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INTERVIEW OF
GEORGE AND LUCY REDMAN

July 30, 1974

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

GEORGE K. VAPAA, NARRATOR

Vapaa: And this is George Vapaa ah, who used to be the Kent County Agricultural Agent and now live at Dover, Delaware as I have for the last 20 years. And for our gueststonight we have-- Incidentally, what is the date?

George Redman: The 30th.

Vapaa: The 30th of July and a Tuesday night. And ah, let's see who we're talking to. George, your name?

G. Redman: Ah, George Redman.

Vapaa: And your middle name?

G. Redman: Henry.

Vapaa: Henry. And where do you live now?

G. Redman: I live in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Vapaa: And the street address?

G. Redman: Ah, 71 Sussex Street.

Vapaa: And your telephone number?

G. Redman: Ah, 237-7431.

Vapaa: You know this history is going to be used by people who want to know maybe a 50 or 100 years from now how people lived in 1974. And ah, so this is the object of ah, this particular study so, I mean, ah, history.

Now ah, let's introduce your wife. Lucy, your na--your full name please.

Lucy Redman: Lucy Redman.

Vapaa: And you were married once before Lucy, weren't you?

L. Redman: Yes, I was.

Vapaa: And your name before?

L. Redman: Lucy Jerread.

Vapaa: And before na--your maiden name?

L. Redman: Lucy Hanson.

Vapaa: Lucy Hanson. All right, now we'll not ask you your age, Lucy, or anything like this. But I'm going to ask George his age, and his date of birth, and where you were born.

G. Redman: Well, I'm 39 years of age and ah--

Vapaa: Oh--

G. Redman: ..and the year the I was born was 19 eh, 35, was that it?

Vapaa: No. No. (laughter) Let's be serious about this, George.

G. Redman: Well, I was born on October 1903.

Vapaa: 1903.

G. Redman: In Baltimore, Maryland.

Vapaa: In Baltimore, Maryland. Do you know the exact date of birth?

G. Redman: October 21st.

Vapaa: October 21st.

And Lucy, I'll not even ask you your birthdate except you're younger than George.

L. Redman: Correct. (laughter)

G. Redman: Oh. Now that's debatable. (laughter)

Vapaa: No. And Lucy, you are a native of ah, Delaware. Where were you born, Lucy?

L. Redman: I was born in Harrington.

Vapaa: At Harrington? And ah,--

G. Redman: About 1819.

Vapaa: Where you (unintelligible) . And ah, you taught--

L. Redman: Taught for 31 years. Retired in 1969.

Vapaa: I see. And where did you teach most of the time, Lucy?

L. Redman: I taught most of the time in Harrington.

Vapaa: Un-hun. Now George, we want to know something too about ah, your ah, early life history. Ah, what did you do as a boy and when you grew up and what made you decide to get into your career? If anything?

G. Redman: Well, I was an athlete. I played baseball. I played professional baseball one year.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: And I played high school football, high school baseball and ah, my Dad was a carpenter and I had done some work with him. And the depression came along in 1930 and I had a chance to get in the Fire Department which was going to be steady employment. And with no intentions of remaining in the department, but I stayed for 38 years.

Vapaa: And this was in Baltimore?

G. Redman: In Baltimore, Maryland. And I retired in no--on November 1st, 1968.

Vapaa: And what was your ah, rank at that time?

G. Redman: My rank on retirement was ah, Battalion Fire Chief.

Vapaa: How many Battalion Fire Chiefs are there in Baltimore?

G. Redman: Well, there are 10.

Vapaa: At the time?

G. Redman: At the time.

Vapaa: And basically, did you have any particular section of the City you were responsible for?

G. Redman: Yes. I was responsible for the downtown section.

Vapaa: I see.

G. Redman: Which meant the--with my quarters across from the new ah, Holiday Inn at Lombard and Howard Streets.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And how many men did you have in your department?

G. Redman: Ah, we had 2200 men. And in my district we had 156.

Vapaa: Lucy, do you have any questions you want to ask George at this time? ~~Things~~ that you'd like to know?

L. Redman: No. I found out everything I wanted to know before I married him.
(laughter)

Vapaa: Well, that takes us to the point of ah, George, why you moved to Delaware.

G. Redman: Well, I suppose that I--one reason I came to Delaware was because I met Lucy and she had lost her husband and I had lost my first wife.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: And ah, we were married in 1965.

Vapaa: Now did you have any children by your first marriage?

G. Redman: Yes, I did--had a boy and a girl.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: They're still living--one in--

Vapaa: And how old are they?

G. Redman: ...Washington, D. C. and one in the State of--Cape St. Clair, Maryland near the Bay Bridge.

Vapaa: I see. And ah, what do they do?

G. Redman: Well, my son is the--works in the insurance business and real estate in Washington, D. C. And my daughter is married and lives at Cape St. Clair near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Vapaa: And what does her husband do?

G. Redman: Her husband works for the Sealtest Dairy in Baltimore.

Vapaa: What kind of work does he do for Sealtest?

G. Redman: He has a commercial route.

Vapaa: Um-hum. Now would that be a wholesale route or--

G. Redman: Yes. Wholesale route.

Vapaa: Um-hum. Now ah, you said you were married to Lucy in 1965?

G. Redman: That is correct.

Vapaa: And this was at Harrington?

G. Redman: In Harrington.

Vapaa: At the church--which church? The brick church?

L. Redman: The Asbury. (jumble of voices)

Vapaa: Asbury.

G. Redman: Asbury Methodist Church.

Vapaa: Which I call the wooden church.

L. Redman: Yeh. (laughter)

Vapaa: Because of course there are 2 Methodist churches in Harrington. Both of them fairly small in a town of 2,000 people, A city of 2,000 people I guess we better say. And ah, my wife says, "You better believe it." (laughter) So ah,

V. Vapaa: Let them talk.

Vapaa: Oh, I'm letting them talk. Now ah, let's see, where do we go from here? Lucy, is there anything you want to tell us about your school teaching days? What you taught and so forth.

L. Redman: Well ah, I taught ah, first grade most of the time--first and second grade most of the time.

Vapaa: Are you a college graduate?

L. Redman: Yes. Graduated from University of Delaware.

Vapaa: Um-hum. Would it be too bad to ask you--I mean allowed to ask you what year you were graduated?

L. Redman: Ah, 1934.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And have you ever taken any extension courses since then?

L. Redman: Many (laughter) Too many.

Vapaa: Too many. I think most teachers feel this way. And yet it is a good way to keep up I think in many respects in their ah, various fields.

Well, let's talk a little bit about our lives today. Ah, you're living in Rehoboth Beach. You did live in Harrington for a time after Jerdy (sp?) died. (CHARLES JERREARD) JR.

L. Redman: That's right.

Vapaa: Now ah, Jerdy's business was what?

L. Redman: He had the ah, newsstand in Harrington.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And did he ever do any other kind of work?

L. Redman: He worked for duPonts in Seaford.

Vapaa: At the duPont plant?

L. Redman: Yeah.

Vapaa: Un. Was that when the plant opened?

L. Redman: Soon after it opened. And then he left ah, when he entered the service. He left the duPont Company and didn't go back.

Vapaa: Now where did he go in the service?

L. Redman: Ah, Bainbridge.

Vapaa: So he was in the Navy?

L. Redman: Yes.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And were you married at the time ?

L. Redman: Oh, yes. We were married in 1935 and that was in 1943.

Vapaa: Now, you had some children by that marriage too, didn't you?

L. Redman: Yes. One.

Vapaa: One boy. Um-hum. And ah, let's see, and you and Jerdy adopted a boy, did you not?

L. Redman: Yes. And he lives in Salamanca ~~(sp?)~~, New York.

Vapaa: And what does he do?

L. Redman: He works for ah, precision instruments company. I don't know the exact name of it. They make parts for Ford Motor Company.

Vapaa: Now how far did he go through school?

L. Redman: Graduated from high school and then upon graduation from high school he ah, ah, joined the Navy.

Vapaa: George, did you ever have any military service?

G. Redman: Never had any at all. I was too young for the first war and too old for the second.

Vapaa: Did it bother you that you were too old for the second?
Or too young for the first?

G. Redman: Umm, I can't say it--I can't say that it bothered me. Ah, at the time of the first war I was still going to school. And the second war I was married and was raising a family.

Vapaa: And you had a critical job, did you not?

G. Redman: Well, no, I wouldn't say that because many firemen were--were drafted into the service and many enlisted into the service. And ah, their job was waiting for them when they back.

Vapaa: Um-hum. If you had it to do over again, would you be a fireman?

G. Redman: Well, that is a hard question to answer because ah, I--well, when I was a--when I was a boy I never had a desire to become a fireman or a policeman like many of the boys do. And ah, as I mentioned before it was dur--it was during the depression and you took whatever you could get. And ah, actually I was in the fire department for 7 years when things were starting to get better on the outside. And I started making promotions and I made 3 promotions and--

Vapaa: Ginny, ^{(VIRGINIA - my wife) said} the flat(?) doesn't work. Throw 'em in the closet.

I see. Well, this is just a slight interruption. I'm going to continue to let the machine run though because it's a little bit difficult to pick up some thoughts here--

V. Vapaa: Your not prepared, that's why.

Vapaa: That's my wife saying that. And she doesn't think the machine has picked it up, but I bet it has.

But ah, what I need a flashlight for is to find out whether the tape is running and how far it is going. It's running along very nicely I might say. And ah, we are not even half way through yet, Lucy.

L. Redman: Not like a Watergate tape. I--

Vapaa: No, it's not like a Watergate tape I don't think. (laughter) It's possible of course. I mean ah, the--that ah, it could be erased very much in the same manner that they accused the Watergate tapes of being erased. Ah, but we hope that it won't be-- cause ah, this will be a part of the oral history of ah, people who lived in 1974 and presumed who will be listened to as a tape and read as a story transcribed for them to read along ah, at some future date. Ah, I'm having Pat Griffith, Patricia Griffith, my wife's ah, what is her relationship, Virginia?

V. Vapaa: Mmm.

Vapaa: She would be your niece by marriage? I have an awful time, George, straightening out relatives. She's doing the typing on the ah, on this recording and doing a very fine job I might add. Ah, but she's gone to Florida with her husband this week so I guess this is going to have to wait a little bit until it gets typed. But it will be typed in a matter of a couple of weeks I'm sure.

I do want to get a narrower tape altogether. So ah, if we can think of some interesting things that have happened in your lives, I'd like to ah, use ah, some of these things.

Vapaa: Lucy, what are some of the experiences in teaching school that you had that ah, you ah, recall as being either funny, or interesting or educational, or call it what you will? Because I imagine these little kids were kind of a interesting to work with, weren't they?

L. Redman: I've been retired so long I can't remember. I've forgotten a lot that I knew.

Vapaa: Now you told us that when you retired was when?

L. Redman: 1969.

Vapaa: That's not too long ago. It's only--

L. Redman: 4 years.

Vapaa: Yes.

L. Redman: 4 years ago.

Vapaa: 5 years ago.

L. Redman: 5 years ago. But I just--I just forget a lot of the things that happened. I can't think of them now.

Vapaa: Well, did you ever--

L. Redman: (unintelligible)

Vapaa: Well, let's talk about some things then that have been happening ah, in recent years. Since you have been married you and George have been ah, taking a number of trips. You want to tell us about some of them?

L. Redman: Well, in 1964 I went to Europe ah, by myself and ah, went for 30 days and visited ah--

Vapaa: Was this--is this a tour?

L. Redman: Yes. Ah, and ah, I, let's see, I visited I think 8 countries

and then spent a week in Spain and then ah--

Vapaa: How did you go?

L. Redman: Ah, Pan American.

Vapaa: Airlines?

L. Redman: Yeah. And it was an American Exp--Express Tour. And then ah, George and I went ah, ah, back again in 1969 and then in ah, 1971 we went to the Scandinavian countries. And then ah, that was all with ah, Club International. And then we took another trip with Club International and went to ah, Jamaica.

Vapaa: Do you still belong to Club International?

L. Redman: No

Vapaa: Why not?

L. Redman: Well--

Vapaa: Just get tired of traveling?

L. Redman: I guess so and--but we enjoyed the trips and they were--you got a lot for your money. But we just never rejoined. I don't know of any special reason why.

G. Redman: Well, their trips were to Europe and we had been there--Lucy had been there 3 times, I have been there twice, and ah, we didn't have any desire to go back.

Vapaa: When ~~we~~^{was} the first time you went, George? What year?

G. Redman: To Europe?

Vapaa: To Europe.

G. Redman: In 1969. That's when we went to London and we spent 4 days in London. We went to Paris for 4 days. We were in Heidelberg for 3 days. We were in Amsterdam for 3 days. We were in Luxenburgⁿ I think 2 days. And we enjoyed it very much because I didn't

have any desire to go to Europe. I would have preferred going to Hawaii. But Lucy wanted to go to Europe so we went to Europe.

Vapaa: Have you been to Hawaii yet?

G. Redman: And in '71 we had another trip coming up and again I wanted to go to Hawaii and Lucy wanted to go back to the Scandinavian countries and George Vapaa talked her into it. (laughter) And ah, so we went to the Scandinavian countries and we enjoyed that very, very much. And that trip included a ah, not only 4 days in ah, Copenhagen and Denmark, 3 days in Stockholm, and 3 days in ah, in Oslo and ah, just 1 day in Helsinki--

Vapaa: Finland.

G. Redman: Then we had a--a trip into Russia into Leningrad for 2 days which was quite an experience.

Vapaa: Did you like Russia at all?

G. Redman: Well, Leningrad of course, as you know, was ah, the former capital of Russia under the Czars--was named St. Petersburg at the time. And it was a beautiful city with very wide streets and everything was spotless. The only thing is they had all of these nice long wide streets but they had no automobiles.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: Of course we inquired why. Said, "Well, if you have the money, it may take 3 or 4 years to get a machine. If something should happen to it and you needed a part, it would take at least 6 months to get a new part for it. And while Leningrad is a city of 3½ million people they have 2 service stations in the town of Leningrad."

Vapaa: Did you see any American cars in Leningrad?

G. Redman: No. In fact, we saw--they were--no. We saw no American cars. The ones that we did see were small cars--compact cars, but there were plenty of busses. And ah, everyone rode the bus or a bicycle. There were quite a few bicycles on the streets.

L. Redman: And all the busses were as clean as clean on the inside and smelled like ah, formaldehyde.

G. Redman: There was a thing that we saw in Leningrad was the most beautiful subway that I have ever seen. They had marble staircases and big beautiful chandeliers. It was just ah, compared to our subways in this country and in London why they were just beautiful.

Vapaa: Well they say they have similar subways in ah, Moscow. Which is now the capital of Russia of course. But of course, I haven't been there. The closest I've been to Russia myself, George, I might as well tell you is ah, near the Eastern border. ^{Finland} And one day when we were driving north to a town called, forget it now ah, forget the name, it doesn't make a great deal of difference. But anyway it was up by (^{IMATRA}) where the largest waterfall is in Europe and biggest power station in Europe I believe at the time. This was 1961. Why ah, our son was riding in the front seat I think with--with us. And we had a little Saab car--Swedish car. And ah, we ah, went by this lake and there were signs all along the lake in American and Russian and Finnish, "No Picture Taking" Russian

Border". So what does my boy do but pull out the camera and start shooting pictures like mad. And ah, so ah,--Cause I told him to do you say Virginia? (laughter) I guess I did, because--. Of course, we only took 750 pictures in 12 weeks. That's ah, slide pictures. Plus a Polaroid camera that I ah, took along or actually it was a ~~Verifax~~^{GRAFLEX} camera with a Polaroid back. (murmuring) And ah, it ah, your confusing the issue over there. So ah, but ah, this ~~Verifax~~^{GRAFLEX} camera with the Polaroid back took black and white pictures whereas the slides were all in color. And ah, as I would shoot the picture in black and white with the Polaroid camera I would take the ah, Polaroid back off and insert a film holder of the same slide and shoot it on regular film. In other words, I'd make the correction in lighting and in settings and so forth and ah, this would show up as a correction. And invariably I'd give the Polaroid to ah, the person whose picture I'd taken because I knew that the print of what I ah, would take--had taken would probably be all right. Now, did you take many pictures at all on your trip?

G. Redman: Oh yes. Yes. We--we took many pictures and--in--on our trips to Europe. And ah, I will say that most of them turned out very well too.

Vapaa: Do you look at them very often?

G. Redman: Well, we had them out this Spring and I suppose that's the first time for quite some time. And we are putting them in an album now. We have most of them in an album which we had just gotten

this Spring. But most of them are beautiful pictures, weren't they Lucy?

L. Redman: Yes they were.

Vapaa: Now let's see. Lucy, when you married George you were living in Harrington of course. And then didn't you move to Baltimore for awhile?

G. Redman: No. No. But ah, Lucy went--

L. Redman: No, ah, I--I sold my home in 1965 and then I spent that summer in Baltimore. Then when school started in the fall I came back ah, and stayed at Rehoboth and commuted from Harrington to Rehoboth until I found an apartment. And then ah, in October of 1965 I moved into the Quillen Apartments on ah, Commerce Street--

Vapaa: In Harrington?

L. Redman: Yes. And ah, we stayed there until 1971 when we ah, ah, bought a condominium--apartment in a condominium in Florida. And then we left the apartment and ah, moved to Rehoboth in our permanent Delaware residence--

Vapaa: And by this time you were retired?

L. Redman: Yes. And--

Vapaa: And you were always an antique fan, were you not?

L. Redman: Oh, yes. (laughter)

Vapaa: And you still have some?

L. Redman: Oh, I still have--I sold quite a few antiques, but I kept all my better furniture and better pieces of glass.

Vapaa: Where do you keep it, Lucy? I mean, you don't mind telling us now, would you?

L. Redman: No, I have ah, most of my furniture--my valuable pieces--in Rehoboth. And then I ha--took some of my nice glassware down in Florida. And then I have some other pieces my friends keep.

Vapaa: Now, how much of the year do you two spend in Florida--and when do you--

G. Redman: This time?

Vapaa: Yes.

G. Redman: We spent 6 months in Florida and 6 months in Rehoboth, Delaware.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And how do you like Florida?

G. Redman: Well, I love it and I think Lucy does too.

L. Redman: Yes, I--I--

G. Redman: At least she's never ready to come home when it's time to come home.

Vapaa: I think it would be appropriate, George, at this time to find out where you live in Florida. Where do you have your condominium?

G. Redman: Well, we have a--a condominium in a--garden type condominium on the inter-coastal waterway in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Which is ah, midway between ah, Palm Beach and Miami Beach. Thirty miles from south of Palm Beach thirty miles north of Miami Beach. And we enjoy it very much.

Vapaa: And what is your mailing address down there?

G. Redman: Our mailing address is 745 S. E. 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Vapaa: And the zip code?

G. Redman: The zip code is 33441.

Vapaa: Do you remember your telephone number?

G. Redman: Ah, yes. Our telephone number is being changed at the present time. It is 399-3510 and it is going to be changed to 427-3510 on November 3rd. We just received that information through mails yesterday.

Vapaa: Suppose I wanted to call you in Florida, how do I get you from Dover say?

G. Redman: Ah, from here you could dial 1-305.

Vapaa: That's your area code.

G. Redman: Area code--399-3510.

Vapaa: Except if they change the new number.

G. Redman: It's not until November 3rd.

Vapaa: November 3rd.

G. Redman: And you can check the--

Vapaa: Do you look forward to go to Florida every year?

G. Redman: Yes. While we enjoy the falls up here--I love October up here--and I think if we had more heat in Rehoboth, we may stay until Thanksgiving. But ah, when it gets cold, we have to get out of Rehoboth because our place is really a summer home. While we have electric heat the home is not insulated very well, and when it gets cold why we've got to find the other apartment.

Vapaa: And what about your electric rates down there in Rehoboth?
What about your electric rates? The cost of electricity?
In Rehoboth?

G. Redman: Well, ah I find that the rates in Rehoboth and the rates in Florida are just about the same. I think there's very little difference. Course, in Florida we have electric heat and electric--and of course, air conditioning--but during the winter months we very seldom use air conditioning and very seldom do we need heat. Ah, I would--I would say that we didn't use our electric heat for over 5 hours the entire season last year in Florida.

Vapaa: Was that an exceptional winter, would you say?

G. Redman: Yes. I think so. It was considerable--the warmest er--season that they've had there since they've been keeping records.

Vapaa: Of course, we got there in March and ah, we certainly had good weather while we were there.

G. Redman: We had a very good season last year. Real unusual.

Vapaa: Who likes Florida the best, you or Lucy?

L. Redman: George does.

G. Redman: I suppose that I do.

Vapaa: Why?

L. Redman: He likes the putting green. He likes to putt,

G. Redman: Well, they have putting greens there and I spend a couple of hours every day, but when we first started going to Florida in '69 the first year we went for 1 month, and the second year we

went for 2 months, the third year we went for 2½ months.

And then we bought this apartment and now we spend 6 months.

So, it had to grow on Lucy.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And who does the swimming down there?

G. Redman: Well, Lucy does most of the swimming.

L. Redman: Every day.

G. Redman: Every, every--

Vapaa: In the ocean?

G. Redman: No.

L. Redman: Mostly in the pool because ah--

G. Redman: Pool is a heated pool and ah,--

L. Redman: It's very handy just to walk out the back door.

G. Redman: Even though we should have a cool spell which means perhaps in the 60's, why Lucy still takes her swim. This pool is heated.

Vapaa: All right George, there's a little bit of tape left on here, but instead of letting it run out I think I'm just going to turn it over, and I'll ask that Pat Griffith the secretary to turn her tape over and we'll start recording on the other side, because I want to talk about--a little bit more about your condominium in Deerfield Beach. All right, let's talk about the condominium. Lucy.

L. Redman: Well ah, we live on the first floor and ah, we--

Vapaa: How many floors are there?

L. Redman: Ah, 4--4 stories

G. Redman: No, 3 floors.

- L. Redman: Three floors? Excuse me, 3 floors. There are 3 floors. It's garden type. Our apartment is on the first floor. And ah, we have a--a large living room with a dining alcove and a pullman kitchen, a bedroom and a bath and a half. And we have a patio across the--a screened in patio across the front.
- G. Redman: Just outside the patio is the swimming pool.
- L. Redman: And then there ah--
- Vapaa: What is the building made of?
- G. Redman: Ah, it's a--it's a concrete ah, ah, concrete block building with ah, cement floors. It's well constructed. And it was built in 1965. So it's still comparatively new.
- L. Redman: And it's 70 units in the condominium.
- Vapaa: How many people live there all year long?
- G. Redman: I'd say about half of the people are year around residents.
- Vapaa: Now all of the units are owned by someone are they?
- G. Redman: Oh, yes, yes. Ah,--
- Vapaa: And used?
- G. Redman: The unit--the units are owned by the occupants. And ah, they frown on you renting your apartment. Although some people that aren't going to be able to get there during the season may rent their apartment, but they can only rent it one time during the season--whether it's for a week, or a month, or the entire season. They can only rent it one time each season.
- Vapaa: Now George, haven't you told me you have some part in the management of this condominium?
- G. Redman: Well, I happen to be on the board of directors. Now this consists of 9 members. And ah, we do all our own planning and

spend all of our own money for such as ah, ah, keeping the pool clean, having the grass cut. We pay our own taxes. We pay our water rent. In other words we know where all of our money is going, because we are the ones that spend it.

Vapaa: Are any of your directors women?

G. Redman: Yes. At the present time there are 3 members of the board of directors that are ladies.

L. Redman: And one will be president next year.

G. Redman: And this next year Pauline Fredman (?) will be the president.

Vapaa: And where is her home originally? Do you know? Off hand?

L. Redman: Ah, New York. Her husband was on the ah--

G. Redman: I'd say New York because her husband is a member of the stock exchange before he died.

L. Redman: On Wall Street.

G. Redman: And from that assume that they either lived in New York or Connecticut somewheres nearby--possibly Long Island. I'm not certain.

Vapaa: Is he living now?

L. Redman: No.

G. Redman: No. He is--he has died. We--We had never known him, but--

Vapaa: Is she one of the people that lives there--nearly all the year?

G. Redman: Yes. Yes. In fact, I'm the only member of the board of directors that is not a year around resident.

Vapaa: And because of your place in Rehoboth you feel that you'd rather be up here in the summertime?

G. Redman: Ummm, yes. We--we enjoy being at Rehoboth during the summer. And while we enjoy Florida in the winter I'm not certain that I'd want to be there during the summer months. Although I've never had the experience.

Vapaa: Of course Lucy and George, you're both aware that we have had a Harrington bridge club going since 1947. And I think you were married to Jerdy of course at the time.

L. Redman: Right.

Vapaa: And ah, I know you Lucy, have been a member of this club for ever since it was started, were you not?

L. Redman: No. No, I didn't go in--we didn't ah--we weren't invited in until ah, 1947. I believe it started before then.

Vapaa: No. It must have been soon after then because ah, we had 12 members you know. Played 2 tables of bridge--or 3 tables, excuse me. We had early--rather early in the game established several rules. We developed--we met on Tuesday nights because it was the only night that we could get all 12 people together. Too many of us were active in other organizations such as service clubs and other town activities. I think we even had Charlie P--Peck of Harrington there as City Mayor while he was a member of the club. He still is of course a member of the club although he moved out of town for some reason or another and had to get out of his job as Mayor. Although he still has his business within the town limits itself--he and Tom, his brother. Well ah, as far as the bridge club is concerned, as I say it goes on and we do miss you when you are of course away in Florida. And

- ah, we hope you don't go too early this Fall because we start to play by when school starts--starts in September the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month. And ah, we usually ah,--
- L. Redman: Come hell or high water. (laughter)
- Vapaa: That's right.
- G. Redman: Well, if you control the weather, why we'll stay up as long as the weather is good. (laughter)
- Vapaa: O.K. George. I'll have to tell you this. We're going to Tucson, Arizona on the 20th of October and I wish you'd fly out there with us. Ah, we'll only be there a week. I'm going out for the National County Agents' Convention as I have for years. And it's out in a different section of the country every year. Last year it happened to be close to home-- Baltimore. But that's as close as our National County Agents' Convention has ever been to Delaware. Oh, no, wait. I'll take that back. I guess Philadelphia up in the northern part of the state (background murmuring and laughter). All right, Virginia.
- V. Vapaa: You'll cut a lot of this out because we're doing all the talking.
- Vapaa: We're not going to cut anything out of this tape believe me. (laughter) Because this is my wife, Virginia, throwing in some ah, ah, side comments or barbs or call it what you will. (laughter)
- L. Redman: We're--we thank you, George, for the kind invitation but we're saving our money to go to California next ah, Spring.

- Vapaa: Well, don't you remember, George wants to go to Hawaii.
- L. Redman: (laughter) Yeh. Well, that'll be after ah, we might even go after we leave California.
- G. Redman: Well, next--next ah, spring we're planning to go to the Canadian Rockies and ah, (?) River and back and Lake Louise and possibly California, Arizona and according to just how we go whether we're going to drive or go by train. Personally I'd rather go by train. Lucy, she seems to want to drive and I tell her, "It's a long way to drive."
- Vapaa: It certainly is. I'll agree with you because World War II-- and this would have been 1944 I believe--why ah, my wife and I drove back from the State of Washington. I had been stationed with the Air Force at the State of Washington and I was assigned to Aberdeen, Maryland to go to school--ordinance school--and we had to get back from Washington State in 3½ days. And we drove straight through with only a stop in Wyoming--at Kimmer,(SP?) Wyoming where J. C. Penneys started out in business. You know J. C. Penneys store, I suppose?
- G. Redman: Yes.
- Vapaa: Well, it started out as a very small ah, store I don't know how many years ago. I'm not that much of a historian. I guess I ah, the thought just popped into my mind and ah, I just don't really know ah, when the business did start. But Mr. Penney I believe now is--has finally died.
- G. Redman: He died about 2 years ago. Very recently. I think I remember reading it.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

V. Vapaa: You sure get sidetracked.

Vapaa: Well, it's true that I get sidetracked, Virginia, in ah, talking about this but ah, that's part of the story I think.

G. Redman: But ah, we can ah--or rather I can come back to where I am and I can say that driving '65 we went to Yellowstone Park. Of course, and drove out and back and then in '66 why we drove to California and back. It was a long drive across country and especially coming back. So I would--

L. Redman: You always come back faster than you go (laughter) because when he starts heading for home--

G. Redman: When we get ready to go home--

L. Redman: ...we never stop for anything.

G. Redman: When we got ready to go home now we wanted to be home (overlay of voices, unintelligible) ...and say, well we're home. It just doesn't happen that way.

Vapaa: Well, so you're planning to go to ah, California and the West Coast. Will this be essentially the same trip that Park and Charlotte Harrington who are also members of our club ah, bridge club, are taking this year--or took this year?

G. Redman: Well, no because they didn't take this trip in the Canadian Rockies--Lake Louise and Baniff. They went to Alaska instead. Which was a much more extensive trip. That's (unintelligible). And ah,--

Vapaa: Any particular reason why you don't want to go to Alaska?

G. Redman: Well, yes. I prefer warm weather.

Vapaa: Umhum.

G. Redman: I suppose that's the only answer that I have.

Vapaa: Humph. And Lucy, do you have any opinion on this? Alaska?

L. Redman: I'd like to go to--I'd like to go Alaska.

Vapaa: Would you like to go swimming in Alaska?

L. Redman: Sure. I'll try anything once. (laughter)

G. Redman: Lucy would like to go to China. Lucy would like to go to Australia. Lucy would like to go to Africa. You ask Lucy where she would like to go--she would like to go.

L. Redman: George says I like the see me side of life.

Vapaa: Well, how do you all feel about Delaware?

L. Redman: Oh, I think it's wonderful.

G. Redman: Well we do. We--we love Delaware, especially down at Rehoboth. It's no smog and no noise. We--we sleep until 9 o'clock in the morning. Of course, for many, many years Lucy got up at 7 to go to school and I got up at 6 to go to work. And ah, now we both enjoy sleeping until 9.

L. Redman: And George says that ah, ah, that he would never go back to a big city to live again. He likes the small town.

Vapaa: Is this because of the smog? George or--

G. Redman: Oh, no. No. No. I suppose Baltimore is little different from any of the other large cities, but ah--

Vapaa: Compare it for example.

- G. Redman: Well, down here--. I came to Harrington and I was ah, 60 years of age and in a couple of years I was--I said hello to everyone in Harrington. And in Baltimore I lived there for 60 years and I hardly knew my next door neighbor.
- Vapaa: How many people were--are there in Baltimore at the present time? Do you have any idea?
- G. Redman: Well, Baltimore is about a million--just a little under a million. And of course, the surrounding areas--Baltimore is ah, 2 million people within a 10 mile area around Baltimore.
- Vapaa: Now tell us what ah, newspapers and magazines and--you read and television you look at and this kind of thing.
- G. Redman: Well, I still like the Baltimore Sun and of course we get the Readers' Digest every month. But ah, other than that my reading is biographies. Go to the library and read biographies. I enjoy that more than just magazine articles.
- Vapaa: And Lucy, your reading?
- L. Redman: I read mostly biographies ah--. We used the Deerfield Library quite a bit this winter. And ah, we read many ah, biographies.
- Vapaa: Can you mention one person that you read about in particular?
- G. Redman: Yes. Patton--George Patton's story and the Battle of Midway which I enjoyed very much.
- L. Redman: And ah, there was one about Jefferson.
- G. Redman: Read one on Thomas Jefferson. Read one on Aaron Burr.

L. Redman: I enjoyed that one on Aaron Bu--about Aaron Burr (?)

Vapaa: Have you ever been to Monticello? You said Jefferson.

G. Redman: Yes. Yes, we have.

Vapaa: And what do you think of that?

G. Redman: Well, I think that Thomas Jefferson was an inventor. He certainly was--they say that many of those things such as the-- what was that?

Vapaa: Do you remember his bed?

L. Redman: Mmmm. No.

Vapaa: Well, if you--if you remember, he went to bed in one room and he could roll over on the--outside the other end side of the bed and he'd be in another room--his dressing room.

G. Redman: Well, I'll tell you George, now certain parts of that home we weren't able to visit.

Vapaa: Oh.

G. Redman: And I don't recall the bed at all. Do you, Lucy?

L. Redman: No. Un-un.

G. Redman: So whether we didn't get into his bedroom I can't say. But I don't recall it. It's been oh, I guess 7 or 8 years since we were down there. But I don't recall his bed.

Vapaa: Well, this is one of the more interesting things that I found as well as the place that they kept the fish that he caught. Did you see that--the fish pond?

L. Redman: No.

Vapaa: They had a little pool. It was a concrete pool and a stream of water goes through there. I guess it's fed by a natural stream. And Monticello itself you know is located at the top of a hill. And ah, so this stream apparently just starts out there and in--.

Back in the colonial days they didn't have any refrigeration of course, and keeping fish was something of a problem. No refrigeration or anything like this. So ah, they used this pool to keep the fish live until they were ah, eaten. And of course, did you get a chance to look at the gardens and--

G. Redman: Yes. Yes, we did. Well, when you're talking about keeping the fish alive, they do the very same thing in Denmark today. Or rather they did in '71 when we were there.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: They took us to a--to a--seaport there or rather a fishing village and the people come up to buy fish and they had 'em just like we keep crabs--in a live box. And they reach in and pull a live fish out and clean it for you right there on the spot.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And then you just take it home and cook it. Is that it?

G. Redman: Yes. That's right.

Vapaa: Suppose you wanted to ah, get a ah, went into a restaurant and wanted a crab or a lobster. What was the procedure then in Copenhagen? Do you remember? Or didn't you try that?

G. Redman: No. I can't--can't say that we did. Of course ah, we had our meals at the hotel where we were staying except when we went to visit where Hans Christian Anderson's birthplace.

Vapaa: Do you remember where that was? If you don't, I do.

L. Redman: Odense.

Vapaa: Odense.

L. Redman: Odense.

G. Redman: Odense. Yes. Yes.

Vapaa: O-d-e-n-s-e.

G. Redman: I'll tell you what I do remember very vividly was the trip across the ferry. We went by bus on the tour. And going over we had our lunch aboard the--the ferry boat, and coming back we had our dinner on the same ferry boat.

Vapaa: You came back the same day?

G. Redman: Yes. And those 2 meals we ate were just delicious. My. It was the best food. And of course, over there they still call steak beef steak. And it was delicious.

Vapaa: And they still celebrate the 4th of July just as we do in America. Did you know this? Yes. Did you know this?

G. Redman: (overlapping voices - unintelligible) I didn't know that.

Vapaa: Now I'm saying this that they still do I--I'm up to 1974 at least I'm sure that this has been the case. And whether they will continue to do it for any length of time I don't know. But ah--

G. Redman: Do they celebrate because it was ah--the 4th of July because of our ah, American Independence?

Vapaa: American Independence. I guess so. I don't --

G. Redman: I thought it may be one of their own holidays.

Vapaa: I really don't know George. It would take some scholar to trace this down. I mean, all I know is that they celebrate it as the 4th of July. As a holiday. When you were in Europe did you ah, have any holidays while you were there? In other words, Lucy--

L. Redman: I was in Paris on Bastille Day.

Vapaa: Do you remember what the date of that Bastille Day is?

L. Redman: It's in June. I don't know, but it was ah, ah, hot--crowds and crowds of people there. And ah, de Gaulle ah, was in the procession. And they had all soldiers and mechanized equipment and ah, it was worth seeing.

Vapaa: Essentially a military parade then?

L. Redman: Yes.

Vapaa: And we're talking about Charles deGaulle?

L. Redman: Um-hum.

Vapaa: Was he president at the time?

L. Redman: Yeah.

Vapaa: Umm. And a very strong French president I believe. Of course, during World War II why ah, I had a chance to see him in North Africa because he was with the free French. And him and the free French forces and they operated a good bit out of ah, North Africa into Tunisia. And then I think some of the units went into Italy although more of them went into the invasion of Southern France. When the Americans and the British went in by way of--when they went in with these--then too I believe into ah, the low countries--Holland and Belgium and so forth ah, and ah, Northern France during World War II. Which I believe was 1942 if my memory ah, is ah, correct. It's amazing how much history you can forget over the years. And ah, I don't know, I think it's important--not necessarily to remember precisely although it's nice to know--particularly a birthday. Does Lucy still remember your birthday, George?

G. Redman: Well, of course. (laughter)

Vapaa: Do you remember hers?

L. Redman: Of course. (laughter)

G. Redman: I'd better not forget it.

Vapaa: How about anniversaries?

G. Redman: Yes. Anniversaries. She always gives me a gift on our anniversary.

L. Redman: Yeh. (laughter) I always get one from him.

Vapaa: Is it an antique usually, Lucy?

L. Redman: Oh, no. I usually ask for money. (laughter)

Vapaa: Oh.

G. Redman: Lucy--Lucy enjoys her birthday because she always gets money for her birthday.

L. Redman: And then I can buy what I want.

Vapaa: Then you buy your antiques?

L. Redman: Yep. I don't--I don't buy many any more. I don't have any place to store 'em.

Vapaa: I can see where this would be a problem, Because I've been both in your ah, home in Rehoboth as well as your condominium in Florida. And that's a one room--one bedroom condominium in Florida. Which means that you can't have too much company. They have to sleep in the living room, don't they?

L. Redman: Right. Umm.

Vapaa: And ah, But it is a beautiful condominium, Lucy and George.

L. Redman: Beautiful location.

Vapaa: It certainly is. Do you mind--do you like the fact--or mind the fact that the land is so flat down there?

L. Redman: No. That's what I'm used to.

Vapaa: You're a flat lander. (laughter) In Delaware.

L. Redman: Yes.

Vapaa: You've never lived--how far north in Delaware have you lived, Lucy?

L. Redman: Always lived in Harrington and Rehoboth.

Vapaa: But you have worked at which schools?

L. Redman: Well, I first started ah, in Raughley School No. 89 where Virginia first started also. And I taught there 2 years and then I went to ah, Houston School. Then during the War I ah, taught in Harrington for 1 year and then I stopped. Then I went back again and taught in Kenton for a year and then I went to Caes--

Vapaa: Commuting all the time?

L. Redman: Yes.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

L. Redman: Then I went to Caesar Rodney and I taught 7½ years and I came back to Harrington and ah, taught 15 years in Harrington.

Vapaa: Um-hum. And where did you finish up your teaching work?

L. Redman: In Harrington. West Harrington Elementary.

Vapaa: This was first grade again?

L. Redman: Yeah.

Vapaa: You prefer teaching the youngsters?

L. Redman: Yes,--

Vapaa: First graders?

L. Redman: I like first graders.

Vapaa: Any special reason?

L. Redman: N--No, only your ah, efforts showed at the end of the year with them.

Vapaa: Umm.

L. Redman: They couldn't read or do much at the beginning and then at the end they could read and write and do many things.

Vapaa: And feel like that they had accomplished something.

L. Redman: Yeah.

Vapaa: Well, I think we're going to wind this thing up. I don't know ah, quite how to do it. Ah, we haven't used the hour that I'd planned to ah, take to do the tape. But ah, it's been done nicely off the cuff anyway. You haven't seen me handle a note or anything else. But I've tried to get this information for Dr. John Monroe at the University of Delaware who's in charge of the oral history project. And he told me to make sure of 1 or 2 things. He said, "Make of the date of birth, the place of birth ah, the ah, where he went to school and ah, why you came to Delaware and all these things. And I think that we've answered most of these things.

So Lucy, while you're a native Delawarean, you did marry an out-of-stater.

L. Redman: That's right.

Vapaa: And you can--made him a Delawarean. And you are a citizen of Delaware, are you not George?

G. Redman: That's true.

Vapaa: And you pay Delaware taxes.

G. Redman: Pay Delaware taxes. Ten dollar head tax in Harrington, but in Rehoboth it's only \$1.

Vapaa: I see.

G. Redman: We just received the--the bill for it.

Vapaa: How about property taxes in Rehoboth?

G. Redman: Oh, yes. We pay property taxes.

L. Redman: It's a \$1.30 a hundred, I believe.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: (unintelligible)

L. Redman: In--in all of Delaware compared to Baltimore.

G. Redman: Oh, yes.

Vapaa: Or Florida?

G. Redman: County taxes aren't bad. They are much lower than they were in Baltimore.

Vapaa: Do you feel that Florida gets much of it's revenue from it's tourist industry or from where?

G. Redman: Oh, yes. But--and of course, they have a sales tax in Florida while they have no income tax, they have a sales tax, and ah--

Vapaa: What is the percentage of sales tax?

G. Redman: Ah, 4 percent--same as Maryland's

Vapaa: Um-hum.

G. Redman: And I predict that Delaware is going to come to it.

Vapaa: Would you--would you--would you like the sales tax?

G. Redman: No. I think it's the most unfair tax that ah, can be established. Because a man who makes \$100,000 a year if he wants to buy a new Ford, he pays the same taxes for that as the man who makes \$5,000 a year. And I think that's unfair.

Vapaa: Um-hum. Well, George and Lucy, I do want to thank you for ah, working on this tape and I may as well say--thank Virginia too for ah, breaking in every once in awhile to ah, help us with our comments about what we've been talking about. So with this I'm going to ah, turn the thing off and let you hear it. We'll turn it back.
(laughter)

L. Redman: I've got to get a drink of water.

T H E E N D