

Betty Jester

November 22, 2014

Interviewers: Ennis Barbery, John Nelson Jester

Interviewees: Betty Jester, Joan Buchanan [Betty Jester's daughter]

Videographer: Ennis Barbery, Museum of Chincoteague Island

Transcriber: David MacKinnon

Ennis Barbery Smith: Today is November the twenty second, Saturday. I'm Ennis Barbery. I'm interviewing with John Nelson Jester. We're both interviewing Betty Jester and Joan Buchanan. And Betty Jester, we're doing a life history interview with her, so we'll focus on her life for this interview. So Betty, when were you born?

Betty Jester: I was born in 1925. December 30th 1925 on Clark Street.

Ennis Barbery Smith: You were born on Clark Street?

Betty Jester: Un huh.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Were you born at home?

Betty Jester: Un huh, yes.

Joan Buchanan The house is still there.

John Jester: It just sold again.

Joan Buchanan Oh it did sell again?

Betty Jester: Is that right?

John Jester: It did sell again.

Ennis Barbery Smith: What's the address for the house?

Betty Jester: I don't remember that.

Joan Buchanan That's all changed. Momma's used to be 133 Clark Street, so I don't know.

John Jester: It changes, six something, 6000...

Joan Buchanan Oh, right, right.

John Jester: The house just sold.

Betty Jester: Is that right? I wonder how much? [Joan laughs]

John Jester: Around three something.

Betty Jester: Three hundred thousand?

John Jester: Yeah. I think so.

Joan Buchanan Oh my goodness.

Betty Jester: Oh my gosh.

Joan Buchanan Uncle Eddie sold it for ten thousand back in the day. Anyway Mom, go ahead and tell your story.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Who were your parents? What did they do?

Betty Jester: Well, my daddy was in the post office department. He was there for forty years until he retired. First, Elijah Jester, first he carried mail. And he had two routes. He had to go twice a day on a bicycle from the post office to the end of Main Street and down all the little streets. And was twice a day. Then my mother and he decided to build a chicken house. So then they raised chickens.

Joan Buchanan Then he was post master.

Betty Jester: Post Master over at the naval base. After he retired he went over the naval base and worked for several years until they closed.

Ennis Barbery Smith: The one at Wallops Island?

Betty Jester: Well we call it Wallops but it was the Naval Air Station.

John Jester: Chincoteague Naval Base.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Chincoteague Naval Base, yes.

Betty Jester: Back in those days there was a naval air station and an ordnance test station. And my husband and I worked there from 1944 until '58 until the word came through that the base was going to close and I was handling top secret. So that day I was opening...

Joan Buchanan Tell them what you did. You were secretary to the...

Joan Buchanan Administration officer, and commander, Commander White. I saw on this dispatch where NAS Chincoteague, NAS Oceana; all these different ones were closing. But Chincoteague was marked through that day. And I got this wild idea, "What do we do." My husband was head electrician. And I had a good, secretary, but the base was closing. And we had built a home on Ocean Boulevard. And I thought, "Hum, buy a tourist home and a charter boat and move to Ocean City." The next day I said to Ed, I said, "How would you like to live in Ocean City?" "Oh, I would love it." Because all the men under him are older than him. He was the youngest and he was head electrician. So, him and I, the next day, took out and went to visit Tina Savage and Rick. They were there and they wanted to build a restaurant. And their mother, Miss Emma Wimbrow, wanted to go in with them. And she owned this home in Ocean City. We

were interested, so that night she called me and wanted to know if we'd like to go see it. And I said, "Oh yes, we'd like to go see it." So that's what. We ended up buying the tourist home, and that where Nelson stayed---in 1962 was it?

John Jester: '61.

Betty Jester: Sixty one.

Joan Buchanan My dad bought a charter boat, from Gene Jester.

Betty Jester: Yeah, bought a charter boat. He ran that charter boat until, I don't know what year.

Joan Buchanan Like 1974.

John Jester: What was the name of the boat?

Betty Jester: The Gene.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, G E N E.

Betty Jester: And it belonged to...

Joan Buchanan Gene Jester.

Betty Jester: Uh uh. Belonged to—oh, he was in the Coast Guard. Sarah Sharply's father. What was his name?

John Jester: I don't know.

Joan Buchanan They took their retirement because they'd been at the base 14 years and did all this. [laughter]

Ennis Barbery Smith: Wow. And what was your mother's name?

Betty Jester: Anna Jester, Anna Carpenter Jester.

John Jester: She was Annie.

Betty Jester: She was from Hog Island [barrier island south of Wallops Island]. And she lived there and married my dad. Got married. And she was very young when she got married and he was---at that point owned a store at the end of Clark Street. And it was called Parson's. It was Mister Parson's store that he bought. He worked in that a couple of years and then went on to be in the post office department.

Ennis Barbery Smith: But she was from Hog Island. Do you know what her parents did? Were they watermen?

Betty Jester: Oh yes.

Joan Buchanan My great grandfather was Richard Carpenter.

Betty Jester: Richard Carpenter and Mary. She was the midwife on the island of Hog Island. And he was a waterman.

Joan Buchanan Oysterman.

Betty Jester: Oysterman.

Joan Buchanan He had one of the sloops. And he would go up and down the coast to New Jersey delivering oysters. And he met my great grandmother, Mary Carpenter, in Anglesea, New Jersey [north of Wildwood, New Jersey]. And he brought her back to Hog Island. And that's where my grandmother came from.

Ennis Barbery Smith: What about your father, was he born on Chincoteague?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah, right on Clark Street. He had four brothers. It was Edwin, Ralph, Ray, Morris and him, Elijah.

Joan Buchanan And one sister.

John Jester: One sister, was Iona.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Do you know what his parents did? Were they on Chincoteague when they were born?

Joan Buchanan Yes.

Betty Jester: Oh yes.

Joan Buchanan They were oystermen.

Ennis Barbery Smith: But you mentioned Assateague [Joan Buchanan mentioned this before the start of the recorded interview].

Joan Buchanan That was my dad's family.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Oh, that's your dad's.

Joan Buchanan I'm another set of Jesters. My mother was a Jester and then my dad, she married a Jester.

John Jester: Jesterland! [laughter]

Joan Buchanan I'm a Jester too and we're not even related and he's a Jester, so go figure.

[laughter]

Ennis Barbery Smith: So, did you have brothers and sisters?

Betty Jester: I have one sister and she died at 15 months, with polio. Her name was Betty Iona. Then when I was born they made me Betty Jane.

Ennis Barbery Smith: [speaking to John] So you're all retired from the government?

John Jester: I retired 2006 and came back to CI.

Betty Jester: You certainly made a beautiful home there.

John Jester: Yes. A nice—Mr. Clark's house. We recently built a new house around the old buildings.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Do you have children Nelson?

John Jester: We do. We have one son who lives up in the Washington area. He's a commercial pilot. He flies over here occasionally. Yeah, Clark Street has changed because at night time during the winter months you don't see lights because the houses are owned, they're seasonal houses. It's only probably about seven homes that are full time. Corky Collins died, so Frances is there. The people next to me in Ms. Nella Sharpley's [noise interruption] house are the Ryans [Gerry and Linda Ryan]. They're there.

Betty Jester: How about Rose?

John Jester: Ruth Turleton?

Betty Jester: No, Rose. Remember Rose? She used to be back the window up there on...

Joan Buchanan Oh, that was before his time.

Betty Jester: I'm not sure of...

John Jester: Susie Taylor is there. You know, George died. Houses are dark there. They're busy in the summer months. But dark in the...

Betty Jester: Well that's sad. And tell me something, who bought the big old house next to Uncle Ray's two bungelows? Now I've heard that it was one of Frances' children.

John Jester: Yes, Cynthia.

Betty Jester: Is that right?

John Jester: Cynthia bought it. She didn't realize that she'd bought her grandmother's house.

Betty Jester: Is that right?

John Jester: So I've given her pictures of the Watson family. From Earl, Zipporah, and Elmer.

Betty Jester: Cynthia's family.

[Brief interruption due to power outage]

John Jester: We have the Burbage's there. They built the Fairmont Hotel.

Betty Jester: Oh really?

Joan Buchanan We knew the Burbages very well. Burbages move, Jack...

Betty Jester: Oh yes, Jack Burbage.

Joan Buchanan And Todd.

John Jester: And Todd. They built a new restaurant. The Chincoteague Inn or you may know it, as the Lollipop is gone.

Joan Buchanan It's gone now?

John Jester: It's gone and now it's a new one called the Jack Spot.

Betty Jester: Oh really, Jack Spot.

Joan Buchanan He died. That's an Ocean City name.

Betty Jester: Sixty Sixth Street, Jack Spot.

Joan Buchanan I didn't know they'd put a restaurant—Junior Brittan—see Paul Tatum, you know, Paul from Clark Street. You know Paul, Clark. So Paul married my cousin Jane, Jane Quillen. Do you know Jane?

John Jester: No.

Joan Buchanan She's my age, so...

Betty Jester: Well, she was Richard Quillen's daughter.

Joan Buchanan You know David Quillan, don't you? David's sister Jane. Anyway, Jane married Paul and they redid the Chincoteague Inn. And we had heard that Junior Britten had taken it over.

John Jester: He'd taken it over. He ran it until the Burbages bought it.

Betty Jester: I'll be darned.

John Jester: He made a lot of money on that, obviously. That whole area, you know, the condos--you been down to the area where the condos are?

Joan Buchanan You've seen the condos.

Betty Jester: Yeah, I saw them.

John Jester: That's Burgess too.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, yeah, I know. Yeah, yeah.

Betty Jester: His daddy must have made one barrel. You know what his daddy used to do? Sent a little man around all of our houses. He had a store in Berlin.

Joan Buchanan Dress shop, suit shop.

Betty Jester: And we'd give him two, three dollars a week go there and get anything you wanted. And now this son, what he's done. I can't believe it.

Joan Buchanan His father was John Howard Burbage. And I worked for attorneys up there. And at the time they bought the race track. He owned everything. So when John Howard died Jack inherited and he had just done phenomenal development up in West Ocean City. I mean, just amazing. So now he comes down here and see—the Maddoxes, are still holding out though.

[laughs]

John Jester: Did you all know the Lollipop, at the Lollipop when you were growing up?

Betty Jester: Yes.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Talk about the Lollipop. I don't know much about that.

John Jester: The Chincoteague Inn, which people know as the Chincoteague Inn, which is now where the Jack Spot is. It was the Lollipop. My mother, just where she said she learned to swim down there. She was from Ticktown. And that was the Lollipop. And I tried to find out where the name Lollipop came from.

Betty Jester: I don't know but at the first dance I went to with Lester Gordy—I was a junior—was at Lollipop. [laughter] That was a funny name, but I don't know where it came from.

John Jester: Yeah the people now say Lollipop here don't know, unless you were older [?], don't know who the Lollipop is. They think about the Chincoteague Inn rather than the Lollipop.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So, despite the power interruption. We'll get back to this. We had already covered your parents and what they were doing. What's your earliest childhood memory? Do you have really early memories?

Joan Buchanan How about your horses, Mom?

Betty Jester: About my horses?

Joan Buchanan Your horses.

Betty Jester: I'll tell you, this is crazy but, my mother, of course, wanted me to play the piano. And I hated practicing, playing the piano. So this one day I said to her, I said, "Can't I sell this piano and buy a horse?" So I sold the piano and bought a horse. And guess what I named it?

Betty. [laughter]

Joan Buchanan And they kept it on Poplar Street, because my grandfather had chicken houses back there. And so they kept—Pop had a horse. And my grandfather was actually president of the fire company also. They did the roundup with that. And they kept their horses back there.

Betty Jester: When Ed and I got married, first thing I did was go down to BeEnnis Barbery Smithe's ranch and buy him a horse. That horse was named Lady. And we'd ride together all the time.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So was Betty a Chincoteague pony that you bought?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Did you buy her at the auction?

Betty Jester: No, no. We always went to the BeEnnis Barbery Smithe's ranch.

Joan Buchanan They were'nt broken. They were wild at the auction. So my grandfather wanted something she could just saddle and ride. And when I was coming along, twelve years old, I got a horse. We didn't keep it here. We kept it up in West Ocean City. It was like a family tradition when you're, you know, 10, 11 years old you got a horse. That's what you did.

John Jester: Didn't your father run the Inlet View.

Betty Jester: I was the one that started that.

John Jester: Did you start that?

Betty Jester: My husband and I, I got this wild idea, to go build it. But we'd go down to BeEnnis Barbery Smithe's ranch and ride [ponies and horses], all where there was a little beach. So we went to Mr. BeEnnis Barbery Smithe and asked if we could go through his property and build a little drive-in. So, Richard Quillen and Lois and Andy and I. And we brought in Roy Post because he was a carpenter. He could build the place. All we could do was furnish the money. Didn't know much about building. So we got permission from BeEnnis Barbery Smithe's ranch that we could go through. All the people that came to the beach down south and could come through their property. You have to open up the gate for the horses; close it when he come through. And we built a little place down there which is still standing. And we opened a restaurant. And we had the only beach on Chincoteague. That was back in the '50s, the early '50s. And the only beach. Everybody came of course. And what we would do, was we would put hamburgers on the grill with onions and put a fan blowing towards the beach. And everybody smelled onions frying. They all wanted a sandwich.

Joan Buchanan They hand-carried water down there though. There was no water.

Betty Jester: Can you imagine them letting us do that. We had no electricity. We had a generator that furnished electricity.

Joan Buchanan And gas.

Betty Jester: And my husband and Richard would take people to Assateague for two dollars and a half a day. And they'd go back and get them. Two dollars and a half.

Ennis Barbery Smith: See there was no bridge then?

John Jester: Yeah, that's before the bridge. That was the place everybody went to the beach. Then we called it the Inlet.

Joan Buchanan Inlet drive-in. Yeah.

Betty Jester: And before we got through the Inlet Drive-in they had built the road down to it and they'd run water down to us and they had electricity. So we started something down there, didn't we? [laughs].

Joan Buchanan They sold it to my grandparents, because they still had full-time jobs at the base, Mom and Dad. And then my grandparents sold it to my aunt, my grandmother's sister and her husband. And then he passed away just before they opened it and I don't know where it went from there, so you?

Betty Jester: Except this guy, Tolhess bought it, whole thing. But that's how it started.

Joan Buchanan That little building is still there that Ray Post built.

Betty Jester: I bet you've come down there to the beach, haven't you?

John Jester: Oh many times. That's where you'd go swimming.

Joan Buchanan That's right, because you couldn't go to Assateague.

John Jester: It was a nice sandy beach.

Joan Buchanan Yes it was.

John Jester: The channel [The Channel by Curtis Merritt Harbor]

Joan Buchanan Right.

John Jester: About one third the size it is now. Now it's huge. There's a really strong current goes through there. Probably three as times as wide as it used to be.

Betty Jester: Is that right. Well we really enjoyed it. It was a fun thing. And we also worked for the Navy. We hired people to cook for us when we weren't on duty, you know. Weekends, of course, we had off. But that was a fun project.

Joan Buchanan What Mom and Dad did for entertainment, though, back in the day. Both my grandfathers were hunting guides. My one grandfather was a hunting guide, and they would go Up the Bay to Pope's Island to the gunning club in the summer.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah.

Joan Buchanan Enjoy. We would go up there as kids and play, and crab and fishing, oystering and clamming.

Betty Jester: Now the man that built the [Chesapeake] Bay Bridge, Maryland, you know, he owned the hunting lodge. And so they'd bring down all this food and all this stuff. Oh my, we'd have such a good time. And the boat that went up that day was called Margaret Sea. And when season went in, they were hunting. Uncle Orville Quillen had the boat, so we'd go up and down the bay. And the funniest thing happened. One winter the bay froze up and we were up the bay. Well, we were tickled to death because we wouldn't have to come home Monday and go to work for the Navy. So his father sent the Coast Guard to get us.

Joan Buchanan Because there was a station right there on the beach at the time.

Betty Jester: Sent the Coast Guard to get us. When he came to get us we were in the woods roasting oysters. Most of them there were smoking, Sam Quillen and all of them smoking. I didn't smoke. I never, so I was standing there picking my teeth with this green stuff. "That tastes pretty good." Come to find out I picked my teeth with poison ivy. [laughter] That Monday when I went to work, I worked for a commander, and he said, "Betty I think you better go to the doctor." I was swelling all up. Picking my teeth with poison ivy. Well, anyway we came down to the beach. His father got the Coast Guard to bring us down. We had to come over on their boat down to the south end, because everything up there was frozen up.

Joan Buchanan You got to tell the story about Marilyn Monroe, I mean Kim Novak.

Ennis Barbery Smith: I have a question about the oysters. How do you roast oysters? I don't know how do you do it?

Betty Jester: You just put an open fire and put some water over and put oysters on it and they'll open up and they're right crispy. Oh, they're delicious. I tell you another story about Kim Novak. Okay, we were in the Margaret Sea which was the boat owned...

Joan Buchanan No this was the Black Duck. They'd upgraded to another little boat they called the Black Duck.

Betty Jester: Okay.

John Jester: Up the Creek?

Betty Jester: Yeah, right Up the Creek. So we were in the back.

Joan Buchanan out playing on the boat.

Betty Jester: Out playing at the Inlet. And we were stirring—we were making vegetable soup.

Joan Buchanan Clam chowder.

Betty Jester: It was Richard Quillen, Lois, Ann and Ed and I and we making this clam chowder. So we didn't have anything to stir it with except this screw driver. So we were stirring it with the screw driver and up comes Uncle Orville with the most beautiful girl I've ever seen. A good looking man. I thought, "Don't know where they're from, but they're mighty nice looking." Come to find out it's Kim Novak, the movie star. And her boyfriend, he owned the Capital bus lines in Washington, DC. And he had taken her out for the weekend see. And this is where he brought here to entertainer her. And Uncle Orville, you know him, Orville Quillen said, "I didn't know what to do with them, so that's why I brought there. But if I'd know they were as important as they were I would have entertained them."

Joan Buchanan She had just filmed the movie, 'Picnic' and it was premiering in DC.

John Jester: O. [Oscar] Ray Chalk was the guy who owned the transit line.

Joan Buchanan Oh, it that right?

Betty Jester: Is that right?

Joan Buchanan Well my mom kept calling her friend and saying, "You need to come to the house. We have Kim Novak at the house." Remember Norma Mears, Norma Bashem [Bashem was her married name]?

Betty Jester: Bashem. And she said, "Betty, you're crazy." He sister came and she was sorry she didn't come there afterwards. [laughter]

John Jester: Uncle Westfield still works at the—helps his sister out at the restaurant, Etta's, all summer long.

Joan Buchanan Yes, Janet [Gadow].

Joan Buchanan Yeah, right, at Etta's [Restaurant].

Betty Jester: In fact, when I talk to Norma every week or two. She calls me up. I call her.

Joan Buchanan But, that was funny. They had no idea who was coming on board this boat and dressed so nice.

Betty Jester: I thought, oh she was the prettiest girl.

Joan Buchanan Movie star.

Betty Jester: Dressed so nice and we're stirring the clam chowder with a screw driver. [laughter]

Joan Buchanan They improvised.

John Jester: The boat, the Black Duck, was taken up. It was a hunting club up...

Betty Jester: Exactly.

Joan Buchanan Yes.

Betty Jester: It belonged to the hunting club. And the man that owned hunting lodge was the designer of the Bay Bridge.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Was that J. E. Greiner?

Betty Jester: J. E. Greiner Company.

John Jester: Yeah, we had an exhibit here that was done by a lady of all the clubs up the bay [include map?].

Betty Jester: Oh really?

John Jester: Red Eye---we had pictures here.

Joan Buchanan Pope's Island was one of them?

John Jester: Pope's Island, Red Eye---I can't think of all the names of all the clubs.

Betty Jester: Bill Murray [?] had one up there too.

John Jester: Yes.

Joan Buchanan Deerfoot Lodge. Uncle Orville had one. It was up on Roanoke Island right off the Maryland/Virginia line.

Ennis Barbery Smith: What was that one called?

Joan Buchanan I don't know what his was called.

John Jester: I think probably Bill Murray, probably Mike McGee has that now.

Joan Buchanan It's all gone. It was burned down. They sold it to the Government and it's been gone years ago.

Ennis Barbery Smith: When did you think you all going to those hunting clubs?

Joan Buchanan Early sixties.

Betty Jester: Well, we were still going when I was in Ocean City.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, because see what happen was when we moved to Ocean City, they had built the bridge. Right in the early '60s.

Betty Jester: Un un.

Joan Buchanan Oh yeah, we took the ferry.

Betty Jester: We took the ferry over and it was really bad weather. We'd go over and go to Pope's Island. And this one time the man that run the ferry was named Popeye, black man. And I said, "Popeye, Ed and all the guys are over hunting and they've got to get off and they called to get

him to come in. He said, "Honey I don't think I can go today because it's too bad." But it was snowing and blowing. But he did go and get them. But they had some good hunting down that lodge.

Joan Buchanan You see back in the day, Wyle Maddox had built a road down the middle of Assateague. Some old tar and sand road. Parts of it are still there. And we actually would drive our good car, our Buick, down that road to the Maryland and Virginia line and Uncle Bill would come over and pick us up in a boat. And then we would go over to the hunting lodge. They had a Model A Ford that they would drive up and down the beach on. And that's still there, back in the bushes. My husband and I found it, right there at the Maryland-Virginia line. It's pushed way back in the bushes. An old Model A Ford.

Betty Jester: Another thing we bought was an old flat bed. You know what we used to have those nets on. Remember the fishermen down Little Stock? Okay, we bought one of those trucks for twenty five dollars and put it on the beach. And we'd all pile in the back. Roy Post would play his guitar and we'd be singing and carrying on. Killing beach birds and you'd get some, take them back to the club house, clean them and fry them. They were delicious.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Did you get much meat from them?

Betty Jester: Not much, but we made brown gravy and a lot of mashed potatoes to go with them.
[laughter]

John Jester: Did you eat marsh hens?

Betty Jester: Yeah, oh yes. Oh yes.

Joan Buchanan Marsh hens. Wow, that's a long time.

Ennis Barbery Smith: I want to get back for just a minute to like your memories of school. Did you go to school at around Church Street?

Betty Jester: Oh yes. Oh yes.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Would you have specific memories of teachers or friends there.

Betty Jester: Yep. [laughs] His dad [points to John] Nelson Jester, he was a wonderful man. And he was our [high school] principal at the time.

Joan Buchanan You want to tell the story about dad?

Betty Jester: About the girlfriend. Well, we had Christine Conklin there too. And she had a son named Fletcher. Well Fletcher kind of liked me a little bit, so he was coming home for the weekend. And he came and knocked on the door and wanted to know if I would go with him

during the weekend. And I said, "No" because I was going with Ed at the time. So when I come back, Ed wouldn't know what went on. And I told him, "And your father says, "You don't have to go in her class anymore." So he taught him business for the rest of the year.

Joan Buchanan Sitting in the office. See my dad would go to the office every day when it was time to go to her class, and sit there with Mr Jester and he would teach him. [laughs]

Betty Jester: Her name was Mrs. Conklin. That was Fletcher's mother. She wanted me there with him but, no I was going with Ed at that time. [laughter] Mr. Nelson Jester said, "Don't worry about it. If you come on in here I'll teach you." [laughter] We've got so many memories.

Joan Buchanan Do you have any memories of the school when you were younger mom? She would walk to school from Clark Street of course.

Betty Jester: Yeah, go through the woods.

Joan Buchanan Came home every day for lunch. My mom would have lunch for her.

John Jester: They'd ring the bell for lunchtime.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. I remember. A lot of good memories there. A lot of them. I don't know any in particular?

Joan Buchanan All my grandfather's brothers except Uncle Ray built homes on Clark Street. Uncle Ralph had a family home. And then, Uncle Edwin, you know who lived across the street from papa. And papa built his house.

Betty Jester: Except Ray. He was on the shore. Main Street. Of course he owned two or three houses...

John Jester: But he had the two bungalows.

Betty Jester: Yes he did, right down the street.

Joan Buchanan That's right.

John Jester: Mr Watson, Cynthia's father gave land to all of his children.

Betty Jester: That's right.

John Jester: And so the two, the lot he gave for Cynthia, where he built the two bungalows. And I lived, we lived in that.

Betty Jester: I remember you living there.

John Jester: We lived in there until we moved down to the house my father had built. And then he gave land for Elmer Watson's house, the big Watson house [on corner of Main and Clark?] And then he gave land to his daughter Laura. And that's the house I live in.

Betty Jester: Right, right, Laura.

John Jester: She married Mr. Clark.

Betty Jester: And honey, I bought many a piece of fudge from Charlotte. He was talking about his ---- Always used to make fudge and bring it to school, all the time. Penny a piece, you know. Oh she made the best fudge you ever ate. [laughs]

John Jester: Would you go to the store that Mr. Clark had in the Sharpley house?

Betty Jester: Oh yes, uh huh. Oh yes, I remember that.

Joan Buchanan Tell them about pickles with the crackers at lunchtime.

Betty Jester: [laughs] Oh dear. Across the street from the school was Mr. Twilly's. And Mr. Twilly had pickles in a jar. And every day I would get three cents for the pickle and two cents for the oyster crackers. And all day long I'd be leaning down and biting that pickle and that oyster cracker. [laughter] I never got caught. Some time of good days, I'm telling you.

Joan Buchanan But she went off to college. My mom went to college. My grandmother had her in a business college up in Philadelphia.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. I went to Pierce Business College in 1943. And then when I came home—and my husband went to [unidentified] shipyard and he studied to be an electrician. And his mother and father had friends in Philadelphia. He lived with them. And of course I lived with some lady from the Methodist Church. Then we'd come home weekends and we came at the end, like in June when I'm finishing, and he had finished his job. And my dad says, "Betty, I don't know, but I think you'd get a job at the base if you want to go try." So him and I go over to the Naval base, and I was like the third girl hired. He was the first man hired in the electrical department. And he was head electrician until we moved to Ocean City in 1958.

Joan Buchanan They were back and forth on the train.

Betty Jester: Like to Philadelphia.

Joan Buchanan To Philadelphia.

John Jester: That was during the war?

Betty Jester: During war. All kinds, Army, Navy, soldiers on, oh yeah.

John Jester: You weren't here during the war though. You were in Philadelphia during the war?

Joan Buchanan No. She was here until 1943.

Betty Jester: I remember pulling the curtains and having it black at night and all.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Oh yeah, please talk about that. What was it like to be here?

Betty Jester: Well, I'll tell you. I think the eeriest thing was being in school and across the street was Mr Twilly's store and he had a skate rink. And they turned that into a place for soldiers that got hurt. Seeing all the soldiers that were hurt---I don't know where they got the soldiers from but soldier were sleeping in there. And then also down Ridge Road they had barracks for the Army boys. Of course, you ought to interview Nettie too, you remember Nettie Smith, Nettie Merritt from Up the Neck? She married Richard...

Joan Buchanan She married Richard Smith.

Betty Jester: Richard Smith and he was stationed down here in the Old Dominion Lodge.

Joan Buchanan Coast Guard.

Betty Jester: He was with the Coast Guard. He was like—that was an infirmary.

John Jester: Infirmary in the Coast Guard.

Joan Buchanan It's over Tom's Creek.

John Jester: Right, Tom's Cove Clubhouse which you were referring to.

Betty Jester: I'm going to get them to come here and give you all an interview because he's got a lot of good stories.

Joan Buchanan About being here during the war. He really... [here there is a break in the video but the recording continues]

Ennis Barberly Smith: Yeah, that would be great.

John Jester: Do you remember anything about Camp Fletcher?

Betty Jester: I remember it. Oh yeah, I remember it being there barracks one after another. And I remember on Main Street we had a Masonic, not a Masonic lodge, but some kind of white building.

John Jester: Redman's Lodge.

Betty Jester: Right. And with that for soldiers all in there. Soldiers standing out front. And we'd get all dressed up and walk by. We thought we'd died and gone to heaven. All these good looking men. [laughter] Oh yeah.

John Jester: We have a James Williams.

Betty Jester: Jim Williams.

John Jester: I had him, he was talking about it. We had the exhibit here. And he said he was telling us about how, what it was consisting of. So I said, "Well draw it." And so he would

always go over to McDonald's every morning. I said, "Well draw it on a napkin." So he drew the buildings. And he even had places where they had dogs, that he trained dogs there.

Betty Jester: Oh really? It's where the Post Office is now. Where the—rather than where the cemetery was—Redman's Lodge was.

John Jester: Well, Redman's Lodge is...

Betty Jester: Oh yeah.

Ennis Barbery Smith: And when you said you would take steps to make sure that you weren't showing and light. What did you have to do?

John Jester: Oh, all the curtains had to be pulled.

Joan Buchanan Dark curtains.

Betty Jester: But dark curtains, oh yeah. You couldn't show any light.

Joan Buchanan And she could see. Now tell them about seeing the ships....

Betty Jester: At night time we could see—there were blowing up ships out here, boats, and we could see the lights.

Joan Buchanan The fire on the water. I don't know if you saw that from, but you saw that somewhere.

Betty Jester: In the yard, I guess.

John Jester: There were less trees on Assateague then. You could see more across Assateague.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So when some of the German subs were here, did you ever hear anything off the coast?

Betty Jester: No, not really.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Do you remember at Camp Fletcher whether there were dogs being trained there? That's one thing we heard is dogs.

Betty Jester: No all I could see was good looking soldiers. [laughter]

Joan Buchanan She didn't know anything about any dogs.

Betty Jester: No I didn't pay attention to any dogs. [laughter]

Joan Buchanan Maybe men would know more about them. That's funny.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So what did you do for fun growing up—you went to dances, you mentioned that.

Betty Jester: Oh, yeah. And I rode my bicycle a million miles. My daddy had a chicken house. And in those days when you got feed for the chickens, it was a printed material and you could

make dresses and you could make sheets and all that kind of stuff. And everybody utilized that, because, you know, money was hard to come by. So I'll never forget, I was riding my bicycle down in front fo the fire house, and I had on a feed bag dress. And remember Joan Jester? Okay, the hollered over, "Betty is that another feed bag dress?" I went home and said, "Mom, never again." [laughter]

Joan Buchanan My grandmother was a wonderful seamstress.

Betty Jester: Oh she was.

Joan Buchanan And she sewed and sewed. So, at the time the material would come in she would make sure that mom had a new dress.

John Jester: We had some—we have a bag in the back, you know, that I got from a lady. So I got the bag, and it was from one of the chicken houses there.

Betty Jester: Is that right?

John Jester: So when I saw the bag I remembered my grandmother's aprons.

Betty Jester: Right, exactly.

Joan Buchanan Yes, yes. Poppa Lodgee you know, he had the two chicken houses—am I allowed to say this—and they would sell to the black market and they would get so much more money. So when he built his new house on Clark Street he paid for it with one flock of chickens during the WWII—twenty five hundred dollars.

John Jester: And these chicken houses were on Clopper Street.

Joan Buchanan Yes, they were right behind. He had three lots back there. And he built two chicken houses.

Betty Jester: And next door to that was the Watsons. Nancy Watson's father had chicken houses. And then Zed Ayres had one on the other side.

Joan Buchanan It was very profitable back then. My other grandfather had chicken houses Up the Neck, you know, Papa Bill. Yeah, chicken houses were rampant on Chincoteague.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah.

Joan Buchanan So yeah, it was a way to make money, and profitable.

John Jester: Well, did Ed, did he take out charter boats from Chincoteague?

Joan Buchanan No.

John Jester: Just as far as Ocean City.

Betty Jester: Ocean City, yeah.

Joan Buchanan 1958...

Ennis Barbery Smith: Do you remember the storm of '62 that ended a lot of the chicken industry? You were in Ocean City then, right?

Betty Jester: I well remember.

Joan Buchanan All our family was here. We didn't hear from them for four days.

Betty Jester: We were going crazy.

Joan Buchanan It was bad.

Betty Jester: In Ocean City, our home—the ocean looked like it was going as high as the Plim Hotel. It was terrible. But they took us out on a duck.

Joan Buchanan Duck, like an amphibious vehicle.

Betty Jester: And we went to the bridge and we had school buses and took us to the school in Berlin. But that ocean looked like it was going as high as the Plim Hotel. It was terrible.

Joan Buchanan But Chincoteague was devastated.

Betty Jester: Oh, it was awful on CI.

Joan Buchanan On Clark Street, my grandparents, my grandmother had taken tin cans, and she and my grandfather had lifted their furniture up and put the furniture on top of these tin cans because the water came within three inches of coming into their house. The storm hit on Tuesday and my dad got down here finally on Friday. He had to park his car across the bridge. And he and my uncle walked across the bridge and of course first went to Clark Street. My grandparents had gas, heat and gas stove. So they had chinked, you know, put stuff underneath the doors and the windows to keep the heat in the kitchen because you could close the door. Well, my dad got within minutes of them being asphyxiated because they had taken all the oxygen out of the room. And when dad got there he said they were ready to just go. They were all gray. And so, yeah, he saved their lives that day. Gathered them up and got them and then came and found my other grandparents. They were on Piney Island, right over here. Water again didn't come in their house because my grandfather when he built the little house, he built it up on a little hill. And he was the one house in Chincoteague that had a basement. Had a full basement under this house. It was a base house and he set it on top. So said there was no water in that house, but of course they were surrounded by water, and gathered those folks. We ended up with both sets of grandparents, Theo and Chub Jester, I know you remember them. Their three kids and then my aunt and her

three children went down. They all came to Ocean City and stayed with us because we had water and electric in Ocean City.

John Jester: You're related to Chub Jester?

Betty Jester: No, but he married my cousin Theo.

Joan Buchanan Theo. Theo Carpenter, that was my grandmother's brother's son...

Betty Jester: They came to visit me and that's when Chub met her.

Joan Buchanan In CI.

Betty Jester: You know Susie Tuberson.

Joan Buchanan Bob Tuberson, Ridge Road.

John Jester: Yes. FBI agent.

Joan Buchanan That's right. That's Susie. That's Theo's sister.

Betty Jester: She's Theo's sister. And they still have a home here on...

John Jester: I worked on archery] stand with Chub [Jester] and Cloy in the summer. I volunteered down there. [Chub was a large man, hence the name]

Betty Jester: Is that right?

Joan Buchanan Josh and Cloy, yeah, that's good.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, it was pretty devastating here on—were you here then Nelson?

John Jester: I was in college, the first year in college.

Joan Buchanan Okay. Yeah, yeah. My cousin up...

John Jester: I looked at the TV there and Chincoteague was under water. I couldn't get a hold of my parents.

Betty Jester: We were devastated too.

Joan Buchanan How, did water come into their home?

John Jester: About a foot. My father couldn't get back on the island. He was teaching in Pocomoke and he couldn't get back.

Betty Jester: And your mom was there?

John Jester: Ruby and Cathy were there. He called my mom and says, "How are things?" He says, "Well, it's just a northeaster, the wind's blowing,." And the lights had gone out. He says, "Well go down and check on my grandmother." You know, Melissa. And so she got her flashlight and she opened the door and the tide was up over the step. So they started putting

furniture up. Zed Ayres came across the street the next day and got them because they had about a foot of water in the house.

Betty Jester: Oh my goodness.

Joan Buchanan My aunt was Up the Neck and she had three little children---an infant six weeks and then my two cousins, three and six. And her husband couldn't get back to her. The husband had built a fence around the yard so the children wouldn't step out into the road. So they had a two-story house. She said the water came in about two, three feet. But her gas tank stayed connected to the house so she could go downstairs and still light the pilots on the stove and warm the baby's bottle and heat the children, like, some warm soup. But she would like, she had her some bucket that she would walking on, trying not to step in the water because it was so cold.

Betty Jester: Frances Jester, Frances Turner, you know, she's passed on now.

Joan Buchanan No one ever knew where she was. They thought that someone had rescued here. And finally on Friday a helicopter came by and she had a sheet out the window and they picked and the kids up and took them to the...

John Jester: We have a video here, in an exhibit. In that we did a little event of Assateague at the visitor center about the '62 storm. It was the first time we got together to talk about the storm. And he'd they had some of the funniest stories. Funny now, but it wasn't then.

Joan Buchanan Violet Hurdel and Barney, I don't know if you ever knew them. At the end of Maddox.

John Jester: She's my aunt. Violet is my aunt.

Joan Buchanan Well they were in the attic, weren't they? They were in the attic of their home and the water was up to the...

John Jester: We have some nice, we have some stories about what it was like in 1962 and the flood.

Betty Jester: It was bad time.

Joan Buchanan It was bad and was so unexpected. And we just totally...

Betty Jester: It was a northeaster.

Joan Buchanan Totally unexpected.

Betty Jester: My girlfriend in Ocean City. She called me up that night and she said, "Betty, did you know that the water's coming around on Baltimore Avenue." I said. "No, let me look out." I had my phone right there on the desk. I said, "Let me look out the window." I said, "By granny it

is." Ed said, "Well I'll over there and put some sand bags and keep it out of the basement." No forget that.

Joan Buchanan I can remember standing there shoveling the water. It was coming in as fast as we were pushing it out. But we were very lucky. We didn't—just the basement got, you know, water, you know, because those homes were...

John Jester: Your house is high.

jb; Very high, yes, yes. And like she said, I remember I would just would watch the waves break on the boardwalk. Roll down Second Street and meet with the bay at Baltimore. Crash up like that. It was scary.

Betty Jester: And when we'd have snow in the winter that was the only hill we had in Ocean City. Was the ramp off the boardwalk for them to come back. [laughter]

Ennis Barbery Smith: One question I have is how did you first meet Ed? In school? Why did you decide to get married to him?

Betty Jester: Well, him and I had been in class together. We hadn't paid attention to each other until we got in tenth grade. And it seemed like he asked me to go to a dance or something. And Jackie Savage also asked me to go to a dance. I remember, Jackie, Colin Savage's children, "You don't remember Colin?"

John Jester: I remember the name.

Betty Jester: Well, anyway, so I decided to go with Ed. And then on we went.

Joan Buchanan And my grandfather liked him.

Betty Jester: Oh, yeah.

Joan Buchanan Grandfather didn't like may boys coming around. But he liked my dad.

John Jester: Where did you get married?

Joan Buchanan Tell that story.

Betty Jester: Love that. We went to Snow Hill to a justice of the peace at their house. We didn't care where we got married. And I got married in July in a black suit.

Joan Buchanan Wool suit, wool suit. She got married in a black wool suit. And the only people that went was the two grandmothers. The two mothers.

Betty Jester: My father still didn't want me to get married.

Joan Buchanan No, no. Neither of the grandfathers went.

Betty Jester: Un uh. So we got married and then we went and spent the night in Ocean City at Atlantic Hotel. Come back next day because you know what it was? Pony Penning.

Joan Buchanan Pony Penning. They got married on Pony Penning. [laughs]

Betty Jester: Had to come to Pony Penning.

Joan Buchanan So every year when July 26th comes around, Pony Penning is somewhere in that week, you know.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Did you do that on purpose? On Pony Penning week? You wanted that?

Betty Jester: Well, it was, just happened to be. Just happened to be.

Joan Buchanan They liked it. Well they all rode horses. They were all involved in the roundup, my dad and my grandfather. They were always involved in all that.

Betty Jester: Oh, yeah.

John Jester: Ed, was Ed one who would ride in that?

Joan Buchanan Oh yeah, he did. He rode all the time.

Betty Jester: And of course they were firemen here in Chincoteague. My dad was past president of the fire company.

Joan Buchanan It was so funny how horses and the water are so connected here, because you wouldn't think that would be something, but it is, and it's really a unique combination.

[technical pause for sunlight changing]

John Jester: You would go to Assateague? You would go over to Assateague when you were young and the beach and...

Betty Jester: When Ed and I got married, I remember Eddie Dukes. Remember the Dukes, dad was in the Coast Guard. Well Eddie and Ann owned a big boat. And so we'd go over to Assateague. Whole gang of us on that boat and spend the moonlight nights and built a bond fire and all. That was a lot of fun.

John Jester: Was the boat the Salsue?

Betty Jester: Yes indeed. Salsue. [named after their two daughters, Sally and Sue]

John Jester: He had daughters, two daughters Sally and Sue.

Betty Jester: And one's still living.

John Jester: One's still living.

Betty Jester: One passed on. They were twins.

Ennis Barbery Smith: How late would you stay over there?

Betty Jester: Oh, pretty late. [laughs] Probably see the sunrise.

Joan Buchanan But you were married then?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. Could never have done that before.

Joan Buchanan You never went to Assateague as a child did you? Did you ever go?

Betty Jester: Oh only on church picnics.

John Jester: Methodist Church picnics?

Betty Jester: Methodist Church.

John Jester: From the Coast Guard dock?

Betty Jester: Right, go from the Coast Guard dock.

John Jester: Did Mrs. Savage have lemonade in a big pot at the end of—when you came back?

Betty Jester: Yes.

John Jester: I always remember that too. We had a big tub from the oyster house. And when you came back, on the dock there would be this big tub of lemonade.

Betty Jester: Right. We went over on, like the mail boat from the railroad. Do you remember that's how they take us over on the church picnics on that. And we'd go to Redhills [across the bay on the mainland, near Captain's Cove] sometimes.

John Jester: What was at the Redhills? I never...

Betty Jester: Not much of nothing. It seemed like a beach. And we went there a lot of times.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Where was that?

John Jester: Right across the bay. You look right across the bay it would be north of Captain's Cove area.

Betty Jester: Right, exactly. Red clay.

John Jester: There are those little hills, the little hills there and cliffs. It's called Redhill. I always heard of that.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Then you had children, right? How many children did you have?

Betty Jester: Well, I'd been married ten years and I decided I wanted a baby. So the next month I was pregnant and here she is. [looks at Joan] She was born in 1951, right? Then we had a wonderful life with her and all. Ten years went by and I thought. Now Tina Savage and Rick sent the last of her children up to private school.

Joan Buchanan Philly.

Betty Jester: They had an empty house, you know. And I thought, Joan's soon going to be grown and I'll have an empty house. So I said to Ed, " I think it's time we having another baby." So in 1952...

Joan Buchanan No 1960. Jeff was born in '60.

Betty Jester: 1960, I'm sorry. So these are the only two children I have.

Joan Buchanan I'm nine years older than my brother.

Betty Jester: And he doesn't know if this is his mother [points to Joan] or I'm his mother.

[laughter] Because she's so good to him too.

John Jester: I remember I watched him one day before you had to leave the house and I watched him because the little boy was...

Joan Buchanan He had to be little then when you were there, yeah, oh my goodness.

Betty Jester: He's always been, we think the cutest thing.

Joan Buchanan He's such a wonderful person. He's just like my day. Just like my dad as far as looks are concerned.

Betty Jester: And witty.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, good person.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So you were born on Chincoteague Joan, right?

Joan Buchanan No. Actually they took me to Salisbury. I went to be born in Salisbury Hospital.

Ennis Barbery Smith: You were born when they were living on CI.

Joan Buchanan I came back to Chincoteague and lived here 'till I was six, yeah.

Betty Jester: And we had a home on Ocean Boulevard.

Joan Buchanan Yeah. That's where our home was, Ocean Boulevard.

John Jester: What do you remember about downtown? The stores and things that were down there then?

Betty Jester: I remember very well. I remember the Keys they had a clothing store. And the five and ten belonging to the Dishooms, Grady's Meat Market was next door. And then it was Hennitts Drug Store.

John Jester: Doctor Hennitt's [drug] store.

Betty Jester: where you'd go get ice cream cone or you sit down and have a Coke. Then you'd come to the liquor store, I think. And then it was the garage. It was owned...

John Jester: Esso gas station.

Betty Jester: Right, exactly. And then across that street would be Selba's. And then it was the movie and then it was Bruce had jewelry.

Joan Buchanan Then there was Gallagher's. Was Gallagher's downtown?

Betty Jester: No that on the other side.

John Jester: Other side. She's got it down pat.

Joan Buchanan Wow, that's pretty good.

Betty Jester: On the other side was Gallagher's and then it was Pender's grocery store. And then we had a peanut man. What was his name? And he had a little place there he cooked peanuts.

Oh, his daughter's in—what was her name? Anyway, we'll skip that one. But he had peanuts. We all liked the peanuts. And then it was, I think another little clothing store. Then we had Pender's and then on the other side we had Acme, right where; where that big hunk of coal was.

John Jester: Oh, the big—it was that, yes.

Betty Jester: Oh, what's his name. Oh he was Masonry.

John Jester: Yeah, where they keep the coal. Because I remember as a kid there was a big piece of coal there. There was a big store there. I can't think of the name of the store.

Betty Jester: It was the Acme store.

John Jester: Acme store that got wiped out with Silco later on. The '62 storm wiped them out.

Joan Buchanan The '62 storm. They got...

Betty Jester: And then we went to a little soda fountain and that was owned by the twins father, Dukes' father. And we would always go there for oyster stew and so forth. And then we came to the store with the ice cream parlor. And it was owned by, oh what's her name? Lived right across the street where you come across the bridge.

John Jester: Mr. Watson.

Joan Buchanan Yes, Watson.

John Jester: Watson's ice cream.

Betty Jester: Yep.

John Jester: Earl Watson.

Betty Jester: Earl Watson, that's the one. That's where we'd go to have our...

John Jester: That's a bookstore now on the corner.

Betty Jester: That's where we'd go to have our ice cream sundaes and so forth. And then down on the other side, further, I remember when the war broke out was Louise's. Ed and I were having a drink in Louise's, a coke, we were sharing a coke. We had two straws [laughs] Well anyway they said war had---somEnnis Barbery Smithody hit our country, you know. And so we were sitting there and we couldn't believe, Pearl Harbor, where was Pearl Harbor? And it wasn't long before we found out where Pearl Harbor was. So that's where I was when I heard it.

John Jester: You remember John Flaunders?

Betty Jester: Oh gosh, yes, yeah, oh yeah. And there was a barber shop.

John Jester: Uncle Wallace's Barber Shop.

Betty Jester: That's right, Wallace's Barber Shop.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Were you afraid that Ed was going to have to fight in World War II?

Betty Jester: Well I'll tell you a funny story about that. Ed's mother and father, Ed's father did not want him to go to war. And he was a good Christian.

Joan Buchanan He was on the draft board.

Betty Jester: Yes. And he prayed, and he prayed that something would happen that Ed didn't have to go. So Ed comes home.

Joan Buchanan Stop a minute. He went to try to get into the Navy. Because that's what he wanted to do, is get into the Navy. Of course had his physical and everything. And he came back and he got devastating news that he had a spot on his lung. And they thought he had tuberculosis and he could not go into the Navy. Well he was devastated. Well the talk around Chincoteague was Pop Pop got him off. He didn't go in because of Pop Pop being on the draft board. They took him to three different hospitals trying to find out what was on his lung. It was actually nothing. They had got his xray mixed up with another young man. My grandfather saw that as a sign from God that he did not want him to go into the war. And from that moment on he dedicated his life to the church and he was always in church every Sunday.

John Jester: He was very much a part of the Methodist Church.'

Betty Jester: Very much, yes he was.

Joan Buchanan He was very much a part of it. And so that's the reason why my dad is when did not have to go to war. My grandfather said, "That's it, I'm dedicating my life to God." And he did.

Betty Jester: But Ed was upset.

Joan Buchanan Oh he was upset. That's why he wound up in Philadelphia because he didn't go into the Navy and Momma and Pop Pop just wanted to get him out of town. So he went up to Philadelphia.

John Jester: What did he do in Philadelphia?

Joan Buchanan He was trained to be a master electrician.

Betty Jester: He stayed with friends who were Burtons. And they were friends that came down there from Philadelphia to visit Orville Quillen. And he stayed with them. This Burton was in charge of the electric training of the boys to be electricians in [----] shipyard in Philadelphia.

Joan Buchanan Dad wired submarines.

Betty Jester: So that's right what he did.

John Jester: People from here went to Wilmington area to build, I know—went to Wilmington to build boats.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So when you all went to go to Philadelphia you took the train, right?

Where did you go to get on the train?

Betty Jester: We got on at Lecato, Virginia. That was the most fun. In those days you had the black guys with the white napkins over their arms, you know. And we'd always go in the dining room and have dinner. Oh it was great fun. But the trains were packed with soldiers and sailors.

Joan Buchanan It's just passed T's corner to the south and west.

Betty Jester: And we'd go to Philadelphia and get off the subway. And he'd go home with me. I lived with a the lady from Methodist Church up there. Of course he lived with friends downtown near the shipyard, you know. But they were certainly good old days. Going up and down on that train. I loved it.

Joan Buchanan My great grandma, who like I said, she wound up on Hog Island. Everyday would get Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper. And it would come down the train and go to Willis' Wharf and get on the mail boat and they would bring that paper to her every day, from Philadelphia so she could keep up with the latest fashion and news of the world.

John Jester: That was the paper by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Betty Jester: Pennsylvania Railroad. Rode it many a day. And I can remember in those years we had a soldier on every bus with a gun. And I guess that was so the blacks and whites wouldn't fight, you know, because they were having trouble up in Philadelphia. He would sit right there with that gun as you entered the bus.

Joan Buchanan Back in those days?

Betty Jester: Un huh.

John Jester: Did you ever put a coin on the railroad track while you were waiting for the train?

Betty Jester: No. Well I tell you I enjoyed riding that train. And we had a girl, and she was a--- what do you call it in New York, those girls on...?

Joan Buchanan Rockettes?

Betty Jester: Yeah, she was a Rockette and her name was Janet Dix and she was from down here in the sticks on the mainland. She'd get on that train. Oh she was so dolled up and so dressed up. [laughter] I remember her well.

Ennis Barbery Smith: I was interested in what you said about the character, the guy on the bus and the troubles they were having. Do you remember any of that on Chincoteague? Anything with the civil rights.

Betty Jester: No, not here.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Really?

Betty Jester: See, cities. It was so mixed up all those black people.

Ennis Barbery Smith: That never happened?

Betty Jester: Un uh. Chincoteague never had any problems.

Joan Buchanan Do you know why? Do you remember the stories Dad use to tell?

Betty Jester: I don't know it completely. You can tell it.

Joan Buchanan Back in the day, and correct me if I'm wrong, but a black man either raped or killed a person on Chincoteague and they caught him and they put him in the Chincoteague jail. And before he could go to trial the Chincoteaguers had taken him out of the jail and they hung him. From that time on not many black people ever lived on Chincoteague. As a child growing up...

Betty Jester: And you never seen one after night here.

Joan Buchanan No. As a child growing up I remember a few, a lady who cleaned ducks up back behind the carnival grounds. And then you said there was some man named Gleener who lived at the end of Clark Street.

Betty Jester: Gleener lived up in the woods. We had like one or two little houses up there, remember, behind the church up in there. And they were black families.

John Jester: There was very few blacks.

Joan Buchanan Very few.

John Jester: Very few blacks...

Betty Jester: I'll bet there wasn't a dozen on the whole island.

John Jester: [Some] lived down on the corner there where Anderton Avenue comes in.

Betty Jester: Right, right. There was one there.

John Jester: I used ride Ocean—I used to get at ride, he used to work for the restaurant.

Betty Jester: Oh he did.

John Jester: Worked as a cook in the restaurant. I used to ride, get rides back and forth. I can't think of his name.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Which restaurant?

John Jester: Tides Inn there in Ocean City, which is no longer there.

Betty Jester: But I know who you mean and they used to do my mother's laundry. It would be about two dollars for the week of laundry, you know. And they washed and ironed and all that.

John Jester: He killed himself.

Joan Buchanan Yes he did.

Joan Buchanan That was Gleener.

Betty Jester: No.

Joan Buchanan No, it was somEnnis Barbery Smithody else.

John Jester: No, he was a very nice man. The only other blacks I recalled live in two, down Willow Street and on Taylor Street.

Betty Jester: This family, one or two of them, like Maddox Boulevard, north of that back in the woods there.

Joan Buchanan But there weren't many. That was the story that my dad told us about.

John Jester: I'd never heard that.

Joan Buchanan You hadn't? How about Pop Pop Bill, he had

John Jester: Earline [Watson Young] told me that. There was land that was given to the blacks on Taylor Street by the---they had worked with someone who owned land up in Wildcat. They were farming up there and then they gave them land on Taylor Street.

Betty Jester: I remember seeing them walk down Clark Street. That's something you didn't see very often.

Joan Buchanan But that was the story you heard too, right? That had to be way back in the '20s.

Betty Jester: Oh, way back.

[This exchange is not on the video but is on the audio recording]

John Jester: But you're a Mad Calfer, you all remember that?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah, Mad Calf.

John Jester: We have the signs up now [marking the neighborhoods; Mad Calf is an example of one neighborhood on Chincoteague; Mad Calf refers to Clark Street and the residents there].

Betty Jester: You do? [laughter]

[video recording resumes]

John Jester: When I came home I was talking to someone. I said, you know, you could tell like whether you were a Lewis or a Clark you were from Up the Creek. So a guy told me his name. I said, "You must be from Down the Marsh." He didn't know what I was talking about. [laughter] So when I got on the Town Council I said we need to put up signs. And so I bought two signs for Mad Calf. It's on the front of the stop sign for Eel Creek. So we have Down the Marsh. We got Up the Neck, Down the Marsh and there's Ticktown, Dodge City.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So people, knew you as a Mad Calfer?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Very good.

Joan Buchanan And it was a very straight, distinctive area. There was the Dodge City. Yes, that was a rough area of town.

John Jester: You stayed in your neighborhoods.

Betty Jester: Oh yes.

Joan Buchanan Stayed in your neighborhoods.

Ennis Barbery Smith: So what do you remember about the different neighborhoods? What do you associate with it?

Joan Buchanan They all had little stores.

Betty Jester: Do you know what? I had a friend visit to me over Hartley Hall the other day. And it was Leonard Jester. And he had counted up 32 stores we had on here. And at that time there wasn't one here because remember before you got this one? We used to have— at the end of our street we had Parsons and we had Mr. Taylor's. And then there was another little Timmy...

John Jester: Lou Anders took over Mr. Taylor's later.

Betty Jester: Right. And then it was another one, Charlie Morris up on that corner. And Up the Neck was Howard Merritt. All these different. I can't begin to even name them.

Joan Buchanan All thers little stores dotted all around.

Betty Jester: And they all made a living.

Joan Buchanan And tell them what the man said when mom sent you to by some pork chops one time. [Betty laughs]

Betty Jester: Mr. Parson's, you know, Ed's store. And my mother sent me out on my bicycle to get a pound of pork chops. And she said, "Betty, you get lean ones." And I said, "Mr. Parson, my mother said give me the lean ones." He said, "Just how the pig grew."

Joan Buchanan That's how we're going to give you. [laughter]

John Jester: Did you go swimming down the dock, the big dock?

Betty Jester: No, never went.

Joan Buchanan She wasn't allowed.

John Jester: You weren't allowed to go down to the big dock?

Betty Jester: Nope. I could go to Pony Pines.

Joan Buchanan She could go dancing if Pop Pop went with her.

Betty Jester: Yeah, but I went to Pony Pines swimming.

Joan Buchanan Oh, swimming.

Betty Jester: On my bicycle.

Joan Buchanan Oh, you did?

John Jester: You remember a beach over there. And the bowling alley, the arcade.

Betty Jester: Bowling alley.

John Jester: Bowling alley over there, and the arcade.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. Now what was that? Pony Pines was there and that one was something else. I forget what the name of it was. But it was bowling. Pony Pines had bowling too, I think, didn't it?

John Jester: Don't really know.

Joan Buchanan It was before his time.

John Jester: I was born in '42. We have pictures of that. We have some old movies of the Leonard family. And they shows them over swimming over there with a horse. But I have a picture there, where Buck Kambron's place was.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Now you mentioned the treasure story a while ago. What were you talking about? Is that part of this.

Joan Buchanan Well, of course it is. My grandfather, Bill Jester, not her dad, my dad's dad. His father was John Jester also from Up the Neck. My mother's grandfather was also John Jester, remember that. They like died the same day or something. There was confusion with funerals. Whatever. But back in the day, and I'm talking Pop Pop's great, great, great grandfather, received a letter from the King of England, giving him directions to the treasure on Assateague that belonged to Captain Kidd. We know specifically, we know between two cedar trees, which I'm sure everybody's heard that story. It's six wooden casks with over 200 million dollars worth of gold. And it sits on a knoll on Assateague.

John Jester: Is that John Merritt Jester?

Betty Jester: John Merritt

Joan Buchanan Yes.

John Jester: John Merritt was in the Revolution, he was in the Virginia Navy. He was in the Virginia Navy during the Revolutionary War.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Probably so.

John Jester: So you could belong to the DAR [Daughters of the American Revolution]

Joan Buchanan Oh, wow, okay, probably so.

John Jester: He's recognized by the DAR as being in the Virginia Navy during the Revolutionary War.

Joan Buchanan Oh, okay, okay. Well the treasure has never been found and many, many, many people have searched for it. But as you all ready know, there were several inlets that came through Assateague at the time. And I think I told you the story is the Chincoteaguers wanted people to bring their fish to Chincoteague instead of taking into Green Run Inlet and dropping it off there. So a group of Chincoteaguers scuttled a boat in the inlet at Green Run and that closed up the inlet at Green Run, and then everybody...

John Jester: I don't know why I never heard that story.

Joan Buchanan Poppa Bill. Yeah. I have discs [?] I told I can get of many, many, many stories that Poppa Bill told to the National Geographic lady.

John Jester: What was---I'm trying to get his wife's name.

Joan Buchanan Gladys. Bill and Gladys, they lived right over here.

John Jester: He was so involved in the church.

Joan Buchanan Very much so.

John Jester: We have pictures of the women of the church.

Betty Jester: Oh you do.

Joan Buchanan I'm sure she's in every one.

John Jester: My grandmother was a Bowden, was in that group.

Betty Jester: And what was her first name?

John Jester: Eliza.

Betty Jester: Eliza Bowden. I remember where they lived.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Did you go look for it?

Joan Buchanan Well, I think many people have looked for it and actually we wish that someone of the family had kept a letter, but back in those days that wasn't important to people.

John Jester: The house is torn down.

Joan Buchanan The letter was lost.

John Jester: Someone built a concrete house over it. It was nice because my grandfather loved concrete.

Joan Buchanan It's still over there. Anybody wants you to look for it. Between two cedar trees. When I was a young child, and like mom said, we would go to Assateague all the time. If we could get over to the beach and ride on the hard sand, you could see the force out in the water from where Assateague had eroded back. And you could see, you know, so it could be in the ocean someplace. Way out there.

Ennis Barbery Smith: It's changed so much.

John Jester: There's a book called the 'Hidden Galleon'.

Ennis Barbery Smith: I've read it.

jj You read it?

Ennis Barbery Smith: Yes.

John Jester: The land story about how—I need to find some of those records—my grandmother Bowden was a Reynolds. Her family came from up by White Hills [pn Assateague, north of the lighthouse].

Betty Jester: Is that right?

Joan Buchanan Now Pop Pop Bill's family, the Birches? There were four brothers and they came in on a ship into Baltimore Harbor.

John Jester: Were they British?

Joan Buchanan Yes.

John Jester: They were British sailors?

Joan Buchanan Yes.

John Jester: And they jumped ship?

Joan Buchanan Yes they did. And two went west and they never heard from them again. And two came to Assateague.

John Jester: Didn't one die? Hit by lightning on the beach.

Joan Buchanan Yes. That was Uncle George Birch. He was actually a watchman on the beach. And one evening, and this is my grandfather's mother telling the story to him, a great white light came up in the south. And they all said, "Come out, come out and see this light. Let's look at this light." And everyone went outside except Uncle George. He said, "I don't know what you all are talking about." The very next day he had gone down the beach to get a herd of ponies or horses and he was riding a mare and her colt was following them. And an electric storm came up, thunderstorm came up and a bolt of lightning hit him, killed the mare. It hit him so hard, this is the story Pop Pop tells, it drove the nails out of his boots. The mare died but the colt lived. And yeah, they all said because he didn't go out and look at the great white light. That's why he was killed the next day.

John Jester: Charlie Birch, who lives here, said that he's part of that family and the British connection, they said he was up by Ocean City—they used to get those peach trees up there. Birch owned some. And they found that he's part of that family.

Joan Buchanan Yeah. Mr. Birch.

Betty Jester: Riva's father.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, we knew that. My grandfather was related...

John Jester: He said we looked alike.

Joan Buchanan How about that. Yeah.

John Jester: There were British sailors who jumped ship around the 1812, War of 1812.

Joan Buchanan Yeah, they did. And you know the story of the gentleman—it was family on Assateague. And he was a farmer. And one day, for some reason, he lived on the backside of

Assateague; he went over to the ocean side. Well there was British ship off shore. They came on shore. They kidnapped him to make him a sailor. And so he was a sailor for a few years and then all of a sudden they were sailing back passed Assateague and I guess he jumped off the boat.

John Jester: They gave him and options to go to England with them or let him go home.

Joan Buchanan Oh, okay.

John Jester: And he went ashore, and he was walking down the road and along comes his wife and there's this ragged old man and that's the husband.

Joan Buchanan Yes. And he was gone for what, seven or eight years, something?

John Jester: Yes, it was quite a while.

Ennis Barbery Smith: And what year is this? Around the War of 1812?

John Jester: Yeah, I think it was. Yes.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Yeah, a lot of that was going on.

Joan Buchanan Don't go to the beach. [laughs]

Ennis Barbery Smith: I wanted to clarify earlier where you said that place where the injured soldiers was during WWII.

Betty Jester: On Church Street.

Ennis Barbery Smith: On Church Street.

John Jester: Probably still there.

Betty Jester: It was Twilly's store and it was a skating rink. And they were using it to put soldiers in there that were hurt, that were wounded.

John Jester: Do you remember the soldiers using the—what was the old—which is now the Catholic Church. But also using that church too to house them.

Betty Jester: I don't know about that. But I definitely know about Twilly's store.

John Jester: That was right next door?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. Absolutely. I think we've told you about everything we know.

John Jester: Everybody knows about Mr. Twilly's store. That's where you'd go for candy, lunchtime from school.

Joan Buchanan Did you graduate, was the Chincoteague where you went to or did you go the to the new one?]

John Jester: No, I went to that one until the—I think it was eight or ninth grade when we went to the new school. And that's all gone now.

Betty Jester: Isn't that something. Donald Leonard bought the property and it's all gone.

John Jester: The Leonard family bought it and the building there---the building that was there was a kindergarten classes. Who was your first grade teacher?

Betty Jester: Right. Miss Hickman.

John Jester: Do you remember Miss Idlet too?

Betty Jester: Oh yeah.

John Jester: She was my first grade teacher. That building's still there.

Betty Jester: Miss Hickman was from Horntown. I thought she was the greatest person that ever lived. [laughter]

John Jester: Ennis talked to a lady who lives in Onancock now.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Agnes West Hancock. She was a teacher there during WWII. She was a teacher, I believe from '42 to '44.

Betty Jester: Well see, I graduated in '43. So I'd be high school...

Ennis Barbery Smith: And she was [a teacher for] the first grade, so you may have not known her.

Joan Buchanan And you graduated from that school, right mom?

Betty Jester: Un huh.

Joan Buchanan Back on Church Street.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. There was a---and this is funny---eleven of us. Fifty five went in high school, and it was during the war years, eleven of us graduated. And the one that didn't graduate was Bill Bishop. Remember Billy Bishop---remember his mother worked in the Post Office? So the night of graduation she brought a whole basket of red roses with one white one in it. You talk about...

Joan Buchanan Did he die?

Betty Jester: No, he didn't pass.

Joan Buchanan He just didn't graduate. [laughter] Oh my gosh.

Betty Jester: Only 11 graduated.

[brief pause in video recording]

Betty Jester: Haven't those Conklin boys done well? Be raised without a mother. And their mother died when they were very young. And they've all done so well.

John Jester: And his son has the number one ice cream. Place in the country. [the Island Creamery]

Betty Jester: Isn't that something?

Joan Buchanan In the country. When they were saying that it was like, "Oh my gosh. I know that placed."

Ennis Barbery Smith: Now Joan, I'd like to ask you about the story you were telling about Maurice [pronounced Morris] Jester

Joan Buchanan Oh, Uncle Maurice.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Uncle Maurice, yes. Uh huh.

Joan Buchanan Well, my grandfather's brother, his oldest brother I believe. And he was a---went into the Coast Guard. He was already in the Coast Guard when the war broke out. Once the war broke out, of course, they gave him a command of this ship, and it was called the Icarus. The commanding fleet was in New York, where he was. And Uncle Maurice would always go into his commanding officer and say, "Oh I saw this U-boat and that U-boat." It was like, "I don't believe you Maurice. Next time you come back here, I want the captain's hat, right." So Uncle Maurice set sail, they're going down to Key West. And they're going down Key West, going down the coast and they get off of North Carolina and they sight this U-boat. Well they sighted it, I believe, in the early evening and then they lost sight of it. The next night, or the next morning when they hung around the area, the boat came up again. This time when it came up it came firing. It came up, they were using machine guns and things like this. So Uncle Maurice boat, they fired back with their machine guns. I think they actually did depth charges also. Maybe to get it off the bottom. So the U-boat kind of snubs up on the sand bar. It's injured. It's not doing well. The Germans kept firing back at our guys on the Icarus. Well Uncle Maurice said, "Well fire away." And they killed two or three of the German soldiers. After a while the flag went up and they surrendered. So they got the German soldiers off of the submarine and brought them over to the Icarus, put them down in the holding area. Well, unbeknownst to the Germans, one of Uncle Mark's men spoke German and could understand everything they were saying. So they put him down there with them. And I told you earlier, the found receipts of movie theater tickets in some of their pockets where they had come on shore and gone to the movies and I guess get provisions or whatever. Just passed as Americans. Anyway, so this guy was down in the hold with them. He was listening to everything they say. So they took the

prisoners back into Charleston, South Carolina. When they got there, we being Americans, we're not mean or evil or hateful. We're feeding these men fried chicken, homemade ice cream, all this. And years later.

Betty Jester: Fifty years later. I got an article somewhere.

Joan Buchanan Yes. They had a reunion of the Icarus, the crew of the Icarus and the remaining German soldiers who had come on, you know, and been captured.

Betty Jester: They wanted to come back and have some more ice cream and fried chicken.

Joan Buchanan And some of the soldiers actually ended up living in America, some of the Germans did. Anyway, Uncle Maurice said the captain somehow an exchange went about and Uncle Maurice said, "I want his hat." So the next when they finished their tour and went down to Key West and came back up and went into New York. And he walked into the commanding officer's office and he threw this hat on the desk. He said, "There you go. There's my proof. I sunk a German sub." And they promoted him to Lt. Commander. He finished, then was out.

John Jester: He won the Navy Cross.

Joan Buchanan Yeah. He was very decorated, you know, Life Magazine article. We were all very proud of him.

Betty Jester: All his sons were in service too.

John Jester: Didn't he live on Ocean Boulevard?

Joan Buchanan He actually lived on Main Street.

jjL On Main Street.

Betty Jester: Main Street. And it was like three doors above Uncle Orville's.

jjL Just up past Taylor Street.

Joan Buchanan You got it right. Exactly.

John Jester: I used to deliver the Salisbury Times.

Joan Buchanan Oh did you? Oh did you really. He was a gruff old character. He was kind of...

John Jester: I remember that. He was a gruff old man. [laughter]

Joan Buchanan He scared me, you know, but the book, Torpedo Alley, the whole story of that is in there. That's where I got more of my details than my grandfather knew.

John Jester: Torpedo Alley is the name of the book?

Joan Buchanan Torpedo Alley, yes. And the name of the ship is the Icarus. So, yeah. Quite interesting.

Betty Jester: I worked in a museum in Ocean City for 17 years. And I was so proud to show people this book where his name was in it, you know, told the story.

Ennis Barbery Smith: We're getting just about an hour. I want to ask you one more thing about Thanksgiving, because I want do a little FacEnnis Barbery Smithook thing about Thanksgiving in this interview. What did you make for Thanksgiving on Chincotague? Do you have any, like, Chincoteague dishes?

Betty Jester: Oh yes honey, my dear.

Joan Buchanan It all came from my grandmothers.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Okay. What did you make?

Betty Jester: Well, you have to have turnip greens. And you got to have sweet potatoes. But they got to be green ones.

Joan Buchanan Haymans.

Betty Jester: Hayman. Have you ever seen a green sweet potato?

Joan Buchanan Oh my.

Betty Jester: Well the only place the raise them is right down the county [Accomack]. And I have one this week. I'm in a nursing home and they do all kind of little things. SomEnnis Barbery Smithody brought in a whole oven full. And we had one. I couldn't believe it. They are so juicy and delicious. There are far above the red sweet potatoes. We always had sweet potatoes. We always had baked corn. Corn pudding. What else?

Joan Buchanan And we always have single fried oysters.

Betty Jester: Oh yes, got to have that.

Joan Buchanan Now on Chincoteague, the ladies, my grandmothers, did not make dumplings with turkey. I didn't know if your mother did that or not. But in Ocean City or that area, dumplings go with everything. Roast beef, ham, turkey, whatever you have.

John Jester: Slick and thick [referring to what locals call Chincoteague-style dumplings]

Joan Buchanan Exactly. Exactly. But my grandmothers---I can remember my grandmothers, my mom's. Gladys, she would single fry these oysters in an iron skillet. One at a time, you know, it took a long time. And of course when we would go there we kids were, you know [eating them up], because they were just so good. They were delicious. My grandfather caught fresh oysters right off the shore and shucked them and then—yeah. But yeah, always corn pudding, turnip greens, and single fried oysters.

John Jester: Your grandfather, Bill Jester...

Joan Buchanan Bill Jester, yes.

John Jester: He ran the railway.

Joan Buchanan For a while back.

John Jester: For a while back on Marsh Island. My grandfather worked there.

Joan Buchanan Oh he did? Well that's where the '62...

Betty Jester: Washed away.

Joan Buchanan Yeah the '62 storm took it out.

John Jester: He used to work on the boats. I had his wooden mallet.

Betty Jester: Your grandfather, what was his name?

John Jester: Alvay

Betty Jester: Alvay

John Jester: He would caulk the boats.

Joan Buchanan Right. Pop Pop loved what he did. And when that railway washed away it really——was very sad for him. They actually moved to Ocean City with us for four years. Kept their home here, rented it out.

Betty Jester: Getting themselves together.

Joan Buchanan No, they never got quite right after. He just...

John Jester: I remember he was always at church.

Joan Buchanan Always. Oh yes, always. That was his life, him and my grandfather. You talk about good cooks, oh my gosh and homemade pepper relish, you know. She always had a fig tree and we loved her figs. She would do the figs up in jars and as I got older I saw why the fig tree flourished because it was over the septic tank. [laughs] It's right out here. It's right over here on Piney Island. It's a big old fig tree and that was where the septic tank. We had this biggest old fig.

John Jester: She had a sister..

Joan Buchanan Frances.

John Jester: Frances, yes.

Betty Jester: And she's got a daughter who lives here now.

Joan Buchanan Pat Richardson.

Betty Jester: Pat Richardson. She's a nurse.

Joan Buchanan Do you know Pat Richardson? She's in the hospice now.

John Jester: I've heard Pat's name. I heard my Mom and Dad talking about them.

Joan Buchanan And she was a nurse, yes nurse, hospice nurse. And then both her daughters are hospice nurses.

Betty Jester: Cathy and Pat, both...

Joan Buchanan So we always had this home made—home made beets, you know, pickled beets, that was a big thing. And we always had to have that. You remember the days when the fish mongers and the people would go up and down the street here, you know, fresh fish! Oh yeah. I know I was younger than you but when the mosquito machine would come through and the fog. We couldn't wait to run out and play in this fog. It was probably toxic. We were free then.

John Jester: We'd go down the street yelling fat back. And there was a man, you remember the man who walked in the street, humpback man, who never walked on the sidewalk?

Betty Jester: Always remember him, humpback, yeah.

Joan Buchanan I don't remember him.

John Jester: We would run out, we would get out of the way.

Joan Buchanan Oh yes, scared of him.

Joan Buchanan Did you remember Aunt Mag Jester on...

John Jester: Yes, I remember her.

Joan Buchanan We always thought she was a witch. [laughs] You remember Doodling David?

John Jester: Remember James Lee Taylor?

Betty Jester: I don't remember them.

John Jester: Susie and George's son. We played ball and by her yard and hit the ball in there.

She wouldn't give it back to him. It was just a couple of years ago actually before George died.

We were down there one night and James Lee told us a story that she had an out house. And she was in the outhouse and they turned it over. They were in there with the door down.

Joan Buchanan Oh my gosh. [laughter]

Betty Jester: Good Lord.

John Jester: Susie never heard that story before. But Angie just told that story about Aunt Maggie.

Joan Buchanan Well, we called her Aunt Maggie. They would go, " Hush, don't mention...."

John Jester: She was a witch and also...

Ennis Barberly Smith: So why did you think she was a witch? How did you know?

Joan Buchanan Crazy looking.

John Jester: She was just a mean old lady. And then there was Serry Ann Tatum.

Betty Jester: Serry Ann, oh my Lord yes. Serry Ann.

John Jester: She was a witch. You couldn't skate on the sidewalk behind her house. Grandfather didn't really like her.

Joan Buchanan We always called her Aunt Mag, Aunt Mag.

John Jester: We had three old ladies. There's Aunt Mag's, Serry Ann Tatum and Laura Bell Jester down the other...

Betty Jester: You're right, you're right.

Joan Buchanan We were scared to death of your life. We were scared the death to go around their house or by their houses. And they—right inside— her Doodle and we called the boy Doodle, Doodle Jester and David, Rose the sister and all them, you know. They would be the ones that would feed into it, you know. "Oh my goodness!" You know.

John Jester: You remember the Lighthouse Inn with Barney Jester.

Betty Jester: Oh yeah. Miss Barney Jester.

John Jester: We have a picture of her inside the house.

Betty Jester: Oh do you. Is that right?

John Jester: We didn't know which one it was until Earl Lee pointed out who was Barney Jester.

Betty Jester: That was a beautiful home. And you know what, I'm still sorry they tore that Bunting house down on the corner where that filling station is. That was a beautiful thing.

John Jester: Earl he tells a story about Maine. Maine was---Zipporah Hill's. They were Hills. And Zipporah was her sister. And Zipporah married Elmer Watson. And Elmer built the house for his wife, Zipporah. So Maine said to K. J. Jester, "I want a bigger house than my sister." And the lighthouse then that is why it was supposed to be a beautiful home.

Ennis Barberly Smith: Was that Wheatly Watson?

John Jester: Yeah, Wheatly Watson tore it down.

Betty Jester: Isn't that a shame? That and that house down there on that corner. Beautiful.

Joan Buchanan So, have you learned something today?

Ennis Barberly Smith: So is there anything else you think we should include?

Betty Jester: We told you everything we know.

Ennis Barbery Smith: Well, good. Thank you so much.