting them on the log when he was down in Monomoy, kept putting them on the log, had book drills, book drills, you know? On certain days, on two days he didn't have it, storm you know, he just put it down. Somebody, [indiscernible] then he come down to investigate it Friday so he lost his job...

**Interviewer:** Too bad.

**Mr. Allison:** ...He was keeper but nobody supposed to know that. [Interviewer laughs]. After that, I don't know what he done. I guess he might went fishing around herd, I can't... [indiscernible].

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** And then they had another son too. What the hell was his name now...

**Unidentified person:** Leo, did you ever go fishing off-shore here?

**Mr. Allison:** Who me?

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, yeah. I never went trawling. I've been fishing all my life as a kid.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** We had a dory and I used to go fishing.

**Interviewer:** What'd you fish for?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, I used to go with Billy, Bill Moore in winter times in a big catboat down, down to Monomoy Point, used to go up. Used to keep our boat outside the bridge 'cause the cat boats didn't get as mad you couldn't get up four months a year unless you took the mast out [indiscernible]...

**Unidentified person:** They went out of Stage Harbor then?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah. And everybody kept their boat out there then...

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** ...all the Bloomers and everybody, in the winter time.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Some hauled them up, you know. And then Hellna, Hellna's father used to haul his boat up and [indiscernible] mast and he'd go under the bridge. Then I went some with Billy then I went some with scalloping with Calvin Hammond, you remember him?

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Mr. Allison:** Had the store [indiscernible]. I went with him, let's see, four years I guess.

**Interviewer:** When you go fishing with somebody like that, do you go shares?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, you get half. Take a fifth out for the boat and take two-fifths each a piece; two-fifths a piece, two men.

**Interviewer:** I see.

**Mr. Allison:** That's all we used there. Used to go [indiscernible]. Didn't set trawls in those days, didn't set trawls around here either. Before the Portuguese got here and then come up here, you know, from Provincetown. I don't think it's been too many years.

**Interviewer:** That's right.

**Unidentified person:** They came up here because they got buyers down there now.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah.

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible] ...that's the only reason they come here, don't have to go way back to Provincetown.



**Mr. Allison:** And the buyers are in because they used to get John McKay here [indiscernible].

**Unidentified person:** Yup.

**Mr. Allison:** John [Indiscernible] in two different ones.

**Unidentified person:** Either that or trawl them down there, did you?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** George Bloomer, and them fellas in the spring, all go down and get lobster bait off the traps you know, skates and things, and they'd take the heads from the fish and salt them and they'd go fishing down there, see. They lived down there.

**Unidentified person:** Oh yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** They say old George washing them with his wife, what the devil was her name now, [slight laugh] [indiscernible] she was a little woman but she was tough, I tell you. George would go out fishing, he and young Georgie you know, would go out to harvest with his father.

**Unidentified person:** Oh yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** He was a young fella then. He'd go out in the catboat and get a lot of fish. And then he'd come in and get skate cleaned off the traps—this was when they first got the traps in—and then she'd give them something to eat and send them right out fishing again. She dressed the fish and then salted them and dressed the skates and salted them. And then she'd get supper and then they'd have to dress the fish [indiscernible]. They wouldn't get through until late in the evening sometimes. But they only went salt fishing in the spring, see? And then they'd take the catboat and get a whole load of salt fish out of the pickle and take them to Patty and sell them to Dee and Kelly.

**Unidentified person:** They didn't, they didn't dry them out first then?

**Mr. Allison:** No, not them. They didn't. I don't think so. I never knew them to.

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible] know to do some drying?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, they used to. The Eldredges do it.

[Intermixed talking]

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible] ...I used to go out with him once and awhile in summer time.

**Mr. Allison:** ...yeah. He used to sell, he used to sell to fish buyers, you know, fish peddlers.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** He had peddlers all over the Cape [indiscernible] used to come to him. I know there was one from Harwich center there, old man, I forgot what his name was. He used to come religiously every time Howard went out fishing. And Howard would go by there every day he could get out. And then he had Robbins there, you know, he used to come from Dennis Port and used to sell him fish you know. He'd buy all the fish you know and that would be it.

**Interviewer:** Did they, do they ice it to keep it fresh or did they pickle it in barrels?

**Mr. Allison:** No, you sell them fresh to the peddler, the peddler the fish peddler.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Interviewer:** Yeah, a horse and wagon, I remember the year...

**Mr. Allison:** Well they had cars, they had cars.

**Interviewer:** Did they?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, they had trucks. Before that they didn't. They had horse [indiscernible]

**Interviewer:** Yes.

**Mr. Allison:** In my time, 1900, after that they had a few trucks around. [Indiscernible]. Before in Rockport, in 1908, you know, figured it was a good time to get groceries, they'd offer to bring, bring you down three miles down [indiscernible] cove, and then you'd go a mile [indiscernible] and they just all had truck cars, not what we call truck cars, they're just delivery wagons, you know. I don't know if they had house or not [slight laugh] I guess they had a top so they wouldn't [indiscernible].

**Unidentified person:** Well some of them were open.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah. Most of 'em [Intermixed chatter] ...yeah, most of them were all open [indiscernible] ...is what you call them.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, I remember as a little girl there was one that came to our house and it had curtains that rolled up...

**Mr. Allison:** Sure. That was [indiscernible]... roll them up and tie them up.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** That's what they had when I was there.

**Interviewer:** ...scales hanging on the back [slight laugh].

**Mr. Allison:** [Indiscernible]

**Unidentified person:** I lived in the city and they used to go around and it had a horn that would blow, a fish finder.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, oh yeah.

**Unidentified person:** It was all, "Fish on," is what I used to call it.

**Mr. Allison:** Here comes the fish man...

**Unidentified person:** Yup. "Haddock, Haddock!"

**Mr. Allison:** Haddock? Yeah.

[Laughter]

[Indiscernible].

**Interviewer:** Well, do you think the fish are any more plentiful now than they were...

**Mr. Allison:** About the same I guess...

**Interviewer:** ...50 years ago?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, there must have been more fish but they got better ways of catching them: drags and things. Yeah, if they relied on their hang lines like they used to, they wouldn't get so many.

**Unidentified person:** Well how long were you there on Strong Island there? Working for the...

**Mr. Allison:** I was there 26 years.

**Unidentified person:** 26 years?

**Mr. Allison:** They built that place in 1936.

**Interviewer:** On Strong Island?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** Mr. Potter bought it.

**Unidentified person:** Oh yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah.

**Unidentified person:** I know he used to come across that place sometime.

**Mr. Allison:** [Indiscernible] ...oar. Every once and awhile I'd come ashore, I'd stop and see him, you know. [Intermixed chatter] And have a chat, you know. He said, "I'm going over there sometime," Jeremy says. I get about here and he had a little skiff down there or something.

**Unidentified person:** It was an outboard.

**Mr. Allison:** It had an outboard on it?

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Think he did?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** ...but he never got there. I don't know. I always thought, maybe he didn't feel good or something. I was going over there every time.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Unidentified person:** ...we let Tommy take that outboard. Friend of his came down one weekend and he [indiscernible] and we tried to get it fixed up but we couldn't get the outboard fixed up so. We took it over to, in the fall, over to Allen Harbor.

**Mr. Allison:** Oh yeah.

**Unidentified person:** And they offered to take the thing 'cause they had to take the whole thing apart. Why they wanted it because the stuff was made out of brass. All of the parts, you know, except for the motor. And they wanted to run around the harbor with it.

**Mr. Allison:** Sure. Who did you say he was?

**Unidentified person:** Ruth [Indiscernible] ...Bob Moore. [Intermixed chatter] ...oh, Allen. Allen Harbor.

**Mr. Allison:** Ruth. Do you know Ruth?

**Interviewer:** No.

**Unidentified person:** No, no I say...

**Interviewer:** Your father.

**Unidentified person:** A friend of my father's.

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, a friend of your father's.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, we let him borrow it...

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah.

**Unidentified person:** ...didn't have enough oil in it.

**Mr. Allison:** Oh I see.

**Unidentified person:** ...so he froze the cylinder.

**Mr. Allison:** Well, when they first come out, they had all kinds of trouble with them.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** I never liked them. I know when they first came out, the young fellas used to get them out over the Bay there; first they'd get as far as they could and then stop and then some would come tow, and I towed them in a lot of times over there. And then they got them better and better. A lot of times you got to hit the shift in, you know, break that [indiscernible]. They had a lot of trouble with them outboards when they first started.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, and you know that the cylinders were all sticking out in the air.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah.

**Unidentified person:** So that if you shift any water at all, it all goes right over the starboard and kills the engine.

**Mr. Allison:** [Slight laugh] Mr. Potter, Mr. Potter wanted to buy me one. I said, "I don't want no outboard. A dory is good enough for me." I took that boat 26 years and never had any trouble with them either but we had a power boat though. And then we did get an outboard, finally, and I went scalloping with it and everything: five horse.

**Unidentified person:** Well weren't there quite a few lobsters around there?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh I used to trawl down deep every morning. I'd throw pots... [Indiscernible and Intermixed chatter] ...and I made 'em.

**Interviewer:** Where did you have them set? In Pleasant Bay?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, I'd throw them up the Bay.

**Interviewer:** Uh huh

**Mr. Allison:** A lot of people used to set pots there...

**Interviewer:** Is that so?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, when Gene Eldredge. Old man Gene there, he used to start first start setting pots and setting all together. That's when, that's when it was way down in the Old Harbor area. All they had to do was come right in to the channel, you see. Far up there now, I don't believe there's a lobster that gets up there.

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible] ...get up there for you?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, for years but not so much to day. [Intermixed chatter] ...it's cold, it comes into cold in the winter, you see. Yeah, they used to. Bob had used to come up there.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, I thought Bob...

**Mr. Allison:** ... Robert Bassett. Yeah, made a business of it. Yeah.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, bought 25, 50 plots of it...

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, he had the trap over to the northeast too.

**Unidentified person:** Oh, did he?

**Mr. Allison:** Catching bait, you know.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Some kind of fish trap he used, get all kind of fish in it but not too many. Upside fish wouldn't come up there but other fish and bluefish and things but not very often, once in a while they would.

**Unidentified person:** Well, didn't he get some fluke...

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** [Indiscernible]... some fish up there, yeah.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** On the flats up there. You need a lot of bait to get up there. In fact, we'd come in tuna fishing one time and we got up to Scatteree and here, [slight laugh] was a school of tuna fish hanging around there. [Indiscernible] Well, they were small ones.

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Weren't very big; they were about this big, but we caught some, you know. [Slight laugh]. We started but they wouldn't bite then all of a sudden, they started biting again. Went right through them and they wouldn't touch nothing.

**Interviewer:** How far did you have to go to get the tuna?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, we'd go off 60 miles.

**Interviewer:** 60 miles?

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah. Mr. Potter, that was after he worked for Mr. Hoss, he bought the Strong Island fleet, and I worked for him for nine years. He had one of them, what kind of boat was it now... Oh, one of them yachts; a 36 foot yacht I think, and I used to...

[Someone else enters the room]

**Unidentified person:** Hi.

**Unidentified person #2:** Hi.

**Unidentified person:** Good morning.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Unidentified person:** Okay

**Unidentified person #2:** Here you go.

**Unidentified person:** Thank you very much.

**Unidentified person #2:** You're welcome.

**Mr. Allison:** I used to go with Kevin, his yacht they called it. *Chris-Craft*, that's what I was trying to think...

**Interviewer:** Oh, yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** ...the name *Chris-Craft*. Could go 60 miles, 30 miles an hour.

**Interviewer:** Oh boy.

**Mr. Allison:** We'd leave the island, take the kids and leave the island and we'd say, "you kids, you want to go swimming?" "Yes daddy, yes. Take us swimming." Three girls, all girls, so we'd take our lunch with us in a basket and we'd cook, we had a cook over there and a butler, you know, and they'd fix us up a nice lobster tail and drinks. We had an ice board and everything.

Really good yacht, you know. He used to go out once in a while himself, stay a week, lived by the Woodward. And go, he'd traveled and he'd open it up and he'd say he'd go lay down, and he'd go lay down...[Indiscernible] ...he'd steer south away, south of west, just a little [indiscernible] ...a little bit west himself, you see. And he'd say we're not [indiscernible]. Well, when you make land, stop. [Laughter] And dug it. Yeah. You'll go right by the ship down there, you know. What was her name now? The one that broke to pieces?

**Unidentified person:** Oh, [indiscernible]

**Mr. Allison:** No. [Intermixed chatter] It wasn't broke in pieces yet.

**Unidentified person:** Oh, that [indiscernible]

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Interviewer:** That just broke up this winter?

**Unidentified person:** No, three years ago. Yeah, the one that broke up [indiscernible]

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** They... [Indiscernible] anyhow, I'd think of anyway. They'd go right by her every time. Give me the course off the bar, see. And he'd say stay west by south. I'll never forget it. Take it right over the break point. Of course big pointers, eight miles just inside of Nantucket. It's on Nantucket, its harbor, you know.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Unidentified person:** Nantucket's on the inside.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah. Swings around way outside of Nantucket, big bay up in there. Break Point they call it. So we used to go there and stick our nose right on the beach. She didn't draw much water, you know, flat bottom...

**Unidentified person:** Oh, yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** ...stick her right on the beach because the beach went around just like that. [Indiscernible] some women over there and people would go fishing. I don't know what her name was; I used to know. She, and some other women with nice beach [indiscernible] fishing, fishing. Getting...

**Unidentified person:** Sea oar men?



**Mr. Allison:** Getting some of them too. [Laughter] But they were getting some nice Skate. [Indiscernible] ...place fish, and...

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible] ...best eating I think.

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, best fish there is to eat, yeah.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Interviewer:** I think so too.

**Mr. Allison:** [Indiscernible] ...she's like Mrs. Shaddock used to be. Mrs. Shaddock used to go over with Wilford you know, Bevry, used to fly down from Warren, New Jersey to go cooling and fly back again. That's when Wilford first got a plane before he owned any [indiscernible]. Used to live there down by Shaddock maybe now, while she lived there. Yeah, she was a rich sport. Well, this women was the same thing, always running around fishing and fishing and stuff. "Give me the fish," she didn't care [indiscernible] the money none.

Yup. Mrs. Shaddock used to go down there a lot. One of her daughters too, she had a daughter that used to go down there. I forgot what her name was. I think it was one of the married, Julie Howes I think. She had two daughters.

**Unidentified person:** Yup.

**Mr. Allison:** Didn't have any children. One married Julie Howes and one married...

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible]

**Mr. Allison:** Huh?

**Unidentified person:** [Indiscernible]

**Mr. Allison:** No, that was Mrs. Boyd's daughter.

**Unidentified person:** Oh yeah, yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** Married her at the Ford place there.

**Unidentified person:** Oh.

**Interviewer:** Oh, before Manson?

**Unidentified person:** Manson?

**Mr. Allison:** Mason, Manson. Yeah, she married Manson. That's right, he remarried one of Mrs. Shaddock's daughters—only had two daughters. And Mrs. Yaw, she had a house down there too and she was sister to Mrs. Shaddock. Sister to Mrs. Shaddock; did you know that?

**Unidentified person:** Yeah, I knew it.

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, you knew it?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah.

**Unidentified person:** Right around, she lived on the curve of Brick Street there.

**Mr. Allison:** Yeah, she had two daughters, I think. Misses Yaw had two daughters and two sons. Yeah, two daughters and two sons. I didn't know their names and I took one of them dancing one night. Many ward gave a dancing school, do you remember that? I think it was before your time, wasn't it?

**Unidentified person:** I don't remember that part, no...

**Mr. Allison:** No, she used to live up here. Steve and Frank were her sons. She had a son named Frank 'cause [indiscernible] dancer. She had a dancing school up in the old town hall and [indiscernible] maybe Annie Smith, I think. Annie, Annie Smith, do you remember her?

[Intermixed chatter]

**Interviewer:** I remember the name.

**Mr. Allison:** [Indiscernible] ...played piano with Blake [indiscernible] ...I think she played piano. Anyhow, she had sixty, seventy scholars. She had Louie Tuttle and all those kids...

**Unidentified person:** Yeah.

**Mr. Allison:** And old people too and she made a little money. And I got so I could dance darn good, you know. In the meantime, I worked damn hard carting coal. And just for [Indiscernible] that's how I got the job yelling was from Dan because Dan was my father-in-law's—he wasn't my father-in-law then but afterwards—he was my father-in-law's brother, you see? Clarence his name was. He lived in South Chatham. Anyhow, Mrs. Yaw said "Jimmy, why don't you take my daughter to the dance with you?" They had the expedition dance. What'd they call it? Expedition...

**Interviewer:** Exhibition?

**Mr. Allison:** Oh, I don't know. The last dance, you know.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Mr. Allison:** It was some word like that. And we had that and everybody went to it. It was free to everybody you know, I think. I don't think it cost anything. Show us off, see that's what I thought. So we... I said "Sure, I'll take her if you want me," Hannah I think her name was. She wasn't named Helen, I don't know what the hell her name was [indiscernible]. So I, she was too bashful to ask me, you know, so I went and asked her. I used to work for her a lot when times were good. And then my father had a cow and she also got her milk from us you know. She liked that cow's milk. And then she had a Greek flower garden, big room for daises [indiscernible] ...she'd get the bulb, five dollars is what it'd cost. Of course, in the meantime, keep all the bulbs in the winter time in my father's cellar at the lighthouse, see. My father would take care of them for her and he could have all that he could want. You know, they'd stash a bit of 'em up, cut 'em up every year, see. Said, "old man, you got a good, big bunch of dry rot on you [indiscernible] ...garden up front there. Remember that horrible place up there?"

**Interviewer:** I remember.

**Mr. Allison:** [Slight laugh] He never tried to [indiscernible] ...he hid them. My mother had a house full of flowers, see.

**Unidentified person:** [Slight laugh]

**Mr. Allison:** And all the time, he hid them because when they're dirty and stuff. And then the inspector come around, you know, and the first thing he'd feel is the wind in the sails and if there's dirt [indiscernible] afraid he'd lose his job. Mother kept them [indiscernible] and he never planted flowers but he planted plenty of them only he had a good place for the daises. People all around come [indiscernible].

**Unidentified person:** Well they were quite popular around town at one time.

[Intermixed chatter]

**Mr. Allison:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** You know, all the years that the coast, what's now the Coast Guard Station, you know used to be open, people could go in and go up in the lights...

**Mr. Allison:** My father used to take them up, yeah, makes me laugh. He used to take 'em up and they'd give him a dollar or a pack a cigarettes or something, he never, he hated cigarettes. He smoked a pipe all the time [slight laugh]. So one day, a fella give him, had a big box of cigarettes—hundred in the box—so the fella [indiscernible] gave my father a hundred and he put 'em in his pocket, you know. [Indiscernible] my father called him out, smoked it, a few minutes out, hauled another one smoked. He never inhaled them though, he just puffed 'em and threw 'em away. He pulled the whole pipe, a whole handful, finally, he said a pipe [indiscernible] [laughter]. I think he had 20 cigarettes. Smoked them all up, didn't bother him at all.

[Laughter]

**Mr. Allison:** He was always smoking a pipe though. Never chewed tobacco either I don't think.

**Interviewer:** We were just saying the other day that of all the years when it was free and open for people to go up in the light and none of us ever bothered because it was there...

**Mr. Allison:** [Indiscernible]

**Interviewer:** ...now...

**Mr. Allison:** ...my mother, jealous woman you see. She didn't show it but she was. So every once in a while, you'd see four women come by you know, and he'd take 'em up in the light and be gone for half an hour, he got an ear full when he came down, don't think he didn't. [Laughter] And he'd swear on the book, kept getting mad 'cause he'd see a woman coming, he'd go on the other side of the tree. I've seen him do it [laughter].

[End of track one]

(29:38)