Citation for this collection:

MSS 179 Robert H. Richards, Jr., Delaware oral history collection, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware

Contact:

Special Collections, University of Delaware Library
181 South College Avenue
Newark, DE 19717-5267
302.831.2229 / 302.831.1046 (fax)
http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec
askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu

Terms governing use and reproduction:

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu

A note about transcriptions:

Of the original 252 audio-recordings in this collection, 212 of these tapes were transcribed around the time of the original recordings (between 1966 and 1978). In 2012, Cabbage Tree Solutions was contracted to create transcriptions for the remaining tapes. Corrections to and clarifications for all transcriptions are welcome, especially for names and places. Please contact Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, for questions. askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu
Interview by Steven Schoenherr, August 1, 1973, 10-11-30 a.m., in Milford, Delaware, with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Vreeland. (Mr. Vreeland's responses are indicated by "H", Mrs. Vreeland's by "M").

Q I think the best thing would be for you to sort of introduce yourself and tell me how long you've lived in Milford, and other biographical information, for the record.

M All right. I'm Mary Vreeland; I've lived in Milford 49 years, or near Milford. And I came here from southern West Virginia. I found the town wasn't quite as progressive as the town from which I came, because they had telephones on the walls you had to crank, and one of the most interesting things to me was that on the street they sold muskrats, yelling "Rats for sale! Rats for sale!" I was from Midland Town and I thought eating muskrats was something rather peculiar. Now you want to ask questions?

Q OK. Have you been involved in any kind of business operations in Milford?

M No, I've taught school in Milford, but I'm retired now.

Q How long did you teach school?

M I taught 17 years in Milford.

Q Now was this the recent school district, or the ...

M In the Milford district.

Q Where they have the centralized district?

M Yes. I taught in the junior high and then they changed from junior high to a middle school. And I hadn't planned to teach, but they were scarce of teachers, and they needed somebody 17 years ago--and I went in for a month and I kept going. And I found there've been many changes in the school system. When I was in school, we had one school, and I think there were two school buses that came. And some people even commuted to school on the railroad train. We had passenger trains that came how many times a day, two or three?

H Oh, there were...I don't remember, but there were three or four north bound and about the same number south bound.

M And some of the high school students came from Lincoln and Ellendale on the train and they would go home on the train in the afternoon. School was from nine to four. When I was in school, 'Course now it runs from 8:30 'til a little after three. And there've been many changes in the school system. When I was in school there was only one man teacher, and he taught manual training. Now we have many men teachers in the school. And we have several different schools. And I have found in recent years we haven't been as interested in Delaware history and things like that because so many of our administrators are from out of state and they're not interested in a program to celebrate just state
events that are of interest to those of us who've lived here longer. What else do you want to know?

Q Can you think of any specific changes in the schools?

H The first school buses—one came from Ellendale and one from Houston, and they both started in 1921, the fall of '21.

Q This was when the school buses first started to run?

H That's when they first started to run in Milford, yes.

Q How did they get to school before that?

H On the train. Or by horse and buggy. I went by horse and buggy until I was old enough to drive a car, which was my last year in high school. There was no bus out this way. See, I was born right over there.

Q So you were born in Milford, proper.

H Yes, my mother grew up in Milford, and I always went to Milford to church, and from the seventh grade on I went there to school. So, although I wasn't born in Milford, I knew it pretty well. Because all my mother's relatives were there, and well, my grandparents always went to Milford to church, too...it was the Presbyterian church.

Q Were they farmers?

H That's right.

Q So you grew up on a farm?

H This farm right here. The house that I was born in we just demolished last week. It was right over there in the street. My father was born there also.

Q Well, have you seen any changes in Milford over the last 50 years? I imagine you have.

H Fifty years ago there wasn't any hospital, except one that was operated by Dr. Sam and William Marshall. I don't remember just exactly when the emergency hospital, which the present Memorial Hospital evolved from, was started. But it was started where Bill Berry now has his funeral home. That was the first location that I can recall for it. But when I was in school it was--I think it had been a private residence. I don't remember where it was now, except that it was a three-story brick house. And I don't remember the date that they moved to their present location.

Q Now, right now, what occupation are you in?

H You might say I was retired. I was a farmer until because of health reasons I had to stop, or lighten up anyway. My son-in-law does most of the farming.
Q So you still have your farm, but it's in the family?
H Oh, yes. Still have that.
Q Is it the same size, or is it larger, or smaller?
H Well... that's hard to answer. It's larger than it was when I was small, and yet it's smaller now because when my father left part of it to my sisters and part to me, so actually the part that I have is smaller than it was at that time.
Q So it's been divided up in the family?
H That's right. My sisters own the other part.
Q What about the crops that you grow, or did grow, on the farm. Have they changed?
H They were in the process of changing then. Nearly everyone had an orchard, at least peaches, if not also apples, on a commercial scale. But when I was small the pest problem was beginning to get so serious that it just got to requiring more and more machinery and working to control the pests that people with small orchards were gradually dropping out and it finally got down to just where the large orchards remained, and there are very few of those now. There's very few fruit trees of any kind left in the country. Also, the soybean has taken over as one of the main crops.
Q Have you grown soybeans?
H Oh, yes. There've always been some vegetables grown, because even my grandfather grew tomatoes for a contract to be processed, canned. And my father also, and then peas later. But since the machinery came in they've gotten into lima beans, that's one of the largest vegetable crops in the area right now. And corn has always been pretty good except that it's much easier to raise now than it used to be.
Q Why is it easier to raise now?
H Because of the mechanical aspects. Used to be practically all a hand job. Hand and horses—you planted with the horses and cultivated with horses, but other than that it was practically all done by hand... cut it by hand and husked it by hand. Also the fodder was saved, in most cases, to feed the livestock. Now, unless it's cut for silage when it's green, fodder stays in the field, on the soil, or to be incorporated in the soil.
Q Can you remember, either you or your father, when machinery began to... you began to use machinery extensively for different purposes?
H My father always used it more than some of the others did, because he was interested in it. And he had two or three gasoline engines—one was a large one that he could handle small machinery with, like a small tractor and a wood saw, small feed mill, things of that type. And we had cultivators that you'd ride on, where a lot of
the folks were still using cultivators that you had to walk behind, And that was a rather tiresome job. As far as knowing Milford is concerned, or being interested or being engaged in businesses in Milford, I never was engaged in business there, but I did work in a hardware store there, some during the '30's, during the depression. So I knew most of the people, and I knew the town pretty well.

M You don't any more. That's one of the big changes.

H It's changed so much in the past thirty years, I'll say--since World War II. It's grown. Also the...fifty years ago there were two rather large shipyards--that is, for a town the size of Milford. And there was a plant that was called Milford Basket Company that cut veneer from logs and manufactured baskets for handling fruit--that later evolved into the Mulhollen Company, which manufactured wooden spoons, that was about 1922, I think. And that's, I believe, no longer operating. Then there were one... two...three canneries, food processing plants, that handled peas and tomatoes, largely, right in the town of Milford. One of them's still there--Jenkins Brothers. The others are, well, closed up. One was closed, and the other one is operating south of Milford down...it's known as Primehook Neck now.

Q Why would you say the canning plants sort of closed down?

H Well, for one thing it was the traffic situation and the sanitary situation. It was a pretty evil smelling place around there when they were operating, although most of their waste was discharged into the creek. Any of it that accumulated, didn't take it long in the warm weather to get rather odorous. And one of them used to raise broccoli to process on their own ground, which was very close to town and that could also get a little smelly late in the fall when what they didn't can was still on the ground and was decaying.

Q Do you think the frozen food business has changed the kind of products the farmers grow?

H To some extent, yes, that's one thing that has helped the lima bean industry to come up here. Some of it is canned, but a good portion of it is frozen.

Q When did you first begin to grow lima beans...can you think of approximately what time?

H My first recollection was about 40 years ago, around 1930. We grew peas before that...but they were canned, all canned. That's about all I can think of right at the moment, except that there's no business section on the main street any more....very little. They're trying to get it built up again.

Q Where do people do their shopping?

H Where do they do...at the shopping centers. There's one on Northeast Front Street, and another one is in the process of being built out on DuPont Road, 113.
And quite a few go up to Dover or the Mall, Salisbury. The automobile has changed things a great deal in that respect.

M It used to be, on Saturday nights, the people would park their cars along Main Street and visit and shop, you know. You don't have any of that any more. But Saturday night was a big night for shopping...and visiting. Many people would park their cars, go home and eat their dinner, and then walk back up to their cars and sit, and shop and visit with their friends. This of course was before World War II. That's something that has died out. And if you look down Main Street today, you'll see we have many vacant stores...that's too bad, but it's that way.

H There was quite a traffic problem on Saturdays, Saturday nights particularly because what is...well, we usually refer to it as the Rehoboth Road, it's Delaware 13 from Milford south, but it came off 113 just north of Milford and right down through the main street, and all the traffic that was going to and from Rehoboth was competing with the local traffic for the use of the main street, and it was narrower then than it is now. Milford was originally laid out for the horse and buggy days.

Q When did they complete this highway, Rehoboth Road? 114?

H It was started in 1924, the first four miles, down as far as what's referred to as Cedar Creek Bridge, just south of here. It was completed before 1927, clear to Rehoboth...I don't remember the exact year, but I happen to remember this because we lived near it. The bypass that comes east of Milford to carry the traffic away from downtown was built sometime in the '30's, but I don't remember the year. Anyway, that would be a matter of record; I guess you could look it up.

Q Speaking of the '30's, you mentioned you worked in Milford during the '30's. Of course this was the time of the depression, when the Federal government was doing for the first time, not only in Delaware, but also all over, was actually financing a lot of local projects. Can you think of anything that the Federal government was doing in Milford to try to relieve the depression?

H Well, there was a CCC camp at Slaughter Beach...that was the nearest CCC camp. The main street was repaved with WPA money. The original sewage disposal plant was built in the late '30's, and that was partially government financed. Let's see...there was one other item that I thought of. Oh! The present water tower was partially Federally financed, too...with Federal money, if I remember correctly.

Q That was built in the '30's?

H Yes. That was either WPA or PWA, I don't remember which, now.

Q Any public buildings that were built? Were the schools affected in any way? Were there any buildings built?

M What's known as the Middle School was built about 1931, and I don't remember whether it was financed by the Federal government.
or state money. I imagine it was state.

H I think the cornerstone says '29, so that was before the depression. It was already financed, I'm pretty sure.

Q Any other public buildings, like the post office, or...

H No, the post office was here, and it wasn't moved to the present location until over ten years ago, I don't think. The original... the old post office building is right across from City Hall. Now it's used as--I think the State Health Center. I can't keep all the different agencies straight. But I think that's what it's used for.

Q Was there much of an unemployment problem in Milford?

H Yes, there was quite an unemployment problem, mainly because the people who would have employed them didn't have sales for their products, so they didn't need the employees. But I don't know whether it was as much unemployment as it was low wages. Most people if they--that is around here--if they wanted a job, could find one at some wage. It might not have been a living wage, but if they wanted to work they could find work of some type.

Q Did a lot of them then just not prefer to work?

H Well, no, they didn't not prefer to work, because there wasn't any welfare, that is in the sense that there is now. But they went on WPA and PWA...well, WPA hired most of the unskilled labor. PWA as I can recall it was usually a contract deal.

M I can remember during the 30's when you could buy ground steak for 25¢ a pound. That's a far cry from today.

Q It certainly is.

M But then, a starting teacher made around $1300 then. A visit to a doctor was a dollar for an office visit. You could buy a new car for less...well a Plymouth...for generally less than a thousand. So everything has changed. One thing I've noticed particularly about schools...when they build a high school now it's always taken into consideration to have a parking lot, both for teachers and the students. I can remember when I was in school that most of the teachers walked to school, and maybe just one or two students would drive to school and parked them along the street. Today of course you'd have to have parking lots for both teachers and students.

H The location of the present shopping center there on Northeast Front Street at that time was a dump. It was partly marsh...but I think...I'm not sure whether it had been used for a bog pit because it was pretty deep in spots. And part of it was marsh. Quite a few rats around there, too.

Q What about local politics? This is something that's...do you think that's changed over the last 50 years or so?
Well, of course, it's much more active now than it was at that time—that is, I hear a lot more about it anyway, because Milford wasn't an incorporated town at that time...city at that time. So they had their election for mayor and councilman, but I couldn't vote, so...I knew who was mayor and I knew who was on the town council, usually, but as far as being actually interested in the town elections, I wasn't.

One of the good things though has been that you couldn't hand out ballots for people outside the voting place. Now that used to be done back in the '30's. People who were interested in buying votes would mark the ballot and hand it to someone and he could take it in and vote using that ballot. I approve of the change in regulations.

Or he could take the money and vote as he pleased after he got inside.

When was that changed...can you remember around when?

I don't remember when it was changed. There's still some buying of votes of course, but it's not quite as public. I worked at the polls this last election and I think the people doing the buying had to stay a certain distance away and of course couldn't mark the ballots for the people. They brought them in to vote and just hoped they voted as they were told.

Is there a lot of party politics in local elections, between the Democrats and the Republicans?

Oh, yes, we have that.

Or is it mostly assured that the Republicans are going to win, and there's not much of a party battle? As I understand it, Milford is generally Republican. Is this true?

Part of Milford is generally Republican. The southwest quarter, perhaps. This area out here that we're in usually goes Democratic.

In local elections as well as national?

Well, in local elections it depends a good deal on the candidate.

Would you say personalities are more important in local elections than party?

I would say yes, at least as far as I'm concerned. And I think as far as most other people are concerned, because quite often somebody who is on the opposite party if he's well-liked will be elected, where the other party, the opposing party may carry the rest of the ticket.

Would you say that in Milford there is a political machine that sort of works behind the scenes and so on....
H There are machines in any place, aren't there...political machines?

Q Well, in some places there may not be. This is something we're trying to find out, especially in smaller towns. Certainly in Wilmington there is, but is this true in southern Delaware? We don't know.

H Well, I really don't know how to answer that question because there are the organizations of course, the party organizations that work for their candidates, but this is a little bit off the record, but I was at one Republican meeting last fall, there was one young fellow there the whole family was Republican but he was very much pro Joe Biden. He wanted to pass out propaganda for him right there...Republican meeting.

M People don't take their politics as hard as they used to I don't think. You can disagree with somebody that are a different party and still be friends...I think more than folks used to be able to.

Q Are the local elections here hard fought--you know really serious elections?

M Sometimes. It all depends on who's running, and the issue. Lou Harrington increased the number of voters quite a bit the first time he was running as a representative. He really got out and got people registered and in to vote. And I'm of the opposite party of Lou Harrington, but at the election he brought folks to me as well as to the Democrats. And in working at the elections, there's no feeling between people of different parties...where I worked.

Q How about the issues? How important are the issues as far as people are concerned? Will they vote the personality, or will they vote according to the issues?

M I'd say personalities.

H That's what I was going to say. In most cases they'll vote the personalities. That is, locally, I believe.

M Now Federal, of course, they don't know the individuals so much and then it's more issue.

H Well, of course, everybody knew John Williams, or almost everybody.

M Yes.

H Because he was a native of Sussex County. Also he was in business with his brother in Milford for a while.

Q Did he himself live in Milford?

H I don't remember. I don't think he did...his brother lives here.

Q He still lives here?
H  Yes.

M  A sister-in-law of his lives in Milford.

Q  Can you think of any politicians that stick in your mind over the last 20 or 30 years...that have really done something good or done something bad for Milford?

H  No, I couldn't...not put on that basis. Doc Hoey was a hard man to beat when he was in the legislature...in the Senate. He was in favor of most of the things that most of the people locally were in favor of, so party didn't make too much difference in his case. Anybody else, well, I think that quite a few people have the theory that he's been in long enough, let's put somebody else in. Especially in Congress--with only one Congressman, it doesn't matter how much seniority you get, he can't do very much.

Q  In Milford, does most of the political activity take place in one particular place, or one group? I'm thinking about, does it take place in the fire company or the Jaycees, or the Lions--is there any one particular group that you can think of that's more involved in politics than others? Or are politics more or less divorced from any of the groups?

M  I think the fire company is non-political--it does a wonderful job.

H  Lions are non-political.

M  Yes, you have groups...there are people, though, who are very much interested in politics and work hard at it. But they work from a party angle and not to any one group like that. The Lions in Milford have done quite a bit in the hospital. They usually furnish the ambulance, and I know they contributed quite a bit of money to the school nurses to use for buying glasses for the children who couldn't get glasses otherwise. And I've never seen anything political in their handling.

H  Well, that I think is national, their interest in sight. I think all Lions Clubs are active in that.

M  They've done a good job.

Q  What about any minorities in Milford that you know of, minority groups. Does Milford have a problem with any minority groups? In one group of people not getting along with another group? Any divisions in the population of the town that you can think of?

M  Well, we have our racial questions, same as all towns have it. And I think that we get along fairly well. Of course we have the unfortunate situation when they first started school integration, but when I taught in the schools, I found that the white children leaned over backward to try to keep things on an even
And sometimes I felt the administration was too easy on the colored children and in fact I've heard Negro teachers say the same. I taught with one very nice Negro lady and her chief complaint was that there was not enough discipline of the Negro children in our school system. But she blamed the administrators for letting the Negro children get out of hand. And that was from a very excellent Negro teacher.

Q Do you have many black teachers in the school system?

M About a fourth.

Q Which is quite a few, for...

M Yes, well, our Negro population runs about that or a little better. So they make a definite effort to have a fourth Negro teachers. And the teachers get along very nicely. The Negro teachers are just like white teachers. Some good ones and some very poor ones. I substituted one day last year for one of the Negro men teachers and his work was well organized and I approved of the sign he had on the bulletin board, "Mr. Williams says come as you are but leave as you should." And I thought it was good--his class was well conducted, a nice class. I can remember about 24 years ago when the colored lady who used to help me died. I went to her funeral and I was the only white person there. And I was treated very nicely. Today it's not unusual to see people of both races at a funeral. They think nothing of it. But at that particular time I was an oddity.

Q When was this approximately?

M That was about 24 years ago. And I was the only white person there. But the undertaker came and asked me if I wanted to sit up with the family. They were very nice to me at the funeral.

Q Which funeral home was this--can you remember?

M Oh, I don't remember who had the funeral. I know it was in the church at Milton. Colored church at Milton--and I went. But the colored lady was very nice. She had helped me three days a week and she...my children loved her very much; they called her Aunt Piper. And she used to bring them candy practically every Monday morning, so they were anxious to see her. She was a nice person. There is some...today a change of feelings a lot. I think though in a small town there's more individual looking after people who need help than there is in a large city. We take our minority groups as individuals rather than as groups.

Q Any other minority groups besides the blacks that are identified as a minority group?
H Well, no, if you mean like the Spanish-speaking....

Q Spanish-speaking, or Jewish, or Puerto Rican, this kind of thing.

H I wouldn't say that there was actually a Jewish group as a group. There are several Jewish businessmen, but they just fit in with the other organizations and are accepted as everybody else is, on his own merit.

M I can remember when Zena Abers was asking me about Christmas—we had children the same age. And she said, "We have to let our children have Christmas presents and all." Said, "We bring them up with the Jewish tradition, but we give them Christmas presents." And I know another Jewish family that used to have a Christmas tree. Their daughter and ours were friendly. And the little girl used to have a Christmas tree. The mother said, "Well, all her friends have trees, so we go ahead and have a Christmas tree." I think that people are much more liberal in their outlook. Now forty years ago the superintendent of Milford schools told me that they did not hire a Catholic teacher. I had a friend who wanted a job and I asked about—if there was an opening in Milford. Mr. Shilling asked me her religion and I told him she was a Catholic. He said, "Well, there's just no need for her to apply." Now, we've come a long way since then, where the religion of an individual doesn't have anything to do with whether he's given a job or not.

Q You would say that's a definite change that's taken place in the whole community.

M In the whole community. The Catholics have...well, they aren't considered so different as they used to be. And they're accepted as just another religion. And I approve of it. I thought it was awful when I heard that a person would be turned down from a job. But forty years ago our thinking was different I guess. I'm glad to have seen the change.

Q Any other groups that you could possibly think of? Apparently Milford is a pretty, what we might call homogenous community. You know, it seems to be of the same background....

M Yes, we don't have the minorities you do. Now during the canning season there are a number of people who come up from Mexico to work. Your Puerto Ricans and your Puerto Rican labor camps and all. And they tend to stay together. I feel a little sorry for them because we don't speak Spanish, or Mexican or whatever they speak, and they don't speak our language so well, and sometimes it's quite a problem. I can remember when two of them wanted to go to the Catholic church; they stopped in the Methodist church and one of the girls who had taken Spanish in high school was able to direct them. The ushers couldn't understand them. And I feel sorry for those people because it is a problem being in a town where you don't speak the language.
Q I didn't know that the migrant laborers were in this area.

H There are a few; not nearly as many as there were several years ago.

M But there are some.

H The canning factory that I mentioned a while ago has a labor camp there, and I don't know how long they've been getting the Mexicans instead of Puerto Ricans, but they have for the past two or three years at least they have had Mexican migrants. I don't know whether—I assume that they're not from Mexico, but from probably southwest Texas, someplace down in that area. I never had any close contact with them, so I don't know where they came from.

Q But generally you would say they maintain themselves separate from the community?

H Pretty much. Oh, they go to town and they go shopping, but I don't know where—I assume that most of them would be of the Catholic background, but whether they go to the Catholic church or not I can't say. I don't know.

Q What about—were you teaching during the problem that Milford had in '54, with the integration?

M No, I think I didn't start until '55.

H That was one of the reasons she started.

M Because they were so scarce of teachers.

Q A lot of teachers left because of that problem?

M And then there was a scarcity of teachers. I don't know whether a number of the teachers left or not. But there was a scarcity of teachers. And Milford was a rather divided town there for a while. Some people figured that we should have integration, and others were definitely opposed to it. And some people...friendships were broken and all over.

H I wouldn't go so far as to say there were very few that thought we should have integration, but there were quite a few who thought that since the Supreme Court made the ruling, that it should be followed as much as we could.

M Well, I thought we should have integration in the schools. They paid their taxes. I thought it was silly that they shouldn't have the same privileges of education. But they wanted...their school only went to ninth grade at that time. And we've had some very good Negro students, and we've had some very poor ones. I think though that integration has tended to bring down the standards of your school system. That may not be the fault of
the children; it may be the fault of the administration, but the standards have been lowered.

Q Which standards in particular are you thinking of?

M Well, your academic standards, in particular, the ones I'm thinking of.

Q That teachers use to give out grades, or....

M Yes, and then material you require children to learn. That has... oh, courses have been made easier.

Q Which subjects did you teach?

M I taught English--in eighth grade. I know one year a colored girl made the best grade of any--the only "A" I gave to one hundred and sixty-some children for the year went to a colored girl. And I know one of the doctor's sons one day when I handed back test papers looked at her, and he said, "Cordelia, you don't belong here with the rest of us--you're just smarter than the rest of us." And the children can accept integration I think maybe better than the parents do. But they did very well.

Q Was there trouble among the students at that time? I know most of the trouble was between....

M It was the grown people who caused the trouble.

Q Yeah...but was there trouble among the students themselves that you can remember?

M No, as far as I remember there was no trouble among the students, because at that time the Negro children had a choice, and most of them who came just came into the high school, into the tenth grade. Now, when I was teaching, and that year I did teach ninth grade civics--and that must have been about '62. One little colored girl asked me one day, she said, "I'm having trouble," and she said, "Could I come talk to you after class." And I thought, my stars, I hadn't noticed any trouble between the children in the class because of a racial question or anything. And what she told me was that the children from Benjamin Banneker School, which was still chiefly Negro, were fussing and making fun of her because she chose to come to the other school, and mingle with the white children. And I hadn't realized before that a child might be under pressure from the Negro group not to come to our school. For a while they had a right to choose which school. We have one Negro principal and frankly I think he's the best principal in the district.

Q What is his name?

M Charles Williams. He's at Banneker, and that's from grades one through four. And he is a very sensible person. When he was first principal--I think the first year--and he was over at the Lakeview School as the elementary principal, he...one of the
white teachers fell and a child came running to him and said she had fallen, and instead of his going in—he told us afterwards—he said, "I just thought what it would be if I went in there and had my arm around this white woman, somebody would go out and tell something...." So he asked one of the women teachers to go down and help the teacher up and he took the class. And I thought he was pretty smart, because there are some people just anxious to start trouble. And Mr. Williams is a very good gentleman.

Q Has he been teaching in the school system long?

M He taught, and then he was the principal at Banneker. I don't know whether he was the principal there when we had all the trouble in '55 or not. But he's been in the school system for some time. His wife teaches in the middle school, and she's very pleasant. I taught with her. The president of the senior class this year was a Negro girl, which ought to give you some idea of the way the children react.

Q There was some question in '54—at that time—that trouble was caused by someone from the outside who came in.

M Yes.

Q Is this how you perceived it, also?

M Yes, and then there was a lot of feeling among the people here. They just thought that integration shouldn't be forced on them. I know we sent our children to school when many of the children stayed home. And the bus driver on there asked my son, he said, "Is your mother crazy sending you to school now?" And you were worried about it when you sent your children to school, whether there would be trouble or not, at that time. I think that...

Q Was there any violence that took place, that you remember? There were demonstrations and so on.

M There were demonstrations, a lot of unpleasant feeling. I don't recall any real violence.

Q That anyone actually got hurt because of this.

M Do you, Howard?

H No. There was some property damaged, but I don't remember any person being hurt...at least not seriously...had a little scuffle, or something to that effect. But it was...I don't recall...I can recall one or two demonstrations where a little property damage occurred, but...at least it was laid to the racial feeling, whether it really was I can't say.

Q How did the local police behave in this incident?

M I don't recall, so as far as I'm concerned they must have behaved
all right. Because I would've re--I never saw anything that made me think they didn't behave all right. I would've remembered that.

H I don't recall at all.

Q Are people pretty well satisfied with the police department here, in general, over the last several decades?

M Uh, we don't live in town, but I would say that we have a pretty good police department. Now there's been a good bit of trouble though. We've had a number of changes in police chiefs in the last several years. Some people think it's the way the city government is set up and that there's too much friction with the committee that handles police affairs, and that there's pressure brought to give certain more consideration than others. And there's been quite a bit of reorganization, I think in the last year, and that we have a little bit better set up now.

H I think there's been a case of too many bosses, or as one expression has it, too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

Q Is this primary a political matter, do you think that's causing the trouble?

H Yep. I don't know if it's party political, but it's political--members of the town council have some sort of an ax to grind, so they bear down on the police chief for it. I've sort of gotten the impression, I haven't talked to anyone about it, but just from the reports I read in the local paper, I've gotten the impression that a couple of them want to run it. The police chief's finally just getting out from under it. There's been a pretty high turnover in the police department here. Of course I think the total force is what--16?

M I don't know what it is now.

H I can remember when it was two--a night man and a day man.

Q Why would you say the police force has grown?

H Because the town has grown...more traffic.

Q Well, we know that, for example, take the census report for Milford--the population of Milford has remained about the same since World War I...about 5,000--a little over 5,000.

M But a number of people who shop and all in Milford are living outside the town boundaries.

Q Well, this apparently is what's taking...people are moving into the suburbs, I guess, around the town.

H Yes. The same thing that's happening around Wilmington. Wilmington itself is not as big as it was in 1930. But New Castle County is five times as big as it was then. I wouldn't even stop at five; I'd
think that near 20 times as big. There were practically no Wilmington suburbs in 1920—I mean 1930...no big ones.

Q The kind of people who move into the suburbs; this is an interesting area that we're trying to find out. What kind of people move to the suburbs, rather than live in town or...

H Well, for one thing...

Q Are they old people who've lived here all their lives, or are these new people coming into the town?

H A lot of them are new people coming in and of course some of the older ones are moving out to the newer developments. The housing isn't in the town to take care of all the people, and they haven't extended the town limits recently. I think the town limits are where they were 35 years ago.

Q The sign coming into town says the limits established in '54, so... maybe it was then that was the last time that they changed it.

H I don't remember exactly, but it's been so many feet west of 113—at the center line of 113, or maybe it's the western edge of 113; I don't remember. But it's been that for a long time on that side of town, and it's been the creek out here—not Mispillion Creek, but the one that forms this pond and runs back.

Q What is the name of that?

H Oh, it's called Deep Branch, and the Dike—after it gets down close to the creek, it's usually referred to as the Dike—locally at least. But it's all the same stream.

Q What kind of people have been coming to Milford do you think?

H Well, air base personnel looking for temporary housing, and General Foods plant—quite a few of those who live down here. I was trying to think...anyway, that's the type.

Q Do you have people living in mobile homes?

M Yea, there's several mobile home parks.

H There's one right back here, and then there's another one about two miles further down, and a smaller one just off the Rehoboth Road—I think there's two down there. One I don't even know where it is.

Q Do you know anyone who lives in these parks?

H In the mobile homes? Yeah I even know the fellow that owns this one back here. In fact I don't know anybody right now that lives in it—just one man, and he happens to be a Milford native who lives by himself and has a trailer back there.

Q So he only has one trailer?
H Just this man only has one trailer; that's all he needs for himself. Now, he has...I took the census factor in 1970 but I don't remember how many trailers there were now. No, he's got...

Q Over twenty?

H I would say about 20. That's all he had room for. That's all the land he had. He's tried to buy some from me to expand, but I'd either have to sell him woodland, and there's too little of that as it is, or field land, and that's become as scarce as woodland.

Q Has the price of land changed? The farm land of this general area?

H Yes, the price has changed considerably. I think it's what you can get, generally.

Q Is this because of the demand of people trying to move out into the suburbs, or is it real estate owned by speculators and developers who are trying to buy the land?

H That would be hard to answer.

Q Has anyone approached you besides this particular individual who owns the trailer park to buy your land?

H Well, no. Delmarva Power and Light got a lease on it to put a high tension line across. And while that's not an outright sale, it's practically the same; they have it as long as they want it. But it's not on a lease basis--it's a one-payment deal. So I haven't heard of...well, I do know that where our son lives...well, I'm sorry but I can't recall the price of those lots.

Q They've gone up about a thousand dollars in the last year.

H Because and his next door neighbor were considering buying the lot between them so they would have control of it, and they waited too long and the price went up...about 25%. That's within three years.

Q So you would characterize Milford as definitely a growing community?

H I would say that Milford and its environs was a growing community, yes.

M I think we need some industry to come in. A number of Milford people have to drive somewhere else to get jobs. A number of the men here drive to Seaford and so on for jobs. I hope to see more industry come to Milford.

H Well, you asked about minority groups a while ago, or things along that line. One of the big complaints has always been that the people who have the business establishments, the employers,
don't want new industry to come in because it would increase their employment problem. I've heard that practically as long as I can remember...hearing the subject discussed, anyway.

Q What proportion do you think of the people now work in industries--local industries?

M I really have no idea.

Q Very many at all? You have the Caulk Company, I understand.

H I was going to say, besides L. D. Caulk Company, there aren't very many what you would call an industry.

M Well, Burris.

H Yeah, Sure-Good Poultry, and well, Burris Fruit and Foods is not exactly a subsidiary, but belongs to the same family.

M The schools employ about as many people as any other one thing here in town. Goodness, when we were in school, there were no cafeterias, and now of course cafeterias and all are important. And all that requires a number of workers. Besides the teaching staff and so on.

H Yes, while she was still teaching, she lived here; the lady who owned the brick house up at the corner was in the cafeteria; the lady in the other house on the other corner was a teacher, and the son of the family in the first house as you start north was also a teacher. That's just in this area.

Q Are there any very large farms around Milford--that you can identify as, you know...

H I don't know just what you would call a large farm. Charlie West I guess has about the biggest south, and the Webb brothers down at Thompsonville have a right good-size set up down there.

M They might want to interview Francis's grandmother.

H That's the mother of the Webbs that I just referred to.

Q In Thompsonville?

H In Thompsonville, yes.

M We'll give you her phone number if you want it.

Q Her name is Frances Webb?

H No, no. I don't remember her first name. No Francis is our son-in-law, her grandson.

M I'll see if I can find her number.

Q O.K. That would be helpful. This is one area we're interested
in—the farmers in lower Delaware. How there life is, as well as the small community like Milford.

H Well, the farms are larger than they were. There aren't near the tenant farmers—in fact, well, I would be hard put to think of a tenant farmer in the sense that we used to consider a tenant farmer—a man who'd till the farm on shares and lived there. There are some who still till on shares, but most of it, if it's a rented farm it's usually a cash deal anymore. The Isaacs have some sizeable farms. They were the biggest, I guess, before their father died, and they divided the property up. I think there was around 3,000 acres altogether. The sons divided it up—well, in one case it had to go to the sons of the son, the grandsons, because he was killed in an automobile accident up at Hares Corner.

Q Well, people say, you know, that the small farm in modern America can't survive because of the economics of farming is changing. Would you say this is true, or is the small farmer still doing all right?

H Well, the small farmer is not as small as he used to be. Let's put it that way. I mean, what's considered a small farm now, when I was small would have been considered a fairly large farm. Anybody who has twenty-five or thirty acres usually has a job someplace and tries to do his farm work in the evenings or on weekends, or else he rents it to someone else for cash—someone who has the machinery. Because the machinery is out of this world as far as price is concerned.

Q Now, how large was your father's farm?

H It was about 240 acres, but it was—or 60 acres—but it was usually operated as two farms. I operated this end of it, and a tenant operated, well, we always called it the back farm—it's on the other road over there. He had dairy and I had hens. That was in the days before machinery was quite so big—it wasn't quite as automated as it is now. There was still quite a bit of not so much hand labor, but a good more labor because the machinery wasn't as good. And my son-in-law has two big tractors over there and they both pull six-bottom plows. Six sixteens is 96, that's eight feet. When they go down the field, they're turning sixteen feet of ground.

Q Now, how many acres does he farm?

H Well, he has this, all of both farms, and that's 260, and he's rented 90 down the road a couple of miles, that would be 350, and I don't know how much he has of his father's—25 or 30, and then he rented a little place, about 15 acres, on the road between. He can stop off while going from one place to the other and take care of it. I would say about 375 to 90 acres. He wants to get some more if he can, but even with that he's teaching masonry
at the Kent County Del Tech Vocational school...and doing this on the side.

Q Does he have any help?
H He has had one 16 year old boy helping him this spring.
M Did you tell him Francis works besides his farming?
H Yes.
Q Did you find the phone number?
M Not yet--there's too many Webbs here for me. See if you can decide which one would be Granny. We can call our son or somebody and get the number if we can't decide which Webb. She has been interviewed by the University of Delaware--some project they were doing--if she felt that old people were being treated as they should. I think she's up in her late 70's. And anyhow when they asked her if she was satisfied where she was living, she said yes, if she'd wanted to live anywhere else, she'd have been there. The farming is conducted from her...I think the men and all...after her husband died, why the sons conducted the business from her house. And she can tell you a lot. And, why, Lucius Webb would be a good one to help...to be interviewed.

H I can't think of Granny's first name.
M I don't know. She was Mrs. Francis A. Webb, I know, but...because the name's been handed down for at least four generations. But I don't know which one of those she would be.

H And I don't see anything here listed in Thompsonville.
Q How far away is Thompsonville from here?
M It's on your way north.
H Do you remember a place called Lynch Heights as you came down?
Q I think so.
H Well, the road that goes to Thompsonville is just above Lynch Heights.
M It will be towards your right going north. And it's not far. It's not too far from where that Indian site is, because that Mrs. Webb sold them land for that. I think it was on her property. And she's an interesting person--can tell you quite a bit.

Q I know, in the 1950's the potato farmers moved into Kent County. Did they get down this far, that you can remember?
H Well, I don't recall any in Sussex, no. There...I don't think there are any below...well, below Frederica, anyhow, that I can think of--well, Charlie West, since he's expanded has started
raising some potatoes—he's one of the biggest farmers in the area right at the present time. I think I said that a while ago. No, they settled largely around Dover. In fact, most of them are east of Dover, I would say between Dover and the bay. There are two or three—do you know where Route 9 turns off, just below the air base—there are two or three just after you turn off of 113 to go up Route 9. But I wouldn't say they were in the Milford area.

Q Yeah, I was just curious if they had gotten down this far.

H No, they didn't come quite this far. The soil down here is not suited too well to potatoes. It's a little bit light. Unless they got down near the bay, and I think there it's a little bit heavy.

M You asked about minority groups. We have several foreign doctors. We have a Filipino doctor, and a Chinese doctor, and they're accepted, and so on.

Q They live in the community?

M Yes, they do. And their children attend school. I have taught the children of the Filipino—no, not the Filipino—the Chinese doctor married an American girl. And there was no trouble at all with the children. They were proud of their Chinese ancestry and their American ancestry, and the other children in their class just accepted them as part of the community.

H Well, I can't find Uncle Tom, or Uncle Bill or any of them here—I'm sure they've got telephones.

M The thing to do is to call Sarah and get the number.

Q How long have you lived in this house?

M Since 1960, or '61.

H We moved in Christmas week of 1959, which was practically the first of 1960.

Q Where did you live before that?

M In the old farm house—it's been torn down. And our daughters I hope are going to build there.

Q Do you see any changes in the way...between the two houses...the two places you've lived.

M Well, yes. That house was two story and it didn't have as many bathrooms as we have here, and it didn't have as good heat, and so forth as you have here. And it was a nice old house in its day. And our son and daughter considered remodeling it, but de-
cided that something was poured wrong with the foundation; it would be better to build from scratch.

H The type of construction, too, didn't lend itself too well to many different types of heat. In fact I don't even think...well, we might have been able to put hot water in, I don't know. What we had was oil furnaces. One coal, and one oil.

M Howard's mother didn't drive, and of course she didn't get around as much as I did when she depended on the men to take her places. And I drive, so our children got around a great deal more and could take part in things more because I could drive and didn't have to depend on him to stop his work and take them places. Driving's a necessity any more.

Q Well, this is apparently something that most people...the automobile has really changed the small town.

M When I first came to Delaware I knew people who had never been out of the state. Well, now your first grade children are taken to Philadelphia to the zoo in the first grade. And we have many people who've done quite a bit of travelling.

Q Do you think this causes people to move out of Milford? Being a school teacher you've seen the children graduate and so on. Do a lot of them stay in Milford?

M Some do, but then because there's not so many work opportunities many children leave Milford. Of the doctors in town, only one is a local fellow. We hope more of our local boys who go into medicine will come back to Milford. But we only have one who's a local fellow. And his ancestry I think was Polish or something like that. His parents came here and had a nice long name and it was shortened.

H They were both school teachers.

M They were both school teachers, and they found some problems. They changed their religion from Catholic to Presbyterian because of the feeling in the community 50 years ago. Today we don't have that unhappiness.

Q Do you have more children going to college after they graduate?

M Yes, I think we do have more children going to college. And Milford's pretty lucky that it's students who go--the percentage of those who graduate is good.

Q This also seems to be changing--the social life of the community, fifty years versus today. People seem to think that before people were more sociable, they got together more often.

M Well, television's made an awful difference everywhere. And I think your social life's what you want it to be. But I do think people depended more on friends and all before. Though I still
play cards and all with people I graduated from high school—which is unusual, when you've been out of school this long, and see those people. Of course there are more organizations. We have the country club and so on. We don't belong to that but we did when the children were in school so that they could go to the pool and things like that. But that's quite a center for the social life here now.

H You know, when a fellow had been out in the field all day, he didn't feel too much like following a golf ball at the golf course or something of that type.

Q Well, would you say there were more organized social activities in the past?

M Yes. Sometimes I think the children are too organized, that they don't have as much time to just get out and play as children. You have your cub scouts and all those things that—it's an organized activity, and you go through the baseball leagues and so on. But there is more of that than there used to be yes, and maybe it's a good thing.

Q Do you remember in Milford any particular holiday that was celebrated by the whole community—like 4th of July, or...did everyone seem to turn out for any kind of event.

H Memorial Day was pretty well observed. And I can't recall too much observance of 4th of July—I'm sure it was.

Q What happened on Memorial Day?

H Oh, they had a parade, and the veterans paraded, and they had ceremonies at the cemetery, pretty much as they have now except that also they have the—I can't think of the name of the little buzz carts...go-cart races, stuff of that type.

M The high school band used to take part in the Memorial Day parades and all.

Q Before television, do you remember listening—did you have a radio or listen to the radio?

H We had a radio, yes.

M I can remember when our son was in the fourth grade, I forget what the program was, but in their class at school they asked for those who had television if they would take five or six children home and let them see that program and get them back by three o'clock. We had a group out and had to race them back in so that they could get their buses to go home. Now of course you have television in many of the rooms at school.

H I can remember when radio was battery operated. In fact, they were on a hot line.

Q When did electricity come into this area? Do you remember that?
Well, Milford has had electricity as long as I can recall. We didn't get it right here until about 1936. My father had the line run down so that we could... but we did have a home light plant, a 32 volt light plant for oh, I would say 15 years before that, around 1922 or 23. I don't recall when the power line was run to Slaughter Creek, but that was the first line that came anywhere near here. REA didn't start of course until the late '30's. This line that we're on is privately owned--that is more or less privately owned--it's Lincoln & Ellendale Electric Company. A fellow got a franchise to purchase electricity from the town of Milford, and he ran the line to Lincoln and Ellendale and then from Lincoln to Slaughter Beach. Slaughter Beach had no electricity until then. But I can't remember when that was. That was the year--that was either in the early '30's or the late '20's when the line was run, but we didn't get on until about 1935 or 6.

Q Could you remember listening to the radio? Did you listen to any evenings regularly, or did you have favorite programs that you always listened to?

M Oh, yes. I can remember at home we always had to listen to Lowell Thomas with the news. We just hated to be interrupted by anybody calling then. I didn't care too much for any of the entertainment programs on except--what was it, Charlie McCarthy?

H Yeah, he was a little bit later. Fibber McGee and Molly, I can recall. And then of course there were the who-done-its but I can't think of any of 'em now... the mystery shows... the one that had the creaking door--what was the name of that one?

M The Green Hornet?

H No, it wasn't the Green Hornet.

M Mmm... I don't know. I liked sports over the radio, and I still enjoy sports over the radio... if I'm busy and don't have time to watch it on television?

H We always listened to the news quite a bit.

Q Did you listen to any political figures--like Roosevelt when he was on?

M Oh my stars, yes.

H Roosevelt and his fireside chats--you couldn't help it if you had a radio and turned it on.

Q Did you listen to a whole fireside chat? I mean, people today when they listen to political speeches don't seem... they don't have the same attitude as the people back in the '30's when they listened to the radio. Would you say that's true, or....

H Well, they paid more attention, I guess... yeah, they paid more
attention then. I think they have a rather tongue-in-cheek attitude anymore. "He's promising that now, but he won't be able to deliver it, if he does get elected."

Q But you believed Roosevelt and the things he told you?

H Some people did. Quite a few did. I can still remember hearing the rally before the night--on election eve, I guess it was--in the Garment Workers Union, New York City. Roosevelt addressed them. I won't tell you what it reminded me of.

Q Well, one other question on education. Besides the school system, has Milford had any other types of education--outside of the formal school system? Any informal educational things--I'm thinking now of the chautauqua in the 1920's--when you had visiting lecturers come in.

M Oh, we had chautauqua, which was a big social event then. Yes, we enjoyed that...and the fireman's carnival was--the kids always looked forward to that and the school classes had floats and so forth...that was to raise money for the fire company. Except for the chautauqua, I don't think of anything else that you'd say was educational. But the children enjoyed the programs from chautauqua--you know, the morning program for the children, and then all the afternoon and evening programs....

H Most of that was prior to the mid-twenties, though, as I recall.

Q Yeah, this would be in the twenties.

H Yeah.

Q Can you remember any particular lecturer, or group that was here that you remember? That's a long time ago I know.

H That's a long time ago. The only one that I can remember is some English woman, and this was shortly after World War I, of course, giving her impressions of the United States. It was largely humorous. Who she was, I haven't the vaguest idea--now, anyway. That's about the only thing I can think of, though. There were magicians, of course. We enjoyed them--the kids did at least. Being kids, we wouldn't be interested in the cut and the dried lectures, anyhow, unless it was specifically designed for children's entertainment. And then it probably wouldn't be dry. I can remember some clown who came to school one time and gave us--I guess you would probably call them nutritional lectures--how good milk was for us. Who sponsored him, I don't know. And other things that we should eat...we had to wash our teeth properly--things of that type.

M I can remember when I was at the Indian school that Connie Mack came down and spoke, because he was a personal friend of one of the men. We thought that was wonderful.

H Well, he brought the team down for their dental checkups at L. D. Caulk quite often, and every once in a while they would play a game here...just...I guess you'd call it an intra-club game,
because all the players on the field were members of the Athletic baseball club. But we got to see the major leaguers, anyway... without going to Philadelphia.

Q Do you remember any preachers who would come to town? Set up a tent--Pentacostal preachers, or....

H I can remember just vaguely when what is now Calvary Church was the...the meetings were held in the tent...and that was very vaguely, too, because the original church was built about 1910 or 11, but I just have a vague recollection of that tent being there. That was...at that time it was a Methodist Protestant Church, as opposed to the one that was already here, the Methodist Episcopal Church. Now they're all joined together in one Methodist Church--they joined with the United something-or-other. Anyway it's called the United Methodist Church now. I can't remember...I'm trying to remember where the Church of God held their first meetings. It was in McDonald's store, wasn't it?

M I believe it was.

H When they first started. He was the man who started it in Milford, the Church of God. And then later they built a brick--or a concrete block, rather, not brick--single story building, just a hall, on North Washington Street. I don't remember where they went from there, but they have quite a nice church out on North Walnut Street now. But the smaller denominations I don't recall. You mentioned the Pentacostal, and I think there is a Pentacostal here.

Q Or Holiness churches?

H Southern Holiness...yes. There's one called the Holiness Church here, but I don't remember where they held their original meetings. I can remember where their original church was. It's now used by some other re...or was used by some other small group. There were quite often referred to as Holy Rollers in the newspaper.

Q Well, can you think of any other major changes? Otherwise, I don't have any more questions. Any other impressions that you might have?

M Yes, it's hard to get a doctor to make a house call. They used to do that. Of course we have a much better hospital than we had 50 years ago, and like all communities we need more doctors. I can remember when there weren't too many beauty parlors. Why I got my hair cut way back then in a barber shop. Women don't do that any more. And I can remember when you could go to the dentist and not have an appointment. And now you have an appointment set up from one time to the next.

H I can remember I had a large filling that came out, and was beginning to bother me a little bit. And I couldn't...all the dentists in Milford were busy and somebody suggested that I go to the doctor of dentists in Milton. So I got down there and it happened to be his afternoon off. He was down at his cottage...
at Broadkill Beach. But he took his tools with him. So I went to Broadkill Beach. And he sat me down in a chair there on the porch of his cottage and extracted my tooth—"save me novocaine. It was in the early '30's—I don't remember the year...'30-'33, I would say. But those things...you'll find those in any community. I mean, that's changed everywhere.

Q Well, you would say then in general perhaps that Milford has been...is a better place now than it used to be? Or did you like it the way it was at any particular time in the past?

M Maybe we liked us better as we were then.

H I think that you have a tendency to prefer things as they were when you were a little bit younger. You don't remember the bad things nearly as well as you remember the good ones...or at least I don't.

M I can remember hearing my father tell about Dr. James, one of the older doctors in the town who's dead now. He had...at that time they wouldn't take colored women in the delivery room and so on. They had their section of the hospital down in the cellar. Of course that's over with now. But he had a patient that needed attention in the delivery room, and there was quite an uproar when he took her there. He...well, our whole attitude has changed since then. I'd say we're a better place. We've grown up.

H In that respect, yes. As far as being a nice town to be in...I mean just to pass through...all the streets used to be lined with trees. And between power lines and big trucks, they've had to widen the streets for the trucks, and also the trucks are so tall, that they've had to take out most of the trees and you can't walk in comfort on any street in Milford now. You have to walk in the sun...or I say any--there are one or two.

M I remember that years ago we didn't lock up our houses, and now we tend to lock up. And I used to be not at all afraid to play cards at night and drive home. And now I am a little. And like all towns we have more crime, and we're just a little more frightened.

H We're tending to have our labor troubles too, I guess. Not too many nights ago I happened to notice a police car right down--well, he was opposite the driveway going to the farm buildings there. So I walked over and asked him what it was all about, and he said that they thought there was someone out here in the corn field. So when I found out who the fellow supposedly was—one of the boys who lives back here in the trailer court—it...was apparently got involved in the labor situation at Sure-Good...they're having...I guess they're still having a strike maybe...I don't think it's been definitely settled. Anyway these two fool fellows came down and they pretty well wrecked his trailer. Then they disappeared. So the police were trying to find them.
Just a couple of goons. Didn't know who they were. Still don't. As far as I know.

M We didn't used to have that.

Q Has your local newspaper changed any?

H Well, some, yes, because well, that's mainly because of a change in the management...from one generation to the next. It's a generational change, not a family change.

M Well, I think our present editor tends to write off the top of his hat without always bothering to get the facts. He's sort of one-sided.

H Editors, I think they're a little inclined to when they're regularly--at least when they're writing an editorial--are inclined to express their own feelings on a matter, and he takes it from whoever gives it to him...he's a retired Air Force colonel. But the third generation that I can remember is editing the paper now--of the same family.

Q What kind of changes have you noticed in the paper? You said your editorial policy has changed...is this what you meant?

M They don't have as good a proofreader as they used to have.

H None of them have that.

Q In the kind of news that they print....

H It's not as local as it used to be. It used to be pretty well confined to the local community, and Sussex and lower Kent County, if he could get a correspondent who would write for it. But now he's...well, he has Babson's report, and he has quite a sport page which was originally was never in there at all. The format of course is the same. And other than that I can't think of anything in particular.

Q Well, that's all the questions I have.

End of interview.