

## Transcription

Date: Friday November 12, 2004

Time: 4:00

Interviewers: Amanda Veverka and Mica Jenkins

Interviewee: Glennie Tarbox

Location: His office in Independence Seafood

\*Bold italicized sections signify interview highlights

A: We were at school at like 7 and um we drove down and we're driving back tonight and then once we get back, once I get back into Columbia I'm driving back to Spartanburg tonight.

G: Wow

A: So

G: At least you'll be on the interstate? Did you, ya'll came down through Manning, or Charleston?

A: Uh...

G: Some people ride the interstate all the way to Charleston

A: 521 Manning yeah we came down 521

G: Mmm hmmm

M: OK – well we're recording now so

A: OK, so I guess today is Friday November the 12<sup>th</sup>

M: 12<sup>th</sup>

A: 2004 and um Mica and Amanda are the interviewers and Mr. Glennie Tarbox is the interviewee. Around 4 o'clock in the afternoon (light laughter)

G: Good

A: So um okay well last time we were here just talking about ya know mostly like the business aspects about everything

G: Mm hmm

A: And um so I was wondering you said your um third generation owner of this seafood market?

G: No I'm second

A: Second?

G: My son in law's the third mm hmm

A: Oh okay, so when you you're dad owned it

G: Mmm hmm

M: You might want to sit a little closer to the microphone

A: Your dad owned it

G: MM hmm yeah he started in 1939 and in 19 uh 59 I was in the Navy

A: Mm hmm

G: And when I got in the Navy I came back and that was the first year that I ran Independent.

Ok so

G: So it's uh, it's

A: How old were you when you're dad started it?

G: Gosh, about 4 or 5.

A: So do you remember like, do you remember growing up in here?

G: Mm hmm

A: So when you were a kid what did you like, did you like to come to work...here? Like did you like to come to your dad's work?

G: Mmm hmm You may wanna check, these are some pictures of the boats back in those days. They've changed a lot, back then they just would pull one net, now they pull 4.

A: Wow that's a big difference in draw too

G: Mm hmmm they um boats were a lot smaller. But uh, shrimping has changed a lot in ya know, the last 40 years

A: Really?

G: So this is really my 46<sup>th</sup> season, in 45 years. But part of the time, I've only actually been here since 87.

A: Mm hmm

G: I had other jobs and I just came down here, I was a moonlighter, come down here to work. I was with a bank for 20 years, I probably told you that.

A: Right

G: And uh I came here to work

A: OK so um like what's your first memory of the market as a child or

G: Mm hmm

A: Or what's your favorite memory as a-a young adult.

**G: Let's see when I was young I remember there was uh uh slip which was behind the ole fish house which was next to this building and uh, Daddy was on the shrimp boat and it was low tide and the boat was actually on the bottom and-s and I was about 4 so I jumped on the boat with him and I missed and went in the mud right up to my neck**

**::Laughter::**

**G: They they pulled me out of the mud and I started cryin, they why you cryin' and I said I lost my shoes and momma beat me if I come home without my shoes.**

**::Laughter::**

**G: So they got some dip nets and got my shoes out and uh walked across the street and uh Daddy took the hose and said call my, call my mother and says "Come out here and look at yo son!" I was black from...**

**::Laugh::**

**G: So they washed me down with the hose. That was one of my earliest recollections.**

A: Well that's that's pretty cool

G: Mm hmm

A: So you lived in the house next...

G: Mmm hmm

A: here?

**G: Also when I was little, it was in the winter time they they put a harness on me they had a rope and they would tie me up in front of the house so I could play outside and not get in the river.**

**A: Right**

**G: And uh I found out a good way to get outta that harness was to just take all your clothes off**

**::laughter::**

**G: And so they caught me, I was goin up front street by the Town Clock, I was one of the first streakers in Georgetown.**

::Laughter::

G: I didn't have any clothes on

A: How old were you?

G: I was about three

A: Wow

G: Mm hm

A: Um so... How long did you live in that house?

G: Well uh until I went to Carolina in uh 53 and then uh I was eh in Carolina 4 years, 2 years in the Navy then I came back and uh I was there one year then I got married and moved.

A: Ok

G: Mm hmm

A: A::nd who owns it now?

G: It's my daughter's house now and it's her name isuh Meg Tarbox. She owns a bed and breakfast there.

A: Do you ever go over there and stay?

::laughter::

G: No the uh...We go over during hurricanes, we evacuate, we live on Pawley's island, so during hurricanes we go stay there.

A: Oh ok

G: We went, fact we evacuated Pawley's twice this summer.

A: OK it was a big hurricane season

G: We were there when Hugo hit in 89.

A: What was that like?

***G: Well it it Hugo kinda hit at night so you couldn't really tell that much but you could hear the wind whistling. And uh, we walked ya know you could slip out on the porch on the leeward side where the wind, rain would hit ya and the water came all the way, where you're sitting (points) was about 6 feet deep right here. It got that deep and th-the next morning uh the tide, actually went down to about a normal high tide but it never went down to a normal low, it just stayed high all day long. And there was a sailboat in the street up there that had a draft about four and a half feet and it was way up the street on County (Cannon?) Street.***

***A: Wow***

***G: All the docks got torn up in the these vats shrimp vats ::points:: they turned over so all the doors in the building got knocked off and all the freezers inside turned over. It was a mess.***

***A: So how long did it take you um***

***G:::Clears throat::***

***A: Independence Seafood to get back on it's feet.***

***G: Well ya know one of the best shrimp season we had was right after Hugo. It washed all the shrimp right out in the ocean. So it took us about 10***

***days to get back in operation and that was probably the biggest volume of shrimp we ever packed.***

A: Wow

G: But the boats were catchin all kind of trees and limbs and al that kind of stuff. They carried chainsaws with them and saw 'em up so they could drag.

A: Um, w...ell tell me about um why you decided to come back and run Independence Seafood. You said you moonlighted for a little while and then you came back. What made you come back?

G: In 59? Mmm hmm We'd uh, it was in the family. I dunno it's just something what I like to do. Mm hmm

A: And you said your son-in-law's gonna take over soon

G: I don't know how soon but ::laughter::

::laughter::

G: At some point

A: You gonna, are you gonna keep workin in here when he sorta takes over?

G: Well, right now the way it, d-durin the shrimp season ends I don't work very much. I'm just here during shrimp season about 8 months of the year and he runs it the other four. But I think as time slips by I'll probably take more time off.

A: And um did your daughter ever used to come in here and work and stuff?

G: No uh she worked a little bit uh after she was married ya know just helping the secretarial stuff but um she's uh hadn't got time to come over here now

A: Right I imagine not. Um...so just different questions. What do you, what is it that you like to do, like when you're not working here?

G: Fish!!

A: Fish ::smiles::

G: Yes, yeah, Cotton loves to fish, we uh, have a good time. We can slip out, yeah... As you see uh I just had a birthday, got two rod reels behind me.

A: Oh nice! So um, you have your own boat I assume?

G: Mm hmm I like to fish and sail to I.

A: Really? I like to sail too, it's a good past time. I don't get to do it as much as I want though.

G: Right.

A: Um do you ever um go shrimping?

G: No not -

A: Like bait shrimping or anything?

G: I don't.

::laughter::

G: Don't bait shrimp

A: Get a little bit tired of shrimp.

G: Well, never get tired of shrimp. But uh, bait shrimp is a lot of work.

A: Really?

G: The uh, bait shrimping just ended.

A: OK

G: Mmm hmm

A: So when is the season for bait shrimping?

G: I think it's about from September 10<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>. So sixty day period.

A: OK, So what do you like to catch when you go fishing?

G: Spot-tails.

A: Spot-tails. And do you eat spot tails? ::light laughter::

G: We release most of them now.

A: OK, that's pretty cool.

M: You release most of them NOW but, maybe you didn't used to, or...

G: No uh, we didn't but the-the restrictions on now I think they have to be something like 15 to 26 inches, you can only keep those in that range, so any of the small ones or big ones you throw back.

M:...state restrictions, or...

G: The DNR...so we've got to where we just keep maybe one or two.

M: Alright

A: Then you take em back and you eat em and stuff?

G: Give em away mostly.

A: Oh really? ::smiling::

G: Mm mhmm

::Pause::

A: So when you um were growin up here um what did you what was your job, before you owned Independence Seafood what was your job?

G: When I was little?

A: Yeah

G: I used to head shrimp.

A: Really? And what does that entail?

G: Uh I don't know if you notice we got long tables out there with troughs on the inside and we have headers come in and they pinch the heads off.

A: OK

G: And Most people want shrimp ya know that are tails only, they don't want heads on, we've got heads on mostly for bait.

A: OK

G: But we used to head everything that came through here. But we ship a lot of em now with the heads on.

A: OK Um ::pause:: so do you



G: ::clears throat::

A: So do you maintain the kinds of food that you have now, the stuff you've always kind of sold? I noticed you have in the freezer hush puppies and crab dip and stuff...

G: Yeah we added all that in the last couple years. Mmm hmmm

A: OK

M: Is that cause that was a tourist demand? People come in and they want specific

G: MM hmmm

M: Things they can get at regular seafood restaurants.

G: Well they the people ya know we used to not sell anything but shrimp and uh a few fish but people want more. They want all kinda things now.

M: mm hmm And would you say that most of the people buy from you are, are tourists or local?

G: Right mm hmm, yeah we get a good trade from the tourists from the Waccamaw Neck area.

M: mm hmm

G: Debbydoo, Pawley's and Litchfield. And uh that's why weekends, a lot of people come down for the weekends, that's why it's busy usually Friday and Saturday.

M: We noticed there was, there was a rush

G: Mmm hmm

M: On our way back here

::pause::

G: Well... (seems to be trying to finish interview here)

***M: What about, what about goin to school in Georgetown? Before you went to College, what about grade school?***

**G: Right it was Georgetown ya know uh when we were comin up in the 50s they think that might have been one of the best uh eras (eeeras) that ya know crime was, but no drugs, we'd walk to school Win-Winyah high school's up on High Market Street it's about 10 blocks away and we always walked or rode a bicycle. And they they uh the Tiller's (pronounced Tilla's) are redoing that building now. I don't know if you've ridden by there, it looks real good. The building was built about 19, I'm not sure, about 1910, 1913, it's real old building, it's real pretty (pronounced purdy) it's got kinda, big columns on the front, ya'll need to ride by it on the way. But um my daddy went to Winyah Indigo School which was a building in the ole Winyah Indigo building block an-a-half up the street on the corner of Prince and Cannon. And uh he he used to ride his billygoat to school**

**::Laughter::**

**G: And uh he said that uh when it, he was one of the first. They they closed that school when the public schools took over and they moved it to Winyah High School building, old grammar school building. But used to they had all the, first through uh, there were only ten grades in that era. And daddy I think went through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and his brother was goin to Clemson so he just skipped the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and went to Clemson.**

**::laughter::**

**G: And but uh. It was a good time back then during the 50s ya know when they, used to be a famous uh Drive In joint called the Whistlin' Pig. Everybody'd have to go circle the Pig ya know and get a hotdog, a kind of a meeting place**

**M: The Whistlin Pig wow...so it was kinda the weekend hangout?**

**G: Mm hmm Good place. You were askin about the house, that house was built. I don't if I told you this much. It was built back in, by Dr. Fife back in 1765. And we had a Cathryn Richardson a historian was able to go back and find documents in England about Dr. Fife and he was loyal to the Crown, loyal to England. And during the revolution they banished him back to England and he was in England and he petitioned to get his, after the war, to get all his property back. And he owned uh the house across the street and he owned one about three doors up-up on Cannon (County?) Street, right interestin' fella. And longhand, beautiful handwriting how he was petitioning to get his property back, he listed his carriages and his horses, slaves and he had a plantation, I don't know which one it was but uh that was right interestin but, the house, back in uh, when daddy bought it, it had been vacant for about 20 years and hobos lived in it and one hobo artist came by and he painted on the wall a three masted schooner, and full**

***sails, beautiful thing but then less talented people came on and drew characters on the decks and all kind of things so we had to paint it over.***

M: Mmm

G: But the house is in real good shape for the age and the fact that it was vacant so long, they stored lumber in it, an' millwork, but uh. This thing got a lotta history, this originally was called "Red Store Wharf" right here and uh do ya'll know who Theodocia

A: Yeah

G: Burr Alston was? She lived

A: We heard a lot about her

G: Yeah yeah, Brookgreen. Well, Theodocia came to Georgetown and she sailed from this dock on the ship called the Patriot and she was never seen again. But they don't know if pirates got her, or what happened to her. So there's a lot of history. And this warehouse across the street was probably the oldest commercial building in town. It was built about 1765 also, so it's got a lot of history in Georgetown.

M: Now inside the house do they have any old pictures of it, or any...?

G: They se- 1933 we-no we have some turn of the century also that were given to us.

::phone rings::

M: We may go take a look at it on our way out. Is it open?

G: It's not open to the public but y-you can go up on the front, on the steps there and there's a brochure.

M: OK

G: But uh, I think she has guests so it's not open to the public.

M: Yeah

A: Well um...what...what if....Georgetown is changing a lot and everything like that so what would you say is your favorite aspect about Georgetown now that you would like to see NOT change in the future?

::laughing hmmm::

A: Cause Georgetown's growing and getting bigger, still has that small town feel so um, yeah what do you think would be the...

::door opens::

G: Come on in.

Cotton: Hand me, some ones please.

::drawer opens::

**G: They're interviewin me again Cotton. Must be a good interviewer.**

**::laughter::**

**G: They uh, Georgetown I think has done a lot that is real good in the last few years. Ya know they put in the uh Harbor Walk which is down in the**

**A: I've been on that**

**G: been real good. And we've got uh two new museums comin' on line a block up the street. The old Harper building, gonna have a Mariner's Museum there. And historical society in the old Masonic Lodge is gonna have a general museum. Those have been two good things. Plus the fixin up of the Winyah school that I mentioned earlier, I think that's great, the Tiller's (pronounced Tillah's) are doing that. Ya know a lot of good things now. The biggest change, we're getting so many people movin into Georgetown County. I think population in the county will grow by ten percent ya know in the next six years. Everything on the water's bein developed, Black River, and the Waccamaw Neck, and so it's uh it's a lot of uh lot of people from up North movin' in and that's been the biggest change.**

A: Mm hmm

::pause::

A: Um...what ...what do you think um...has been the effect of a lot of the people, you said a lot of people from up North coming.

G: Mm hmm

A: Has that changed the way Georgetown feels or runs or whatever?

G: Well politically it's changed in that the county has shifted from Democratic to Republican. Over Waccamaw Neck, it's-it's mostly all Republican now. The uh, as you know our sheriff switched from the Democratic party to the Republican party and he was reelected. And uh, so it's uh, the ...folks that are retired, we've had a lot of good folks from up North that did retire and they're real active as dossents at Brookgreen and on different boards and charities so, that's been a positive aspect.

***M: Some of the other um groups that are with us are doing projects at the Steel Mill***

***G: Mmm hmm***

***M: and on Gullah culture***

***G: Mmm hmmm***

***M: and I just wanted to talk to you about those things. What do you think about the Steel Mill?***

***G: Well the uh Steel Mill ya know a-att one time employed about six hundred and fifty people. Now understand they run it with about three hundred, three eighty five and supposedly they have the same production. The uh, I think the steel mill when they put it in Georgetown it was in the, put in the wrong location it shouldn't have been right in the middle of town, it was right in the middle of town. But there was a veneer plant there and property and before that Atlantic Coast Lumber Company was there, ya know the place where Georgetown Steel is, ya know at the time, one of the largest lumber mills in the world. And so it's always been a kinda industrial area there but uh I hope the new group will ya know continue to improve from the aspect of pollution and cleaning up the area.***

***M: Definitely. And you've had a lot of, since you've lived here your whole life, a lot of exposure to the Gullah culture?***

***G: I would say so, ya know the, the folks that head shrimp for us, they're mostly Gullah culture and they, if you didn't uh know what they were talking about you wouldn't, couldn't understand them. But they uh I think they're losing, I think the Gullah culture ya know and the Geeche culture is all being lost because of television.***

***M: Because of television? Yeah***

***G: Everybody in the whole United States is gonna talk the same before too long.***

**M: You think so, you think television will...**

**G: I think so, mm hmm**

**M: That's an interesting...**

**G: It's ruined the dialect. The said up bout 70 miles North in Brunswick County, it was a town called (Challote?). They say up to World War II they spoke pure Elizabethan English cause they didn't intermingle with the other side of the community. And uh, but all that's goin down...blame it on television.**

M: ::light laughter:: That's an interesting,

A: ::cough::

M: interesting aspect of tel...actually in one of my classes we've been talking about that, is television changing the way that people speak, kind of homogenized language so..

G: Right, hm

M: interesting

**A: We've been uh staying at the Baruch institute**

**G: Mm hmm**

**A: And um I was just wondering if you had ever been out there...**

**G: Mmm hmm**

**A: And um...**

**G: Yes I saw Bernard Baruch one time.**

**A: Really?**

**G: Yeah it was, used to be an AP store on Church Street and he was in there. And uh, remember he had on boots and uh kinda ridin pants and he was a right tall man. He liked to people watch, he was just watchin people comin' through.**

**::Laughter::**

**G: And he had uh Baruch had uh Roosevelt down durin' World War II and uh, saw Roosevelt also on Church street, he was in the motorcade goin' to the airport.**

**::laughter::**

**A: They told us a story about how it was when Roosevelt came, they were trying to keep it all secret and everybody was wondering how they were gonna keep it secret with all the secret service around him, so many secret service**

**G: Mm hmmm**

**A: Secret Service and and um Lee Brockington was telling us this story, she she was out there giving us a tour and um...it's it's beautiful land.**

**G: Mmm hmmm pretty (purdy) property and I think that's one of the best things they did. Ya know that's one thing that makes Georgetown County unique is we have so many areas that have been dedicated preservation. Ya know they uh, Baruch, Hobcaw, Belle Field I think there's about, what is it seventeen thousand acres? I'm not sure. That won't be developed.**

**::laughter:: That's huge**

**G: Then Tom Yorky on North Island, South Island, Cat Island, so the-that's twenty thousand acres won't be developed. Then you get into uh Cape Romain National uh Park Refuge so on on uh from Debbydoo all the way down I think (Daweze?) about 40 miles of oceanfront won't be developed. So that, I think that's a good aspect so much green area...**

**A: Specially since, ya know everything is getting developed so much...**

**G: Mmm hmmm**

**M: Now, talkin about grade school again. Um I'm just really interested in...did you say, there were ten grades? Were they all in the same building?**

**G: Mmm hmmm**

**M: So you just, you stayed in the same building...**

**G: They had ten rooms, mm hmmm**

**M: Ten rooms, ten grades in ten rooms!**

**G: Mmm hmm**

M: huh

G: Yeah, when when I went uh the building, I mem-remember first grade was on the right side and second grade was on the left si-end.

::laughter::

G: You just kinda moved around. The uh, but then they added an auditorium to the back of it and then another building attached from the back. So uh 6<sup>th</sup> grade at that time we went to the building behind the auditorium.

M: Hmm

G: But uh, the next year was Winyah High School and it burned probably about 15 years ago.

M: Mmm hmm

G: And uh, so it's gone. But uh, when I went there were, we had twelve grades. My sister she was mad cause she was the first, they had to go eleven grades. She finished in 49 and that's the year they added the 12<sup>th</sup> grade so she had to go twelve years.

M: Oh she was mad ::laughing::

A: What was your favorite subject in the school?

G: Recess

::laughing:: Recess. That was always my favorite

A: Well that's uh a good one. And what did you study when you um went to college?

G: Uh business administration.

A: Business administration

G: I was in business then uh in the Naval ROTC and this is...

A: Is that how you got in the Navy?

G: That's how I got in the Navy yeah, and this is right interesting. Georgetown Times, this came back yesterday. They put uh a-a view from the past and that was from nineteen four when my Great Uncle, Glennie Tarbox, was in the Navy



and he was on uh, they say he was the navigator on the uh Battleship was it, Wisconsin?

A: I think that's what it said.

G: That was uh, so I'm the third Glennie Tarbox.

M: So what did you, you said you were in the Navy?

G: Mmm hmmm

M: What did you do in the Navy?

G: I was uh communication officer on the landing ship out in Little Creek Virginia.

A: So how long were you, how long did you stay?

G: Just two years.

A: Two years.

G: Mmm hmm

A: And then you came back and got into the bank business I think you said?

G: Well, no when...in 59 I came back and uh went to work in the (nice?) paper company in the sales department. So I was with them four years and the state four years and 20 years with Andrews Bank and Trust company. Then since then I've been playing down here.

::laughter::

**A: So what's um, last time we talked about the kind of different stuff that you do each day but what's your favorite part of every day, when you come here?**

**G: Hmmm, favorite. Well...I guess goin to da bank. ::laughs::**

M: Classic answer.

A: ::laughter:: It's a good answer.

G: Y::eah!

A: So do you eat as much free seafood as you like or do you have to pay for it?

G: Oh you pay for it.

A: ::laughing::

G: We eat a fair amount, and uh it seems like just the two of us now, we eat out more than we used to.

A: That's how my parents are ya know, too so...So where did you meet your wife?

G: At the Pawley's Island Pavillion.

A: OK

G: It's, that one used to be called the Lafayette Pavillion. But I think, they've actually had one, two, three pavillions at Pawley's. Yeah this was the uh one that was over at the Marsh across from Sea View Inn and uh great place cause back then, ya know, the uh... they would have a jukebox and we'd dance and I went and asked her to dance.

::laughter::

G: And that's how we met. Been married forty (pause) four years.

A: Wow, that's that's wonderful. So does she um ever come down here and work? When you're shorthanded or anything?

G: (shakes head no)

M: She stays away.

A: She stays away. ::laughter::

G: Nope, she says this is my domain.

::laughter::

G: When I get home, that's her domain.

M: And how many children do you have? Just Meg, or...?

G: Just Meg. Just one.

M: And I guess it's her husband that's taking over then.

G: Mmm hmm

M: Eventually

G: Yeah

M: Not all too quickly ::laughs::

A: What do you plan to do when you retire?

G: Who said anything about retirement?

A: OK

::loud laughter::

A: So when he takes over what do you plan to do?

M: When he retires he plans to not retire.

G: Not retire yeah. Keep a eye on him.

A: Keep fishin?

G: Travel more maybe.

A: Really? Where do you want to go?

G: Let's see, January we goin to the South Seas goin to Tahiti?

M: Oh my!

G: You ever been to the South Seas? Yeah... So Meg and Cotton and (Arlan?) and I are goin on a ten day trip.

M: And who's Cotton?

G: Son-in-law

M: oh!

G: Mm hmm. So uh. Let's see. And last year, we went to Hawaii and the year before that we went uh down to St. Martin and chartered a boat, bare boat ya know no crew and we sailed around for about a week. Then we did the Virgin Islands the year before that, Flori...

A: So you try to do a trip a year?

G: Mm hmmm

A: That's nice

M: You go on cruise ships?

G: This year.

M: This year

G: This year and last year, went to Hawaii, last year we went on a cruise ship. Five Islands, the Fanning Islands. You ever heard of Fanning Island?

A: uh uh

G: It's about 1,000 miles south of Hawaii. Beautiful island, it's in Atol, ya know a volcano builds up like a peak and it falls in and we, so... when it falls in. You've got Fanning Islands like 3 islands in a circle and the big lagoon in the middle. It's real beautiful, real pretty, and the people that live, three hundred people live on the island, and they didn't have telephone, they don't have TV, water, ya know anything but they have well, well water. But uh, they, they would sell trinkets to the tourists when the ship came in, that was it.

::slight laughter::

G: Do a little fishin'.

A: Nice simple life.

::laughter::

G: yep

M: Water is so much a part of your life.

G: Mmm hmm.

M: It seems like the water and the shrimp and everything.

G: Mmm hmm.

M: Would you ever see yourself living inland?

G: shakes head

M: No?

G: mm mm no Yeah we live on Pawley's Island the North End, we're the next to the last house on the North End. Got a great view, the ocean in front and the creek behind us. It's uh, very pretty.

M: I'd love to live near the water. I mean I live near a lake, but not an ocean.

G: Well ya'll bout ready to wind it up?

A: Yeah I was gonna say I can't think of anything else. Thank you.

G: Well

M: Thank you so much, we're gonna stop this.

## Interview Highlights

G: Let's see when I was young I remember there was uh uh slip which was behind the ole fish house which was next to this building and uh, Daddy was on the shrimp boat and it was low tide and the boat was actually on the bottom and- s and I was about 4 so I jumped on the boat with him and I missed and went in the mud right up to my neck

::Laughter::

G: They they pulled me out of the mud and I started cryin, they why you cryin' and I said I lost my shoes and momma beat me if I come home without my shoes.

::Laughter::

G: So they got some dip nets and got my shoes out and uh walked across the street and uh Daddy took the hose and said call my, call my mother and says "Come out here and look at yo son!" I was black from...

::Laughter::

G: So they washed me down with the hose. That was one of my earliest recollections.

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G: Also when I was little, it was in the winter time they they put a harness on me they had a rope and they would tie me up in front of the house so I could play outside and not get in the river.

Right

G: And uh I found out a good way to get outta that harness was to just take all your clothes off

::Laughter::

G: And so they caught me, I was goin up front street by the Town Clock, I was one of the first streakers in Georgetown.

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G: Well it it Hugo kinda hit at night so you couldn't really tell that much but you could hear the wind whistling. And uh, we walked ya know you could slip out on

the porch on the leeward side where the wind, rain would hit ya and the water came all the way, where you're sitting (points) was about 6 feet deep right here. It got that deep and th-the next morning uh the tide, actually went down to about a normal high tide but it never went down to a normal low, it just stayed high all day long. And there was a sailboat in the street up there that had a draft about four and a half feet and it was way up the street on County (Cannon?) Street.

Wow

G: All the docks got torn up in the these vats shrimp vats ::points:: they turned over so all the doors in the building got knocked off and all the freezers inside turned over. It was a mess.

So how long did it take you um

G: ::Clears throat::

Independence Seafood to get back on it's feet.

G: Well ya know one of the best shrimp season we had was right after Hugo. It washed all the shrimp right out in the ocean. So it took us about 10 days to get back in operation and that was probably the biggest volume of shrimp we ever packed.

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M: What about, what about goin to school in Georgetown? Before you went to College, what about grade school?

G: Right it was Georgetown ya know uh when we were comin up in the 50s they think that might have been one of the best uh eras (eeeras) that ya know crime was, but no drugs, we'd walk to school Win-Winyah high school's up on High Market Street it's about 10 blocks away and we always walked or rode a bicycle. And they they uh the Tiller's (pronounced Tilla's) are redoing that building now. I don't know if you've ridden by there, it looks real good. The building was built about 19, I'm not sure, about 1910, 1913, it's real old building, it's real pretty (pronounced purdy) it's got kinda, big columns on the front, ya'll need to ride by it on the way. But um my daddy went to Winyah Indigo School which was a building in the ole Winyah Indigo building block an-a-half up the street on the corner of Prince and Cannon. And uh he he used to ride his billy-goat to school

::Laughter::

G: And uh he said that uh when it, he was one of the first. They they closed that school when the public schools took over and they moved it to Winyah High School building, old grammar school building. But used to they had all the, first

through uh, there were only ten grades in that era. And daddy I think went through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and his brother was goin to Clemson so he just skipped the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and went to Clemson.

::laughter::

G: And but uh. It was a good time back then during the 50s ya know when they, used to be a famous uh Drive In joint called the Whistlin' Pig. Everybody'd have to go circle the Pig ya know and get a hotdog, a kind of a meeting place

M: The Whistlin Pig wow...so it was kinda the weekend hangout?

G: Mm hmm Good place. You were askin about the house, that house was built. I don't if I told you this much. It was built back in, by Dr. Fife back in 1765. And we had a Cathryn Richardson a historian was able to go back and find documents in England about Dr. Fife and he was loyal to the Crown, loyal to England. And during the revolution they banished him back to England and he was in England and he petitioned to get his, after the war, to get all his property back. And he owned uh the house across the street and he owned one about three doors up-up on Cannon (County?) Street, right interestin' fella. And longhand, beautiful handwriting how he was petitioning to get his property back, he listed his carriages and his horses, slaves and he had a plantation, I don't know which one it was but uh that was right interestin but, the house, back in uh, when daddy bought it, it had been vacant for about 20 years and hobos lived in it and one hobo artist came by and he painted on the wall a three masted schooner, and full sails, beautiful thing but then less talented people came on and drew characters on the decks and all kind of things so we had to paint it over.

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G: They're interviewin me again Cotton. Must be a good interviewer.

::laughter::

G: They uh, Georgetown I think has done a lot that is real good in the last few years. Ya know they put in the uh Harbor Walk which is down in the

A: I've been on that

G: been real good. And we've got uh two new museums comin' on line a block up the street. The old Harper building, gonna have a Mariner's Museum there. And historical society in the old Masonic Lodge is gonna have a general museum. Those have been two good things. Plus the fixin up of the Winyah school that I mentioned earlier, I think that's great, the Tiller's (pronounced Tillah's) are doing that. Ya know a lot of good things now. The biggest change, we're getting so many people movin into Georgetown County. I think population



in the county will grow by ten percent ya know in the next six years. Everything on the water's bein developed, Black River, and the Waccamaw Neck, and so it's uh it's a lot of uh lot of people from up North movin' in and that's been the biggest change.

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M: Some of the other um groups that are with us are doing projects at the Steel Mill

G: Mmm hmm

M: and on Gullah culture

G: Mmm hmmm

M: and I just wanted to talk to you about those things. What do you think about the Steel Mill?

G: Well the uh Steel Mill ya know a-att one time employed about six hundred and fifty people. Now understand they run it with about three hundred, three eighty five and supposedly they have the same production. The uh, I think the steel mill when they put it in Georgetown it was in the, put in the wrong location it shouldn't have been right in the middle of town, it was right in the middle of town. But there was a veneer plant there and property and before that Atlantic Coast Lumber Company was there, ya know the place where Georgetown Steel is, ya know at the time, one of the largest lumber mills in the world. And so it's always been a kinda industrial area there but uh I hope the new group will ya know continue to improve from the aspect of pollution and cleaning up the area.

M: Definitely. And you've had a lot of, since you've lived here your whole life, a lot of exposure to the Gullah culture?

G: I would say so, ya know the, the folks that head shrimp for us, they're mostly Gullah culture and they, if you didn't uh know what they were talking about you wouldn't, couldn't understand them. But they uh I think they're losing, I think the Gullah culture ya know and the Geeche culture is all being lost because of television.

M: Because of television? Yeah

G: Everybody in the whole United States is gonna talk the same before too long.

M: You think so, you think television will...

G: I think so, mm hmm

M: That's an interesting...

G: It's ruined the dialect. The said up bout 70 miles North in Brunswick County, it was a town called (Challote?). They say up to World War II they spoke pure Elizabethan English cause they didn't intermingle with the other side of the community. And uh, but all that's goin down...blame it on television.

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A: We've been uh staying at the Baruch institute

G: Mm hmm

A: And um I was just wondering if you had ever been out there...

G: Mmm hmm

A: And um...

G: Yes I saw Bernard Baruch one time.

A: Really?

G: Yeah it was, used to be an AP store on Church Street and he was in there. And uh, remember he had on boots and uh kinda ridin pants and he was a right tall man. He liked to people watch, he was just watchin people comin' through.

::Laughter::

G: And he had uh Baruch had uh Roosevelt down durin' World War II and uh, saw Roosevelt also on Church street, he was in the motorcade goin' to the airport.

::laughter::

A: They told us a story about how it was when Roosevelt came, they were trying to keep it all secret and everybody was wondering how they were gonna keep it secret with all the secret service around him, so many secret service

G: Mm hmmm

A: Secret Service and and um Lee Brockington was telling us this story, she she was out there giving us a tour and um...It's it's beautiful land.

G: Mmm hmmm pretty (purdy) property and I think that's one of the best things they did. Ya know that's one thing that makes Georgetown County unique is we have so many areas that have been dedicated preservation. Ya know they uh, Baruch, Hobcaw, Belle Field I think there's about, what is it seventeen thousand acres? I'm not sure. That won't be developed.

::laughter:: That's huge

G: Then Tom Yorky on North Island, South Island, Cat Island, so the-that's twenty thousand acres won't be developed. Then you get into uh Cape Romain National uh Park Refuge so on on uh from Debbydoo all the way down I think (Daweze?) about 40 miles of oceanfront won't be developed. So that, I think that's a good aspect so much green area...

A: Specially since, ya know everything is getting developed so much...

G: Mmm hmmm

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A: So what's um, last time we talked about the kind of different stuff that you do each day but what's your favorite part of every day, when you come here?

G: Hmmm, favorite. Well...I guess goin to da bank. ::laughs::