

Woodbridge Public Library Oral History Interview
Eleanor Hinricksen
WPL04

(digital audio)

On August 31, 1978, Eleanor Hinricksen was interviewed for the Woodbridge Public Library Oral History Interviews. There were two interviewers, one male and one female.

Female Interviewer: Okay, now your sister is?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Elsie Schmutzer.

Female Interviewer: Okay, and that's George Schmutzer's.....

Eleanor Hinricksen: Wife and his son is George Schmutzer and he's working down Royal Petroleum. My father was at the inception of Royal Petroleum. He sold them the land and he tore down the buildings that were on the property because he was in the wrecking business also. Now I think that if you check your records through Shell Oil you'll find out that he sold them Shell Oil. He sold them the property that Shell Oil is now located on and that where the Hotel Sewaren was. He tore that down and he went into the second hand lumber business.

Female Interviewer: Where was this?

Eleanor Hinricksen: This was in Sewaren. This was the Depression days that we're talking about now and you had more than one trade at that time.

Male Interviewer: Right.

Eleanor Hinricksen: So it used to be our job to, you know, knock the nails out of the wood and chip the cement away from the bricks and things like that. He had a second hand lumber yard.

Female Interviewer: When did you come into Sewaren or your family?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I was born here. I have a picture of the house I was born in. That was in a postcard form.

Female Interviewer: And your parents were from where?

Eleanor Hinricksen: My father was from Czechoslovakia. Here's a picture of the house I was born in. The bedroom was way back here that I was born in. This was the master bedroom and this is where my sister and I had our bedrooms.

Male Interviewer: Where was this located?

Eleanor Hinricksen: This is where Royal Petroleum is now.

Male Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Eleanor Hinricksen: I think there's a tank sitting right over that. This was before you time, way before your time.

Male Interviewer: Yes, a little bit I'd say.

Eleanor Hinricksen: My sister and I had to work in the summertime, you know, on the hotdog stand. I've been trying to get those pictures for you where they used to lift up the shutters and hook them up by wire. There are some pictures of those around.

Female Interviewer: There were lots of concession stands?

Eleanor Hinricksen: There were concession stands, I have pictures of that in here too, but this particular concession stand I was a little bit older than, I was eight years old and we were allowed to keep the pennies, this was our pay, and my sister used to have her girlfriends take the nickel and get the pennies and if she had a spare nickel she'd throw it up the alley up to the upstairs bedroom window and I'd be waiting for it to fall on the ground so I used to run and say look I found money. I mean my father knew this was going on but this was a thing that we had played.

Female Interviewer: Now your father was Joseph Turk and he was the proprietor of the Sewaren Hotel?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes.

Female Interviewer: Who had owned the Sewaren Hotel before?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Boynton.

Female Interviewer: The Boynton's owned it.

Eleanor Hinricksen: And there was a lumberyard there at that time, Boynton's Lumberyard.

Female Interviewer: Right.

Eleanor Hinricksen: The proprietor before him at Sewaren Beach was Acker.

Female Interviewer: Okay, right.

Eleanor Hinricksen: And then he bought Sewaren Beach from Acker and then he bought Acker's Pavilion which he converted into a tavern. That tavern was half on water and half on land.

Female Interviewer: Was that up towards Royal Petroleum?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, I have pictures of that here also. See this was opposite almost Acker's pavilion and on this side was the place where they had the first marathon dances. They used to go on for several days.

Male Interviewer: That started in Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: That started in Sewaren.

Female Interviewer: Very interesting.

Eleanor Hinricksen: He had one of the first Ferris wheels on the east coast too.

Female Interviewer: Okay.

Eleanor Hinricksen: This is the old Sewaren beach.

Female Interviewer: Right.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Sewaren Hotel. I don't know if you can reproduce any of that.

Female Interviewer: We have a picture of this. Now the hotel was destroyed by fire.

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, it was not. See they make a mistake in the print it was not destroyed by fire. That's the hotel that my father took down.

Female Interviewer: In what year?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I was just two years old then; it was 1925.

Female Interviewer: It was taken down? Had there been a fire in the Sewaren Hotel in 1916 or 1917?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I believe that was the Boynton Hotel not the Sewaren. There was a smaller hotel.

Female Interviewer: There were two hotels?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, there were two hotels.

Female Interviewer: Where was the other?

Eleanor Hinricksen: On the creek. You know that bridge going over there that was a creek that was called Old Smith's Creek.

Male Interviewer: Which creek?

Eleanor Hinricksen: The one connecting Perth Amboy to Sewaren.

Male Interviewer: Okay, that's Woodbridge Creek the.....

Eleanor Hinricksen: Woodbridge Creek is the one up further isn't it?

Male Interviewer: No, that's Smith's Creek.

Eleanor Hinricksen: It's Woodbridge Creek where the mud flats were. There was a Boynton Hotel there but it wasn't as large as Sewaren Hotel. Sewaren was more like I'd say a giant tourist home.

Female Interviewer: Wasn't it a very exclusive resort?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, it was. Clara Bowes slept here and Tom Mix and all the movie stars.

Male Interviewer: Now this originally was owned by the Boyntons also?

Eleanor Hinricksen: That was originally owned by the Boyntons also. My father bought it from Boynton and then he sold it to Shell Oil.

Male Interviewer: From what we read the building was gutted more or less and it just stood there.

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, I remember the commodes and everything being stored in the old chicken coop because he had hit the Depression then and my father had used wood from here to build a chicken coop in the back of this house because you had no chained storage or anything else like that and you couldn't go out and get fresh eggs or anything. We had a huge garden behind there and I remember this house when city water was installed. Do you know how we used to flush the toilet? They used to have a tank hanging on the wall and they filled that tank up and then the water would run down. But somebody would have to come and carry the water all upstairs. He had the running water in here but they didn't have a bathroom for every bedroom.

Female Interviewer: What was the hotel like? Was it very luxurious?

Eleanor Hinricksen: It has a huge dining room in it and the sitting room was rather small. Most of the entertaining was in the dining room. They had a reserved center for the higher bracket people because Sewaren was basically like Seaside Park and Seaside Heights not as luxurious as Point Pleasant. They had all these small bungalows jammed up close together. Where Shell Oil is now that's where the amusement park was and where Royal Petroleum is was where they had all these summer homes. Our big delight at Halloween was dumping all the outhouses over. It was great; I'm just saying, you know. But they had no sewer system there or anything else like that and it was mostly bungalows where the same people would come in year after year after year. Then came the Depression and some of the people lost a great deal of money so they moved down there permanently. Then they started insulating

and at that time there was no oil heat or anything. They had these awful smelly kerosene burners. I don't know if you ever seen any of those. They used to stink to high heaven and there were no gas stoves to cook. They used to have, what they called, a kerosene man to come around. Now even in this house I remember, better than I do the hotel, the bottom half we had two kitchens because one kitchen had this huge fireplace where they had these copper kettles where you would do your own canning from the garden and that was in the fireplace. Now this house had I don't know how many fireplaces. We had a fireplace in our bedroom, my father had a fireplace in his bedroom, my brothers had a fireplace in their bedroom and the other rooms were more or less guestrooms and linen storage. This house only had one bath but it had three step cellars in it. One was a cellar where you'd make all your beer and wine and stuff like that. That came underneath this section. The middle of the cellar, which my father was the first to have, heat was installed. At that time it was no steam heat but it was hot air heat. Then they had to cut the floor opened because the dining room was the main stay of the house not the living room. This is where you did most of your entertaining, in the dining room, and that was a fireplace that was lit so he cut a hole in the floor there and he had the hot air come up in there. The other side of the cellar was for canning and washing and whatnot. The porch ran all the way around here. I remember my first birthday party was in there and we had the first radio which was a Majestic radio. My brother had a crystal set and of course everybody fought for the crystal set. But we had the first radio in town. Man that was a big thing.

Female Interviewer: How many were there in your family?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Four; my two brothers, my sister and I. My oldest brother is dead. He worked on the dock here quite a bit. He had quite a reputation too. He was a pile driver. He was always into trouble. I don't mean jail records. At that time it was hopping the trolley cars that came from New Brunswick. Well one time he hopped the trolley cars and his buddies got scared so they just put him by the door and rang the bell and then he'd fall faced first and blood all over the place. We thought for sure he was dead. It was only superficial scratches from the cobblestones but it was a mess. But like I said, teenagers at that time there was no drugs or no pot. They used to get in the wine cellar once in awhile and that was something. Another thing too is that there were no taverns to talk of and no liquor stores to pick up six packs of beer. When you went to a tavern you went with a bucket and my father had the local tavern too.

Male Interviewer: This was after prohibition then, right?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well, do you want before prohibition I'll give it to you?

Male Interviewer: Sure, as far back as you want to go.

Female Interviewer: Sure.

Eleanor Hinricksen: I never knew that I knew Al Capone but Al Capone was just another man to me, you know what I mean? All I knew Al Capone by was that I got a dollar when he came.

Male Interviewer: He used to actually come to see you?

Eleanor Hinricksen: He came there and this was before he became a big shot operator. He setup the first pickup on liquor from a dock here in Sewaren. You can see here from the old pictures that here's Ackers. My father converted it into a tavern, see the water there, and that's the old pavilion.

Male Interviewer: Yes.

Female Interviewer: Yes, this is neat to us.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Now this is the first high dive they had in Sewaren too. My father had the first duck races there.

Female Interviewer: What was the duck race?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well, you'd put a live duck in the water, this happened on Labor Day and the 4th of July. He thought of this as a gimmick to attract people you know. We were packed, you couldn't even move there. He'd set these live ducks in the water and anybody who caught one could take it home for dinner and then he'd give them a little prize. I don't know if there were six or twelve ducks that he used to set off. Then they used to have the greased pig race too. They'd get a little suckling pig and they'd rub it down with fat and you had to catch that thing. I mean it may not sound like much but a hundred people at that time was a lot of people catching a greased pig in a circle. That was some race to see. Now see here's the old float where the (inaudible) used to come. They came after this picture was taken. There had another barge in here and it was all hollowed out. This was a way of life. I mean everybody had to make a little hooch to eat. So they'd come and put it in this thing and the boat used to come and pick it up at night. This is what Capone came and setup for the New York people because New York City is only over here around the bend.

Male Interviewer: Yea, it was a convenient spot.

Female Interviewer: There was a lot happening in Sewaren.

Eleanor Hinricksen: And that was all hollowed out. Hooch had to be under the water so the local cops couldn't get it until the boat would come. A couple of times we had a couple of interesting things on the water because the black police boat used to come and chase them up the water, you know, and you had a lot of action on Kill Van Cove. This is before the oil docks came and the sirens would blow. It never bothered us.

Male Interviewer: We were told that down in Keyport there were a couple of boathouses and they'd be making a cruiser for the Coast Guard and right next to it they'd be making one for the Rumrunners and they'd have a bigger engine in it.

Eleanor Hinricksen: My father had an exit in Keyport. Now my father had an old truck before they had air in the tires. Somebody stole the four wheels off my father's truck so before thinking he called the cops in and low and behold he had this still under this dance pavilion where they held the marathon and this is about the same time that the automatic toilets came in. Well one of the cops got caught in the coils and my father beat that one. He told the cop that it was a new sewer system they were installing. Just to show you how much they knew about sewage and everything. The little coils under there he got his foot caught and my father got away with it.

Female Interviewer: Quick thinking.

Eleanor Hinricksen: But that's a two family house now. Here's a picture, I think, of that other hotel but it's very faint. This was Boynton's and this is a faint copy of the two Ferris wheels that he had bought from Budapest. You can't see it too clear. I don't know if there's anybody restoring it or not.

Male Interviewer: I think we have a photo like this.

Female Interviewer: We have these pictures.

Eleanor Hinricksen: With the two Ferris wheels in it?

Male Interviewer: Yea, we didn't know what they were.

Female Interviewer: It's very blurry.

Eleanor Hinricksen: That's the two Ferris wheels that he had.

Female Interviewer: There were two Ferris wheels?

Eleanor Hinricksen: There were two Ferris wheels. He got them before they got them down in Keansburg. See Keansburg was just starting up at that time.

Male Interviewer: So it was your father, actually, who bought in a lot of the amusements?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes.

Male Interviewer: Around what time was that, like 1920 or before?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Oh, that was before I was even born because here's where the merry-go-round was and the penny arcade was and a lot of that. It doesn't look very large but it went way back.

Female Interviewer: Okay, now this would have been where Royal Petroleum now is?

Eleanor Hinricksen: That was in front of the house we lived in.

Female Interviewer: And you had a merry-go-round and you had a Ferris wheel?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, and we used to get in trouble because we'd always take the eyes out of the horses. You know in the winter it was closed down and boy, treasure hunt.

Female Interviewer: Hotdogs were a nickel?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yup. We came out with the first hamburger stand and my father used to have the tavern. When the taverns first started up after the Depression you walked with your bucket and business wasn't that good, nobody had any money, so you had your free nights. They'd give free hamburgers away and then you got to selling hamburgers. Then on Thursday night you'd have a free spaghetti night. I think I was standing over a pot before I could reach the top of the stove, you know, with the spaghetti. Another one was spirits and sauerkraut to draw the customers in. Now try to get something for nothing.

Male Interviewer: A couple of places.....

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well they have to think they're getting pretty tight now.

Female Interviewer: What was this back here was that swings?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Those are swings, yes.

Female Interviewer: What's this in here?

Eleanor Hinricksen: That's a cable car they had. You know they put

the subways up as far back as '23 and my father tried to reconstruct that. Instead of having a railroad on the ground you used steps to ride the rails up in the air but he didn't get too far with it you know. It was like a model train because those people couldn't get to New York City to do anything like that. There was no means of travel really. They didn't have any buses. The trolleys would go so far and then they would stop. In order to get to our place the trolleys ran from New Brunswick to Perth Amboy. I don't know if they still have the old car barn there in Perth Amboy

Female Interviewer: No, that was destroyed.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Then the trolley used to go down through Perth Amboy and then it would go over Woodbridge Creek, the mud flats, down Boynton Beach and it would stop at my father's place. Then it would turn around and make a trip back. Then you had another trolley that would go into Newark, it had the same fare to go into Newark.

Female Interviewer: Was the hotel a year round resort?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, it had very poor heating facilities; it was mostly summer. The only ones that really lived there in the winter were us, you know, or the family and people that worked there. Like I said, a lot of movie stars used to come because at that time they were building up in Lavallette and they were filming in Lavallette and they used to come down there for vacation. Governor Newberg.....

Female Interviewer: Was he a governor or was he a mayor?

Eleanor Hinricksen: He was the mayor of Woodbridge and then he became the governor. I don't know whether he was voted in office or how it became about but I know he had the title of Governor Newberg. Now over here are the bathhouses. That was underneath this pavilion, that was all bathhouses there, and then they had a dance hall down below there too but then it became unsafe and my father wouldn't use it. There's a lighthouse there; you know what a lighthouse is? And where they had the marina there, that was the last beach they had. There are pictures of that I know that Dawn Derrick, I forget what her married name is, she has pictures of that because they had just moved in there, Dawn and Goldie Markulin and Steve Markulin.

Male Interviewer: Yea, it sounds real familiar.

Eleanor Hinricksen: He used to be a football hero with the Golden Bears of Sewaren when they were a semi-private pro team.

Male Interviewer: He's about in his middle fifties?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yea, his wife would have pictures of the last beach and her sister, Dawn, would have some. All I know her last name begins with an A. See the girls are more prawn to taking pictures than the boys were. Linc Derrick would be able to get a hold of her; there's Ken, Linc, and Zel. Lincoln lives in Colonia somewhere around there. I bumped into him shopping a couple of times here. See here's a better picture of the railroad. There's a sign up there but it was really a railroad track and the entrance was down behind the stand. See what I mean about the shutters coming up from the stand?

It showed better on some than it did on the other. Well filming wasn't that good in those days either. Here's the high dive. There's where the marina is now.

Male Interviewer: The first one?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yea and the first sewage disposal came down there. If you hear of pollution they used to swim amongst the turds and you never heard anything about it. My father used to say oh that was a drain pipe. He never told them what drained down there, you know. My sister wrote a note in here if you want to read that. She's older than I am. See this is Sewaren beach but these are friends who are deceased. This is the old Bathhouses they had down there too. Here's a picture of the front of the tavern when it was converted.

Female Interviewer: Is this your father in the picture?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, that's not my father that's the bartender he had. I don't have too many picture of my father. We could never get him to sit still long enough believe it or not. Here's an old magazine of The Centennial of Woodbridge. I don't know if you have this. Oh, here's the events.

Female Interviewer: No, I've never seen this.

Eleanor Hinricksen: You never saw this one?

Female Interviewer: Do you remember the hotdog roasts?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Oh, yea. They used to dig holes in the beach. They threw everything in there but the kitchen sink for the hotdog roasts.

Female Interviewer: You mean for the fire; to build a fire.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yep, they'd dig a hole in the sand and they'd get the seaweed and put it in the bottom after they built a nice good hot fire. Then they'd throw red rocks on it, not bricks but rocks, and then they'd quick put the seaweed in there, throw the fish in near the hotdogs and anything edible, even your potatoes and whatnot. Then they'd quick put the seaweed over it and cover it. Corn on the cob is a good thing too. Then in the meantime, while that's simmering, you'd have the hotdogs on the fire cooking too with marshmallows and things like that. Now across from the Marina Gardens they had what they called a Ship Graveyard and just before World War II they had sold all these ships to Japan and then they had a graveyard out by that bridge going across, not the newest one but the oldest on, from Perth Amboy to Staten Island, they had a ship graveyard there too and that's the ships they towed to Japan before the war. Here it is, if you can see good you can see those ships there.

Male Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Eleanor Hinricksen: I know they are pictures of the ones that are by the bridge because we used to go that far rowing. That was an adventure to us to climb aboard these ships, go up the anchor and stuff like that. That's why we didn't need too many gyms to keep healthy and everything, you know. But it was very interesting.

Oh, here's a better one. This is the dock, see. This is low tide. See how the poles are sticking out of the water and the rowboats would just stay there when the boats came out but this they took when the boats were all rented out. This is where the other barge was put.

Female Interviewer: Do you remember the water and seawater at any time having been clean?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No.

Female Interviewer: Never?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I think it's cleaner now than it ever was. Like years ago, when they first put up the dock, the oil slick used to be horrendous there. I mean I can't see where people would really complain that they have never really known it. They've made mountains out of molehills but the beach used to be terrible, really bad, and we'd have to rake it up and we had no government agencies for control or anything else like that. I mean there was no such thing as a filter plant for sewage disposal or anything else like that and there were always mud flats. As a matter of fact, that's where they have their big plant now.

Male Interviewer: So your father had a lot of land down in Sewaren.

Eleanor Hinricksen: He did. Now a lot of cars were still battery operated. They weren't run by gas so this was just a new thing coming in. They had no oil burners for houses so there was no demand for this. Just like now, I'm a firm believer in nuclear energy and solar energy because I went through this phase of no heat and no running water or anything like that so I know that they can saddle this and strap this. I mean right now if I had any little spare cash I'd invest in solar heating systems because that's the thing of the future and that's where you'll clean up and that's where my father cleaned up, in oil and gas. Like our refreshments there was no such thing as going down to the corner ice cream store. You had no ice cream stores handy or anything. Hey, our first treat was chewing tar and getting ice from the ice truck and now we wouldn't give our kids ice cream because it has gas in the ice or something. It's just like my son has a farm now and he has goats milk so I said well get me what you have instead of feeding to the pigs. I'll take it home and I'll make cheese out of it and save it. He said how can you save milk? I said I'll freeze it. He said you can't freeze it. I said what do you think I grew up on? I said the milk was left out and the cream was that high on the top of the milk bottle. It froze and you used it. Now my goat's milk down in the freezer is three months old and I'm still using it and it tastes as fresh as the day I have it. But I bought gallons and gallons of that because my son went back to farming.

Male Interviewer: So what was it like years ago, you know, things like this have the frozen milk?

Eleanor Hinricksen: The milk, years ago, well they had a milkman.

I'll never forget him because that's the first time I heard of an illegitimate child. This girl fell in love with him and, of course, the baby was conceived and she was really shunned. I mean then people didn't talk to people or anything else like that. Virginia Dier was her name and now that I think of it I feel sorry for that poor kid what she had to go through. But the milkman would leave the milk nor on the porch, on the porch if it was close to the road, but if it was far away I mean he left it out. The first milk wagon I heard was drawn by a horse. Then after that it got to be by truck and he was a big timer because he drove a truck. I mean the first date was in the milk truck and stuff like that. You could see there weren't many vehicles.

Female Interviewer: Where did you purchase your groceries?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well, most you canned yourself, you didn't have a large selection of cans. You went to the butcher shop and her name is Mrs. Firetag, I think her son was active in the police department for awhile. She had the only grocery store in Sewaren and that was next to Sewaren School. Do you know where that is? I think that school is obsolete now if I'm not mistaken. It went up to the fourth grade.

Female Interviewer: Where would that be?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well, the railroad station has been torn down. Have you got pictures of that?

Female Interviewer: Yes.

Eleanor Hinricksen: It was on that same road going towards Woodbridge.

Male Interviewer: Okay.

Female Interviewer: Okay.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Merwin could remember and he'd be able to point it out to you. Then in came A&P and the A&P store wasn't any bigger than this living room.

Female Interviewer: Really.

Eleanor Hinricksen: First it was a Butler and then it became A&P. Now it's a library if I'm not mistaken.

Male Interviewer: Really!

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, and that when you got your meat you hung it in the ice box.

Male Interviewer: Is that the one that was next to Spoon's the barbershop?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes.

Male Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Female Interviewer: Down the other end.

Male Interviewer: And wasn't there another one near Kate's?

Eleanor Hinricksen: That came in after the A&P. He had a big store. He lived upstairs over the store and Mrs. Firetag was the one who had the store next to the school and that's where you bought your lunch. We were talking about that the other day. Charlotte Russe was our big thing, two cents. You got a piece of sponge cake and it had some sort of a creamy filling with whipped cream and a cherry. We weren't supposed to eat that but we did.

We were supposed to go in for a sandwich for three cents, for three cents mind you, a hard roll with butter and meat from Mrs. Firetag, that was our lunch. Then my father got wise to us eating that so then he said, you charge it, so then we had to eat what we were told to eat. I keep thinking that one penny worth of candy you got a little tiny bag like this but you got a lot of candy. Now where Merwin's docks where there was nothing there, absolutely nothing. Across the street from the docks was the city dumps. That's where they used to empty all the garbage and man was that brutal.

Male Interviewer: We were wondering what was back in there because it was so.....

Eleanor Hinricksen: That was a dump and the reason I remember this is my father was picked up for bootlegging, finally, after prohibition.

Male Interviewer: After prohibition, yea.

Eleanor Hinricksen: He was never caught during prohibition, it was after prohibition. Somebody had turned him in for bootlegging and you know what they found in his house, a pint of whiskey. At that time the cold remedy was whiskey and tea with a lot of sugar and lemon. I mean you didn't go to the doctor for a shot of penicillin. You wouldn't go to the doctor for a cold or anything. The only time you went to the doctor was if you broke a leg or stopped breathing, you know something like that. I mean there were no inoculations against anything or anything else like that. So they reported him, they searched the house and they found a pint of whiskey so he was put on probation for a year. He had to report for probation and we loved it. We loved it because it was on a Wednesday night and we went to the movies for ten cents. The two younger kids used to have to walk with Pop up to report to probation and we went to the movies. That was also dish night you'd get a free dish but I couldn't get a dish because I wasn't old enough.

Female Interviewer: Where was the theatre?

Eleanor Hinricksen: State Theatre in Woodbridge. The old police station, the old courthouse. He had to report downstairs. Some of those women would get so excited over the picture they'd stand up and you'd hear these dishes clank to the floor. I'd love to get my hands on some of those dishes, they're worth money now. I have a silver dusted dish now that I was offered fifty dollars for, a glass round dish.

Male Interviewer: Well, what did they give out? Was it really good dishes?

Eleanor Hinricksen: It was good dishes, yea. Some people have them now and they're worth quite a bit of money.

Male Interviewer: Yea, it was such an odd place to get those so I would imagine that there's a story behind it.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well, you know, you got to realize that getting dishes then you didn't walk into a store and buy dishes unless you were extremely wealthy. A class of people like our class of people didn't

have a full set of dishes. A full set of dishes with everything matching was something wonderful. At that time it was during the Depression and you were lucky you had cups and saucers and stuff like that to drink from. The majority of the ordinary people drank from the porcelain type cup. That was the metal with the porcelain on the outside and it had chips all through it. Now they pay an arm and a leg for some of those things. Now I collected some of them. My son has them so anything that I had after thirty years of living in a house I'm going crazy trying to find out who wants this and who wants that and trying to settle it, you know. I sent most of the stuff up to the farm for him, all my rare pieces like that. I'm a firm believer if I'm going to do it I'm going to do it now while I'm alive so after I'm gone I won't have my three kids pulling at each other saying oh she promised me this or promised me that. It's just like that chair there loaded with junk, you couldn't buy this for anything. This is hand carved; this is over four hundred years old. This is a family. There are only four like it in the world. Two of them are at a museum and one is here and one is at my brother-in-laws house and this is going to my youngest son. This is a chair that belonged to a Viking Lord over in Denmark. Everything else was destroyed because the house blew up. Two are in museums in Denmark, Copenhagen and the other two are here. The other one broke up in the explosion.

Female Interviewer: So this belonged to your father?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, my father-in-law. His father-in-law was one of the first people over in Denmark. I asked my son, who is up in the mountains, to go through most of his papers but he says all he had is the same stuff that my sister has. That's from his grandfather on my side. Outside of toys and stuff like that, that has been kept for years and years, I give it to my grandson now. Of course his father won't let him play with it.

Female Interviewer: Have you any of the furnishings or relics from the Sewaren Hotel?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, at that time there was no such thing as keeping it as a memento or anything else like that. I know my sister has none either.

Male Interviewer: What were the people like at that time? You had some really wealthy people living, at that time, in Sewaren.

Eleanor Hinricksen: You know the really truly wealthy people where down to earth. There was a Mr. Wright, he was a bachelor and he was extremely wealthy. He lived on Cliff Road in Sewaren. He had a housekeeper and a chauffeur there. You hear so much controversy about adoption, single people raising children and all that. Well he raised two girls without legalized adoption papers or anything else like that. They stayed with the housekeeper and the chauffeur, who were a married couple. He felt sorry for them. One was his housekeeper prior to that, they were poor. They just didn't have enough money of anything else like that. Her name was Helen Gardner. So after she became twenty-one she took the name of Wright because her mother just couldn't feed her. Her mother and father

just didn't have enough money to feed her. There were no welfare agencies or anything else like that. He only came to Sewaren really in the summertime but he kept the house opened for the two caretakers and they raised this girl and gave her a college education and whatnot. I know she married into quite a bit of money. I don't know whatever happened to the house or what but I'm sure he's deceased and she inherited it. There was another girl there but she was so quiet I can't remember her name. The reason I remember Helen Gardner and Helen Wright is we sang in that little church in the choir. That was our big night out, choir rehearsal. We used to love to walk along Cliff Road to see what boy we would meet. I mean that was our big thing.

Male Interviewer: What other people were living along Cliff Road when you were there?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Very nice. They were very sociable. They were Really from all walks of life because there was a professor there whose name was Derek. I don't know much about him. He took off somewhere after awhile. He had six children. Him and his wife, I guess, didn't get along and he just took off but the children were down to earth. They were a little uppity when they first came but then they fit in with the rest of the crowd. I mean you just sort of kind of melt it together and that's the way it was. Urban, he was the first dental technician. They lived on Woodbridge Avenue. I don't know if they're still around or if he has his dental practice in Sewaren.

Male Interviewer: It sounds real familiar.

Female Interviewer: It sounds familiar.

Male Interviewer: I think it might still be there.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, well they've been in there a long time. Now he was considered wealthy and his son was considered wealthy but there was no snobbery, no class distinction really, if there is today. We only had one Negro family and that was David Davis. Now I don't know if this is the Davis that is so well known. This would be worthwhile looking into because there was no such thing as segregation or animosity. We were all jealous of him. You know why we were all jealous of him? He was the cleanest kid in school and the smartest kid in school. We weren't mad of his color or anything, it was nothing like that. For a while we had problems because you were a lousy honky or a WOP or anything else like that. In other words this bit about color and stuff this sort of kind of flabbergasted me for a while because even though I lived in an area where there weren't too many we never even took notice if a woman went to high school and really intermingled or the eighth grade, you know, that level. It really wasn't shoved down our throats. Maybe that's why. Because we were separated as honkies, Guineas, Pollocks, Swedes, Nigros, you know. They were just a part of this; there was nothing like that.

Male Interviewer: The area behind West Avenue, what was back in there?

Eleanor Hinricksen: That was semi-low class. It wasn't really low, what you'd call poverty area but this was a foreign class say like the Yugoslovians

and the Russians and partly Hungarian. Now that's separated by the main stream in Woodbridge. That was down that end. Of course, everybody on Cliff Road was more or less classified as American outside of the help, that was that area. On the right side going to Woodbridge over that bridge by Merwin's by the school area, not West Avenue now that was considered a little bit high class but behind them was predominantly Italian. I don't really remember any French really being involved outside of the movie star angle, you know, when they had summered in Sewaren. There you had some English and French but you really didn't have any English or French people living there.

Male Interviewer: Do you remember the movie that was shot at the train station, Peacock Alley?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No.

Female Interviewer: That was 1921.

Male Interviewer: Yea, that was before you were born then.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Probably, yea. But I know they took some scenes on the waterfront there.

Female Interviewer: Who did?

Eleanor Hinricksen: The movie people. You know this was another rum running picture they had made.

Female Interviewer: Oh, really.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, I don't know what the name of that movie was though. I was too young to remember that.

Male Interviewer: That's something new. We haven't heard that at all.

Eleanor Hinricksen: I remember that clearly too because that was a big thing. I mean they didn't move equipment like they have today.

Female Interviewer: Where did they do the shooting?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Down in the old Sewaren beach. Not where Shell Oil was but the last beach that was opened where they only had that one thing. They did it on that pier which is practically almost washed away now, I guess, from the last I saw of it. I understand they restored it. I saw a marina going up there or something the last time I was there.

Male Interviewer: Yea, there are quite a few now all along the stretch.

Eleanor Hinricksen: And that used to be something when the storms would come and all those boats used to get untied and go out in the river. Like I say, the kids had no fear of things then. They were really physically fit. I mean you got fifty cents for bringing a boat back. Fifty cents was a lot of money in those days. Hey, listen, when you can make somebody happy with twenty cents worth of candy on Easter Sunday because there was no money and twenty cents worth of candy was a big Easter basket. When I say bit, it was about this big but you know in the eyes of the beholder you could never do that now.

Female Interviewer: When had your father moved to Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I think right after he had gotten off the boat.

I think he had people in Perth Amboy who sponsored him and he came Over and he worked in Perth Amboy until he saved enough money.

Female Interviewer: Is the name Turk or Turek?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Turek.

Male Interviewer: Around what year was that off hand?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Gee, I don't know. My sister is sixty-three and she's the oldest. I think it was about seven years before her.

Male Interviewer: You figure around 1908?

Female Interviewer: Yea, somewhere around there?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Something like that. I know it was before the 1st World War.

Female Interviewer: And your father came directly to Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Perth Amboy.

Female Interviewer: Okay, and then to Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Then to Sewaren.

Female Interviewer: At what point did he move into his house?

Eleanor Hinricksen: It wasn't too long after. He started working around there and my father was a very frugal man; he was a very learning man. Maybe perhaps not in books but here's another thing you have to remember about my father, the first house wrecking company was formed in Sewaren when they demolished a house piece by piece and saved the lumber and resold it; this was his baby. Now they did a centerfold on him in the New York News. He was the first house mover where they moved a whole house. He saw a way to make money there. He did most of this house moving in roads and stuff in Carteret and highway department. They would buy the property and they would sell the house for next to nothing thinking it would be demolished. Not my father, he would run and buy another piece of property and move the house. Now our job, at night, was to take this big yellow cake of OK Soap, those timbers were like this, and we had to rub all the timbers with the soap so that the house would be able to slide. He'd jack it up and then they would slide it on there with a truck and pulley and then they would move the whole house. It was only after he got in trouble with Public Service a couple of times that Public Service instituted this policy that you would have to have a permit because my brother would have to stand there with prods and prod up the wires and get the roads closed. I mean he was in a lot of trouble all the time because I mean they just didn't have these things. This was a new practice never heard of. Plus, there wasn't too much traffic to tie, you got to remember this too. It's not like roads are traveled today. In our area not everybody owned a car. Maybe one out of every fifteen to twenty families had a car.

Female Interviewer: Now in what time are you talking about?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I'm talking about the late twenties.

Female Interviewer: What were the main roads in Sewaren at that time?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Woodbridge Avenue and West Avenue and they crossed. Those were semi-paved and then Cliff Road became semi-paved

only because of the wealthy homes that were there and then that road coming down to that marina was paved. All the rest were dirt roads. They didn't have what you called a road department at that time to patch holes and everything because most of the stuff was done by wagon. Most of the road started off as paths then. That's when the surveyors got busy and started to paper street them and cut them through.

Female Interviewer: When did your father move out of Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: When he was sixty-three or sixty-five I think. I even forgot how old he was. He was eighty-three when he died. My step-mother is still alive. You could drop her a note and I'm sure my sister will give you her address. She would remember the date that they moved because they retired down in Florida.

Female Interviewer: He sold all his property in Sewaren and then moved to Florida?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Yes, he had some investments down there and then as he got older he sold those. He led a good life too when he retired. I mean he just made a nice big long trip around the United States, came in, laid on the couch and said well Ma I guess you better call the doctor. He said, I think I'm going to leave you. She called the doctor, the doctor came and he said just make sure that everything is taken care of the way I wanted it. He said get a hold of Sam Kenny. He even planned his own funeral. But he was eighty-three and driving and he only had one eye. He lost that when he was working with the Ironworkers. That's where he got his money from, the Ironworkers. I think maybe because of the loss of the eye. Now that eye was a source of trouble to all of us because he used to take it out at night and he was forever breaking his glass eye.

Female Interviewer: Oh, gee!

Eleanor Hinricksen: I think I broke about two or three of them. I'm deathly afraid of thunderstorms and as a young child I used to crawl into bed with my father and I'd always knock the glass over and step on the eye. Imagine picking an eye out of your foot.

Female Interviewer: Oh, gee!

Eleanor Hinricksen: I'm embarrassed about my teeth and I can't do anything about that tonight. But he had a very interesting life and he did a lot for Sewaren. I don't know if Cattano is still alive. He used to be a custodian there at the school.

Male Interviewer: Dick Cattano is.

Eleanor Hinricksen: If his father's alive he'd remember my father very well because the teacher got a hold of him and they had no facilities as far as recreation or anything else like that. My father had no education but he believed in it. He came and painted that basement floor and he mapped out a deck tennis. He didn't know the game, deck tennis, he didn't know anything about deck tennis but he painted the floor and mapped the thing up. He said here's a

game they could play to the teachers so they asked him what it was and it was deck tennis. They asked him, do you know how to play and he said no. But then he cut the wooden discs out and he made the pushers for them. That's how I know that game is old too. Then another game of deck tennis is where you strip the net and at that time they used to have hoses for the garden but they were rubber and they had the webbing inside. He took an old broom handle and he cut that up and he got the two edges and he stuck it around and made a round circle and those were the games. I mean it didn't cost him any money but this was a form of recreation and gym for them. Transportation – there was no such thing as transportation. I mean you walked to school in the snow. It was a source of embarrassment to me because at that time ski pants had just first come out and we used to wear these big heavy cotton stockings and when you wore underwear you wore the long johns. Today everybody is crazy about wearing long johns. In those days you were embarrassed to holy high heaven because the bottom of your long johns were sewed to your stockings and everybody would say you got your long underwear on and it was true, you did have your long underwear on. We used to cry I want snow pants and they'd say you can't have them they're too much money.

Female Interviewer: Oh, gee!

Eleanor Hinricksen: And I remember, during the Depression too, this is when we first got our first car. Oh, he was so happy. Tires, you weren't going to feel the bumps. That's what he thought. He loaded it up with wood and he was going to get five dollars for this load of wood on the truck. This was from the old Sewaren Hotel and take it to Metuchen. You know where the missile site is in Metuchen where Hadley Airport is? We had a friend who was a farmer there and we used to trade stuff with him and bring him wood. There were no woods there and we'd take the wood and we'd get the meat. He'd slaughter a lamb or something. That's why I wouldn't eat the pork chops from that lamb. But, anyhow, he loaded this truck up with wood and he couldn't get it through the underpass. He didn't dare go through the main street because he was overloaded at that time. I mean people would stare and stuff like that and he'd get stuff under the underpass with the wood so he had to unload the wood and then he got a flat and we had to unload it so that he could jack up the truck to fix the flat. It was an all day job with one load of wood.

Female Interviewer: So you spent an awful lot of time with your father.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well, my father and mother were separated and my father brought us kids up. It wasn't an easy job, it really wasn't. I mean, I'll be honest with you, my sister is a goody good shoes she was but my brother and I did give him a hard time. We were persecuted just like the teenagers today; misunderstood and persecuted. My brother had to work in the bar and said I don't want to tend bar, I have a life of my own. So he'd go out and tie one on. Then of course I didn't want to make his bed because we had a three car garage. It wasn't actually for cars but to store trucks and everything else. He had an apartment over the garage and I'd

get to make his bed and he'd get mad and he'd come and turn mine upside down. We'd fight all the time. My poor father what he went through. But he was a happy man. He always had a joke and a story.

Female Interviewer: Was he a very big man?

Eleanor Hinricksen: He was a very big man. Everybody in our family isn't what you'd call slim. I mean, he was like I am stocky and laughing all the time; joking all the time. And it was amazing because when he did pass away and they had the funeral there were four or five loads of cars and he hadn't been in town for twenty years. You can ask Sam Kenney about that. It was amazing. You know a lot of people who wait until they retire too late never got to do anything and we figured we'd take this next ten years and if we ran out of money we'd work and if we don't we won't. My son has a farm up there and he's doing very well so he's after us to go and live there. It's not at this point that we want to go.

Female Interviewer: Where in Florida does your sister live?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Lehigh Acres. She has a duplex home out there and mother lives in Miami and I have a younger brother living down in Florida. He works for the city down there. We have a nice little place down in the Brettenwoods. I say we're putting heat in it now. That's why I've been spending so much time there but I'm trying to fit seven rooms of furniture into four rooms and it's not easy. That place is furnished too, that's the hard part. When I was young you would take the good with the bad. When the good years were there my father spent it as fast as he could make it. We had hayrides; twice a year he would take us on hayrides. His biggest excursion was from Sewaren to High Bridge. Man that was a trip. Everybody looked forward to that and how long it took to get to High Bridge which was an hour or an hour and a half, something like that now. Well that used to be a four hour ride.

Female Interviewer: What roads were available then?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Not too many. That's why it was four hours. I mean you had no highways or anything and you had no freeways, nothing like that. You know, they didn't plow up the roads back then. Today if you get stuck in a snowdrift.....we're really having it like crazy here. We're down here this winter and my husband works three blocks away from here. You know he was snowbound. He couldn't get out of the house because the plows did not come here and it drifted the road and he's just three blocks away from here. He couldn't get out of the house because the plows did not come here and it drifted the road. He's just three blocks away from work. We were shut in the house for two days. His place was closed down. My son lives up in the mountains and the roads were opened. They had more snow but they're prepared for it.

Male Interviewer: Yes.

Eleanor Hinricksen: You couldn't even see the front door. They had to burrow through the front door to get out of his house. That's nothing, they're used to it; here they're not. But in those days you never had snow removal. When cars first came out there were no plows and like I said he

tied the traffic up coming to the house. It was what they called a traffic jam. I mean they should try to bridge out here sometime at suppertime at five o'clock in New Brunswick. You're not working today, you're lucky. When they're working on that new highway going through I do everything to avoid that because you're bumper to bumper.

Male Interviewer: What industries were down that area at that time?

Eleanor Hinricksen: They had one factory, the lampshade factory, owned by Mr. Tom. Is that still there?

Male Interviewer: Yes.

Eleanor Hinricksen: I'll be darn. That was the only industry.

Male Interviewer: Was anything down there like out towards the end of the point there?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, they had National Lead and all. That was in Perth Amboy but there was really nothing in Sewaren. But the people who worked for National Lead lived in Sewaren and I know, at that time, the longevity wasn't there because it caused air pollution, the lack of masses, and there was always somebody losing an arm or a leg or something like that. I mean today there's a close watch on accidents now whereas they didn't have it in those days.

Female Interviewer: Was fishing an important industry in Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, only as a resort. Fishing was a livelihood. You caught your own fish to eat at your own table but you didn't sell it there. It was not a big industry there. See there was no way to keep anything like that. You had no refrigeration and the iceman came once a day and you didn't have the money to spend for the ice to gamble on catching a fish. Like the Italian people, I was very surprised, the first time I went up there for a picnic I noticed the Italian people ate a lot of fish too especially if they're from the area of Sicily. You know what kellies are, they're used for bait, well I ate kellies up there. You know I was surprised because I saw the little meat and the little kellies. I never ate kellies but it was good, you know. I never could cook them. Until this day I like eels. Now we go eeling; you'd probably turn your nose at an eel. We ate eels for breakfast.

Female Interviewer: You'd go eeling in Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Oh, yea. You didn't go for the great big ones you went for the small ones. If you'd get the big ones they got too strong in flavor and then you'd skin them. You'd tack the skin to a piece of wood and then you'd dry them out. That's how my older brother used to make his money. He'd take the skin and keep rubbing it down with pork fat and it would make the skin soft and pliable. That's what you'd use instead of ace bandages for tying wrists and stuff like that. You'd use that for a wrist bind. Now he'd sell this to the doctors and they'd use this for a wrist band for sprained wrists and stuff like that, or a sprained ankle. You see a lot of the stuff they used to do years ago they would substitute for synthetics. Tanning is something that has really out, it's an expertise now. Up in the mountains they don't even do it

hunting anymore because my son rents out to hunters in the wintertime and of course this is the big thing, this is their added income because you don't grow anything in the winter and you know you got to have some money coming in to pay the taxes. If you're young you know how things keep building up so they rent to hunters and everything. The farmers used to tan for these hunters, they don't do that anymore because they can't get the natural pork cuts and stuff like that. You have to have your own pork product. It can't be with salt or any preservative because then it loses its natural oil and it lubricates and to prevent this other stuff from drying out. See the salt is the substance that dries things out and it preserves but also with skin like that it would crack it so you have to render your own oils and your own fat. Commercial oils won't do it because it has a form of preservative in it. So that's a thing that's added out. And it's all soft shelled crabs, that's the only thing they'd sell. When I see the price of crabs today I flip. I didn't even buy any clams for clam chowder when I saw six for ninety cent. I think how I used to grind them up for bait.

Female Interviewer: Was there clamming also?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, just crabs, it was too muddy for clamming. You had clams and you had what you called a switch clam but you couldn't eat it it was too muddy. I won't even eat the clams from the shore down here because if you open them up there are specks of mud from the old mud flats there. They have that sludge and stuff here too. The only place I'd really eat clams would be from Sandy Hook where the mud sludge is gone and it's been washed away to the ocean or Maryland or Long Island because they eliminated that because there is still a lot of rare sewage. It wouldn't kill you or anything but it's just the thought of the thing, you know, that you wouldn't do. It's just the same way like the health food stores they all feature seaweed or kelp. You couldn't eat that stuff here because it's all be fertilized. By the same token if you planted tomatoes and you use your own waste to fertilize it you wouldn't want to eat it. Yet you go to the store and buy fertilizer which is ground up cow dirt and make your tomatoes flourish and grow. This wouldn't bother you, you know, but it's just the idea of the thing. But there was really no industry at all there. The only did is that they did have was they did make boats. I wouldn't exactly call that an industry. They had one man by the name of Brown there who made them and he was more a less a recluse. He never got married or anything else like that. He lived in Woodbridge and he had his boat docked there and that's all he did, you know, watch the boats in the wintertime; a dry dock like.

Male Interviewer: Do you remember Captain Jack?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Thomas?

Male Interviewer: I think so. He had a tugboat?

Eleanor Hinricksen: He worked on a tugboat, he didn't own it and he lived in Sewaren. He and his wife had no children. As a matter of fact do you remember I mentioned Acker's beach, they had a smaller

house, at that time houses were huge, very large, there's a lot of waste not like the modern day houses, you can get just as much in a small house today as you could in one of those big houses because the fireplaces, some of them were the size of this wall here like the one in this last house that we lived in. The fireplace in the living room is the size of this wall now that's a lot of wasted space. My son has a fireplace, like a pot belly stove, and it heats his whole house up in the mountains and this is 40 below sometimes. But they were ornamental and didn't throw that much heat and that's why the rooms were very huge. But Jack Thomas lived behind there. That house was newer than Acker's house. At that time they had all these huge porches that would almost run around the house. Everybody lived outside more or less. They didn't eat outside but they needed that air to breath at night. Everything was sitting on the porch. Today they don't have porches when the construct the house.

Male Interviewer: Was the pollution bad? Because up the river you had a lot of plants in Carteret.

Eleanor Hinricksen: No, not really because I think not having Shell Oil or any of those oil works in there a breeze used to come off of the Staten Island sound. See Staten Island isn't too big and you still get that salt air more or less pushing the other way. But there was very little smog really but there was no smog control or anything. I don't know if the air there had something to do or the salt had something to do with it and was cutting it down or not. But now that you mentioned it it's really amazing, there was very little of it.

Female Interviewer: What do you supposed happened to Sewaren as a resort area?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Well I think one thing it became so overcrowded. There really wasn't too much room to hold to many people. As the population explosion came the need for more was needed so they moved to larger areas. Just as it's going now, if you go down to Seaside or Point Pleasant they keep extending every year even though they've had this horrendous weather and the boardwalks are deteriorating and fires and whatnot, every time they rebuild they add a little bit more on to it. Now you must have been going down to the point for a good many years, right? Now try to go back in your mind from the first time you went down there you didn't see as many apartment complexes. They didn't even have a hospital down there when I first went down to the point. Now I was in the hospital down there two years ago and since then they passed where they're going to put another addition on and the apartment complexes I've never seen before. Their zoning codes have changed. I noticed in one year's time they instituted a new building code down there for brick walls to separate your apartments.

They've gone to condominiums now. It's just because of the change of time. I don't think you can blame it on air pollution or anything else. Then another thing I think that they found it was a safe harbor for all these oil tanks. Now you couldn't really put a storage bin out into the ocean front because Staten Island really did cut down on a lot of bad weather and for the docks to load and unload there it's more or less hidden off and the area was going down because it was too small. The grounds and water is cleaner in the other place. Of course this could have been dredged out too and the need for modern equipment. Now the Public Service Generating Plant I was amazed how many people here in New Brunswick knew my father. Till this day somebody would say did you live here all your life or something because we bear a very small family resemblance to my father. As soon as they hear the name Turek they say your father owned the beaches; I remember that as a little boy. I thought I had pictures of the trolleys but I don't. They used to be packed coming from here. But like I say at the beach there were one or two hundred people now you know Point Pleasant and all that how many people go in there. One or two hundred is nothing; ten thousand can go on the boardwalk there and it's barely full. See Perth Amboy was already a shipping town, all those factories are there and it had nothing to do with pollution or anything else like that, the abolishment of that. They kept, more or less, squeezing you out.

Female Interviewer: Hadn't there been a series of fires in Sewaren?

Eleanor Hinricksen: No more than anything else. As a matter of fact I think relatively few. You have more here.

Female Interviewer: There hadn't been a fire at the Sewaren Hotel?

Eleanor Hinricksen: I told you that smaller hotel.

Female Interviewer: But nothing else?

Male Interviewer: Do you remember what happened to the Boynton's, we can't find them anywhere?

Eleanor Hinricksen: They retired down in Florida.

Male Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Female Interviewer: Do you know if there are any relatives in the Woodbridge area?

Eleanor Hinricksen: Not that I know of. There were two brothers, Boynton brothers. There must have been sons or daughters from the two brothers.

Male Interviewer: Now they had the lumberyard and the hollow tile.

Eleanor Hinricksen: And they were also active in politics in Woodbridge.

Female Interviewer: And real estate.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Perhaps from the book you might be able to do a follow up on them, do you know what I mean because they have other associates that they were associated with. I know, like my father when he came back to town he'd always go look up his old buddies. I think

that that book would probably be an asset to you in tracing down some of these people.

Male Interviewer: We'll have to make copies of this.

Eleanor Hinricksen: You must have a copy of that in the library.

Male Interviewer: I don't remember seeing this one.

Eleanor Hinricksen: That's pretty old, you know, when you stop to think of it. Sewaren had a history of pirates and treasure hunts. I mean this was drummed into our heads. You know at that time when we were children relics meant nothing to us. They weren't collecting things. We were all looking for something new and exciting. Now if I could only get my hands on some of the stuff. My son is different he got bottles, milk bottles, I mean, and stuff like that from the year one.

Male Interviewer: For instance what were some of the things that...

Female Interviewer: Were related to pirates and stories.

Eleanor Hinricksen: Where they had that ship graveyard there was an old sail boat there in Staten Island, you know where Ticonny is? We used to row our boats across there and there was a barrel stuck in the water where the spring water was. We used to love that spring water. You'd think we were getting soda pop or a pint of hooch or something like that. That's where we'd go at night. Buried way down in the sand was the bottom of this old sailboat. I know it was old because it has barnacles, you know like wormy and we could never dig this thing out. I think what finally happened is it just turned into sand or something else like that after that. We always used to go digging through the mud looking for things like that. I think somebody got an old anchor out of there and the link chains but I don't know who had gotten them. Just like that one pictures I showed you, the bathhouse there, well the tall young man he was the one who got a relic. And another one was Roy Jorgenson he had a relic from there. Whether they kept them or not, I don't know.

Male Interviewer: So what were some of the old stories?

Eleanor Hinricksen: At one time they said that was a pirate's cove and that's where the pirate's ship used to wait out bad weather and that they had sailed up the east coast from down Florida, the Keys, and came up here and things like that. That's how it got the name of Kill Van Cove. There was a pirate who had his headquarters there. I don't which name pretended to it but they did call it Kill Van Cove and the kid's name was Van Cove. There were just old bottles and old flasks and stuff like that. Like I said if I would have known then it would be different. You never pay any attention riding down the road about your telegraph poles or anything else like that. My son comes back with a lot of glass ones and he made planters out of them. You just don't notice the change when it's happening. That's why

I'm moving things now but I've had them for so many years and I hate to throw them out. I give them to the children and say hey this is fifty years old.