

Joycelyn Hebert Interview

Interviewer: Carl Brasseaux, Don Davis

Joycelyn Hebert: ...coach me along now.

Carl Brasseaux: Oh, well that won't be a problem. We just - let's see.

H: I'm gonna get me a drink of water. I'm getting nervous.

B: Oh, for God sakes.

Don Davis: Don't be nervous. We're all in the same family here.

H: Ha ha.

B: There. That better?

D: Yeah. Testing. One. Two. Three. Testing. This is a test. This is a test. This is a test. This is a test.

B: Okay Don.

D: This is a test. One, two. This is a test.

B: Okay. Okay, well can we begin just by getting your name and where you were born, and – we just want to get it on tape that it's okay for us to interview you and for us to put this in the archives at LSU, at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and possibly at Sea Grant also. Just so that researchers who want to use this material for research purposes can use it freely. Is – so...

H: Okay. My name is Joycelyn Hebert. My maiden name is Keller. I was born in New Orleans. Um, I grew up in a Humble camp in Paradis – which is St. Charles Parish. Um, my dad worked for Humble Oil, and um, I guess there were maybe forty or fifty houses there. We had our own, um, water um, tank, and um, recreation hall...

B: Well first of all, when did you move to Paradis?

H: Um, I think I was in second grade.

B: So that would've been about what year?

H: Um, I guess I must've been about seven or eight, yeah. We went to Paradis. Second grade.

B: So we're talking about the, the 1930s?

H: Um, I was born in '38, so um, I guess that would probably what, um, '38.

B: So you were seven years old in 1945?

H: Yeah, right. Yeah. I was in second grade when we moved to Paradis.

B: Okay.

H: And um, went to school in Des Allemands, you know, up until eighth grade, and then after that Hahnville High, which was along the river then. Um, we were five children. Um, I have two older brothers and two younger sisters. And um, anyway, um, my – my dad supervised some of these boat trips. Humble would offer these trips for all the um, first place, wildlife winners in the 4H clubs in St. Charles Parish and surrounding parishes. And also they had a lot of county agents, and everybody loved the trip because you would – we would leave, um, out of um, the Humble camp – the boat dock in Paradis. And um, we would travel through um, Lake Des Allemands, Lake Salvador, north to Grand Isle. And at Grand Isle we stayed at the Humble camp there. They had like a boarding house, and a mess hall, and well...

B: Well can you describe what you remember it looking like?

H: Um, the campsite – um, yeah. There were two-story houses there. You know, built, at the camp. Um, we must've got to the boat dock or whatever, and we stayed in the boarding house. It was like a place I guess where the guys offshore stayed or whatever, and they had like a huge kitchen mess hall. And um, I just remember we got there, and um, they fixed all kind of supper and pies and ice cream and all that good stuff. And then the following morning, they – we would board the crew boats, which were maybe four or five. And like I said, they were probably; I took (inaudible) crew boats. And um, we would um – they would pack lunches for us, and um, we would head on out into the gulf. Um, I don't know exactly where, but off the Grand Isle coast.

B: About how long did it take you?

H: Um, gee I don't remember because we were gone practically all day. We would just ride out there and visit different places. Um, I remember we visited a place called um, Bird Island or something – it was like a bird sanctuary. And when we pulled up, I mean the sky was just black with birds and things flying. It was just – I had never seen so many birds. And um, it was just an island out there, and um, we also visited a place called um, I think it was Captain Viacso was his name. He was an older man, and he lived on some little island. And he must've had some oyster reefs or something because I remember we got off the boats and then we would all go um, try to – I don't know what you call it. Is it tonging for oysters? But we had these big old tongs and I remember pulling up some of the – these oysters were huge. I would say about a foot long. We couldn't even eat them they were too big. And he was just an older gentleman. We just walked around there, you know, surveyed everything, and then uh, then we um, got in the boat and then we went to Manila Village, and it was just a huge platform you know, out on stilts. Yeah.

B: Can you estimate – and I realize it's been a while...

H: How big?

B: Just how big the platform was.

H: It was pretty big. It was like a village, you know, it was like a um, gosh I can't remember. I can't say exactly. Maybe as big as a football field or a block or something like that? I mean, it was big. Because we tied up...

B: The platform area, and there were buildings surrounding where people were living, or people just – can you describe...

H: Well, it looked like

B: ...what you remember?

H: Well, I remember we got off the boats. Um, we got up on the platform. Um, I remember the plat – some of the platforms were wavy, like you know, like um, I just remember they had barrels full of shrimp. You know, we just kind of walked around the platform. Um, I, you know, I don't remember a whole lot about if they lived there or what. I don't – I can't remember. There were like um, oriental people. I knew that. And um, I guess I must've went two or three times with my dad, you know.

D: Now these barrels – were they like a water barrel? Or were they, you know, big barrel? Little barrel?

H: Looked like big barrels with um, dried shrimp or – I remember we filled our pockets and bags, and you know, and we just kind of walked around the platform. I don't remember um, going into any um, any part of where they might've had a kitchen or that – we just kind of walked around the...

D: Do you remember what the boats looked like? Were they all power boats or were some sailboats?

H: Um, what boats now?

D: The boats that the people on Manilla Village lived in.

H: I don't remember seeing any boats.

D: Okay.

H: I mean I don't – I don't recall. I just remember we – we would get up to the platform and then all get out, you know. Um, I don't remember um, you know. I know there were probably boats – probably saw boats out on the water, but you know, I don't remember seeing any boats next to the platform.

D: Were they – were they equivalent distance from the water to the top of your house here? Or were they smaller? And you say a platform – did you have to go up lots of stairs to get up there?

H: Yeah. I think we had to go up to get to it from the boats. Yeah. Um...

B: Right. And we realize you were seven years old at the time. So everything's not clear.

H: Yeah. well I think I – I might've been about ten or twelve then when I went because um, I was – you know, I was in the 4H club, I remember doing it, and I think I was um, I must've been about ten or twelve. I probably went when I was ten, eleven, twelve, maybe thirteen years old every year. Um..

B: But can you remember when you sit up in the boat, was it higher than your head...

H: Yeah.

B: The platform was...

H: Right. Yeah, it was higher. Yeah. I don't' exactly remember if we climbed steps or how they – how we got up on top the platform. Um, but it was way up above, you know. It was high up. Ha ha. From what I can remember.

B: So they were drying shrimp when you were there?

H: Yeah. They had them just, you know, spread out, you know, like in you know, that's – that's all you could see was just shrimp you know. They would just, like, it looked like waves, you know. They would just spread them out and you know...

D: Well

H: I wish I knew more about what they did, you know, exactly, I mean about the housing whatever they did – if they lived there or what. I don't – you know, I don't remember to much about that.

B: Well that's what we're trying to figure out –

H: I figured they must've – well it's was kind of way out. On the water. So um...

D: Do you remember if the term Bassa Bassa was ever used by anybody that you talked to?

H: No.

D: But you do remember Manila Village?

H: Yeah.

D: Well okay.

H: I remember we always called it Manila Village. It was always part of the..

B: But the shrimp out there on the platforms drying – did they have people out there to keep the birds off, or was there anything done to protect the shrimp at all out there?

H: I – I don't remember seeing any birds or anything around there, you know. Um.

B: Well it's interesting. You'd expect the gulls there to flock to them.

H: I remember you know, seeing any birds. Um...

D: But at Bird Island, you saw lots of birds.

H: Oh yeah. It was an island completely nothing but birds. You know,

B: Any particular type of birds stand out to in your memory?

H: I guess there were birds like pelicans, and just all kinds of birds. You know, I just remember they just would just – when we got close to the island, they would just start flying all over, you know, and it was just amazing to see all these birds on this island. Um, and I mean, that's practically all we did. We'd just ride around in the gulf and see different things – wildlife type things. And then go back to you know, Grand Isle to the campsite.

B: Well I have a question for you because I was in 4H at the time, and I don't remember any kind of wildlife program or competition. What exactly was the...

H: It was um, it was – those that were in wildlife I think like um, leaf collections, bird houses, um, ha ha. insect collections, um, stuff like that – and um, if you won first place or if you placed or something within the parish, and – they also had surrounding parishes. I remember um, a Mr. Melancon was our county agent back then. He's probably way deceased now because he was probably my dad's age. Um, he had children – Sterling Melancon. I remember Sterling. Um, they had other county agents that would be invited too, you know. Um, everybody liked the trip because Humble provided everything – you know, it was a three day trip. And um,

D: So it's basically day out there, a day touring, and a day back.

H: Touring...and a day back. Yeah. it just – you know, seeing a lot of stuff out there in the gulf, yeah. Pulling up the shrimp boats and stuff like that, or you know, different aspects like that, but um...

B: Now the oilfield activity that your dad was involved in – and while you were living in Paradis – was it mostly all land in that area? Were they beginning to move toward Lake – Barataria Bay and the wetlands area?

H: Um, what, the camp?

B: Well, the oilfield – when they were – the oilfield that he knew.

H: Well my dad didn't work offshore. My dad worked at the Humble camp in Paradis. He was a mechanical supervisor. He maintained a lot of the um, the big engines, the – and he did a lot of land stuff, you know. And then down this canal where I lived, there were like tank batteries and all that kind of stuff.

D: Do you remember the name of the canal that you lived on?

H: Um, it was a Humble canal.

D: It was called Humble Canal.

H: Yeah. Evidently they must've dug the canal going to Lake Des Allemands.

D: Do you remember the name of the oil field – was it, you know, if you had a camp, there was an oilfield. Generally they all have the names. Do you remember the names of the oilfield your dad worked in? Was it just called Humble?

H: It was just called the Humble campsite, yeah. I think they had probably people working offshore, but they didn't live at the humble campsite. They had an office there at the camp, and they had, you know, people working in the office, I guess accounting, and all that sort of stuff. Um,

D: If Carl and I wanted to find that site, we would drive LA-1 to Hahnville...

H: Well, um, the campsite's no longer there because we – often went back to see if we could find it. Um, you would have to go through like Des Allemands. That's old Highway 90 I guess?

D: Yes ma'am, I know.

H: Okay. Um, you would go um, and it was – it was off what they call the old road. It was a..

D: Yeah. Yep – I've heard of that.

H: There was an old road. There was a Texaco, um, campsite just had like three or four houses on the right side. We were across the railroad track to get to the Humble Campsite. There was a big Indian mound to the left. There was like a pond in the front, and then you went into the camp. And um, immediately to the um, to the left was a – a huge office, and then there were like maybe thirty or forty houses. There was a boathouse in the back that housed some crew boats. And um, there were also – a lot of um, electric pirogues, because all the guys would go fishing late in the afternoon. There might've been twenty, um, electric pirogues plugged into a battery or something, and the guys would go fly-fishing in the afternoon down the canal. And um, ha ha. We grew up on the canal, you know. I had two older brothers. We had trout lines, we played in the electric pirogues, um...

D: How far were you from Des Allemands?

H: Um, in the boat, I guess it probably might've been about maybe two miles. I know we would go down the canal. We never went all the way – I mean when we played, we never went all the way till we got to Des Allemands.

D: Sure.

H: Where it hooked up to Lake Des Allemans. But uh, along there there were like um, little outlets, and I guess they had like tanks – tanks and batteries and stuff like that.

D: I think I –

H: And I think Humble must've dug the canal from the campsite to Des Allemands I think.

B: Was there a company store at the camp? A company store, or where did the family shop and get their groceries?

H: Oh, well you know, there was Paradis. You know, we went to New Orleans a lot. Um, I mean, you know, back then. Um, weren't too many doctors out, I guess it was one doctor in Luling, yeah. But back then, you know, it was just – one dentist.

D: But – I'm trying to visualize – you could get to the camp by car.

H: Right. Oh yes.

D: Okay.

H: Yep.

D: That's important.

H: We could uh – in other words, if you were coming from Des Allemands, there would be a little road that you could turn to the left, and then um, you would hit the old road, what they called the old road. It was parallel to Highway 90. There was an old road – they'd call it that.

D: Was it between the Highway 90 and the railroad, or was it on – this is 90 going from New Orleans to Raceland.

H: Okay.

D: And then – then there's the railroad.

H: Right.

D: Now were you between 90 and the railroad, or were you on the opposite side of the railroad?

H: We were on the other side of the railroad. We'd have to cross the tracks to get to the campsite, yeah. And um, little further down on the old road was a Texas company. They had three or four houses. There. And they had like a little campsite.

D: Okay.

H: And that was the old road. They would call it the old road. And most people traveled the old road to get to Paradis – the little city in Paradis or...

D: Now, when you drove, did you – could you drive to Hanville, or did you have to drive to Des Allemands, get on 90 and go.

H: No. We could go to – what they call Boutte.

D: Alright you could drive to –

H: To Boutte, and then you take a left and go to the River Road. About five miles. And then you would go take another left and hit Hahnville, and at that time, the school was on the river.

D: Oh yeah.

H: Yeah.

D: Um, do you ever remember the name Cousins or Cousins Canal in that part of the world?

H: Cousins, no.

D: Okay.

H: No.

D: That helps us narrow it down where you lived.

H: Yeah.

B: Could you describe the houses there in the...

H: The company houses? They were all alike. They were um, you know, um...

B: One bedroom, two bedroom...

H: No, let's see. I think we had a um, a porch. We had a kitchen...

B: Were they screened porches?

H: Um, ours was um, enclosed, yeah. The porch was kind of like a little sunroom. I remember my brothers had bunk beds back there, and then they were um, see one, two, I think two bedrooms. Because my brothers – I think my brothers had their um, on the porch like I guess – we called it the porch. There was a couch and then they had their bunk beds.

B: So it was glassed in?

H: Um,

B: The porch?

H: They had a lot of glass, yeah. and there was a kitchen and a pretty nice large dining room living room. And two bedrooms and one bath. Yeah. They were basically all alike.

D: But no school? Um, no store. So when you went to school, you had to leave the camp, go by probably school bus?

H: Yeah, the school bus would come to the campsite. Um, pick us up.

D: And there were forty families?

H: I'd say between thirty and forty houses then. I think I was fifteen or sixteen when they did away with the campsite. And all the people – all the people took - they actually – Humble gave them the houses. They rolled the houses from Paradis to Mimosa Park on the highway.

D: They rolled them?

H: They rolled them. Moved them, yeah. And everybody went and bought lots on the Mimosa Park, and we still all live together.

D: So that would've been the early 1950s?

H: Yeah, let's see. I must've been like fifteen or sixteen, so I graduated in '56, so it must've been like '54, '54, yeah. Around '54.

D: Alright. If Carl and I were looking for Mimosa Park, how would we find it?

H: Well, if you...

D: If we were on Highway 90 going towards New Orleans.

H: Okay. You would go through a little town called Boutte. I think there's a light. Ha ha. You go a little further down, and um, there's another light. That would be Mimosa Park. Across the highway, there used to be Mansana. I don't know if it still called Mansana now.

D: It is.

H: Okay. Well Mimosa Park is right off the highway.

D: Off Highway 90.

H: Highway 90, yeah.

B: Are the company houses still there?

H: Well, we moved the houses, um, everybody some – like my dad bricked ours, added on to it. Um, everybody did something to their house. Humble just gave them to you. You had to move them, and then everybody just did their own thing – moved the houses and bought lots, you know.

D: But Carl and I found one or two of these remaining homes that were Humble mobile in Morgan City. And um, it would be important if we could find one to photograph. We know where to look, and we will.

H: Well my little sister lives in that old home. One my dad um, was real sick, she moved in with him, and then um, she never left. Ha ha. She lives – she lives ...

D: In Mimosa park.

H: In Mimosa Park.

D: Now when you say rolled, they brought in a..

H: They moved them with trucks.

D: Moving company, yeah.

H: Yeah. that kind of – that stuff, yeah.

D: That was a long...

H: They moved them all, and...

D: Now can you describe the houses at Grand Isle, just like you did two bedroom, do you know if they were one bedroom or two bedroom...

H: Um, gee, I don't remember. I just know they were two-story. I guess they had a carport underneath and then they must've been similar on top. I never went into any of the homes.

D: But you did go into the Bunk house?

H: Oh yeah. The bunk house, yeah. With the beds and just...

D: Was it a two-story building?

H: No, I don't remember it being two, yeah. But um...

D: Big?

H: Yeah, big.

D: Okay. Real big?

H: Well you had a lot of you know, room for beds, and you know, um.

B: Could it also serve as a recreation center for the city?

H: No. I think the recreation center probably would've been closer to the campsite, you know.

D: Okay. They –

H: They all...

B: Those were essentially like a dorm.

H: Yeah. I guess it was places – must've been places where the guys stayed when they came in and out offshore, you know. Because some of them did a lot of stuff offshore. Now, my dad, you know, we lived in a campsite. My dad didn't go offshore. We worked, you know, basically all the um, the big um, the land stuff. You know.

D: Mmhhh. But since you were so close to Des Allemands, do you ever remember any of the local fishermen? Because Des Allemands is known...

H: Yeah, there were some Mathernes that used to get stuffed crabs from and catfish and stuff.

D: Now you're talking. Go ahead remember that. How did that work? Did they bring them to you? Did you have to go get them?

H: No, we'd go pick them up along the bayou road, whatever.

B: They'd sell them out of their houses, or ...

H: Yeah. They used to um, in fact, they would um, I think they called them busters when they were trying to do the soft shell – put them in the traps or whatever. We'd go down there and get soft shell crabs and stuffed crabs. And catfish.

D: Okay. Can you describe where they kept the busters?

H: Um, I just remember they had some traps. I didn't'...

D: Was it a trap or..

H: Like a cage. Yeah. Like a cage. I don't know if they were watching them or what. I don't know how they did it. But they would do – they would – I guess watch them till they got real soft.

D: But was it about the size of this table?

H: No, the traps there were little. They would just pull them off a log. I just remember seeing that, but...

D: And you bought stuffed crab from somebody's home?

H: Yeah.

D: Now, and you spent time in New Orleans. And New Orleans likes to take great pride in their stuffed crab. Which was better? New Orleans or what you bought at somebody's house in Des Allemands?

H: Oh. Yeah. Des Allemands. Yeah.

D: No question.

H: It was all meat, you know. Yeah.

D: The catfish, were they all filleted?

H: Yeah.

D: Mmhhh. Did you ever see how they caught them?

H: No.

D: Okay. Because there's – they used nets sometimes. There's other ways of – we're still trying to sort some of that out.

H: How they caught them?

D: Yes. It sounds simple, but it's not always written.

H: Yeah. No, I remember, you know, as we grew up in the camp, um, like I said I had two older brothers. We lived in the boathouse crabbing and fishing, and we would catch these little shiners, and then sell them to a filling station, huh? For guys going fishing, you know. I think we – I don't know if they gave us a penny a piece or just something like that for them, and um, we have trout line in Humble always had a prize every year – if you'd catch – they wanted to get rid of the garfish because the guys like to go fishing, you know. So the one that caught the biggest garfish and the most were – they had prizes. So my brothers and I – we always caught the most and the biggest. I remember one time we – well we had one on the trout line that was over six feet so dad had to come in the boat with a gun and shoot him in the head – bang, you know. But our trout line – we used to catch a lot of different stuff. A lot of garfish, catfish, um, you know.

D: And did your mama cook it?

H: Yep. We went frogging in the camp in the – the pond in the front of the um, you know, the um, the camp - we used to go at night with the um, my brother used to put one of those um (bolai?)

D: (inaudible)

H: (inaudible) and he had this big gig, you know. And I would kind of paddle the boat, and he would (makes sound) you could just see their eyes, you know. and we'd bring- we'd put – we'd bring them home and put them in a case on the front porch, and um, I know one time they got out, and mama just had a fit. They were jumping around. But um, yeah. I can remember watching my brother – we'd hit them in the head, you know, and then he'd skin them, and then um, mama wouldn't cook them unless we pulled those tendons out. You know, because she – they were gonna jump in the frying pan.

D: Ha ha.

H: But um, we had – we had a lot of fun. I guess back then, I don't remember – we didn't get TV till I guess I was about I don't know, ten, eleven, I don't remember. We used to listen to the radio, you know. Boston Blackie and Intersanctom and the Squeaking Door, you know. Ha ha.

B: Some good stories.

H: I know. And one picture show, you know. They had Jean Arthur, Roy Rogers and a cereal, you know.

B: Now this was in Paradis, or – that was where you would you go for the movies?

H: Yeah. Yeah. Every Friday night was cowboy movie, you know. Um...

D: Now, you mentioned electric pirogues?

H: Mmhmm

D: And you said fly-fishing or just...

H: Yeah, they would fly-fish for bass. In other words, they were plugged in. My dad rigged up all these things. They were plugged in. and then the guys in the afternoon would unplug them, and they had like a little...

B: So they were battery powered then.

H: Yeah. they had like – you put your arm and you could go forward and backward. You know.

D: Mmhmm.

H: And they didn't go real fast, but you know, they would fly-fish up and down the canal, you know, and then come back in and charge them up again. Yeah.

D: That had to be in the late forties, early fifties.

H: Yeah.

D: Now did – did your brother serve in World War II?

H: No.

D: So, yeah. Because..

H: Both of my brothers – let's see. One brother is three years older and the other one's four years older than me.

D: So they would've been too young.

H: Yeah. They um, they both graduated from LSU. Um, my brother Don, um, well they both graduated in petroleum engineering. My brother Don went on. Um, he was president of Quintana. He lives in Houston. He has his own energy company now. And my other brother went into um, he's a stock broker. Ha ha. And he lives in River Ridge in New Orleans, yeah.

D: Okay.

H: He never pursued his degree, yep.

D: Now besides the camp that you remember Humble having at Paradis and the one at Grand Isle and the Texaco camp, even though there was only three – do you remember any others – you mentioned Bayou Sally?

H: Yeah, I was about um, I think we left there – I was in second grade, beginning of second grade. I remember there was a nice camp there. There um, I remember you – there was a bridge to get- to get down to this camp. I remember that because a lot of times the bridge would be out or stuff like that.

Um, I remember there were two big ponds in the front on each side. Um, I think they had ducks in there. Um, deer, and it was a campsite – I remember they had a recreation hall, and um, I remember – you know, because a lot of times they had parties and Santa Claus and all that kind of stuff for the, you know. They always had, you know, all sorts of things for the families, you know, to do. Barbeque...

B: But it sounds like the camp – the Paradis camp is basically a world to itself.

H: Yeah.

B: So can you describe that a little bit?

H: Yeah, well I mean, you know, everybody knew everybody, and everybody was real close. I mean we had a recreation hall, we had um, they'd have all kinds of barbeques, cookouts, you know, all that kind of stuff. You know, there were people that did our yards. I mean you know, um, I mean, you just – you just grew up real close knit – yeah.

D: Now, you said your father's name was Kelly?

H: Keller. K-E-L-L-E-R.

D: From where?

H: Well, my dad was from – originally from along the river – around Norco – I think it was Montz. Um, it's along the river. Because I – well they – well my grandparents moved because I think um, some power company or something came and bought his property, and later on he had to move to Norco – which is right – it's right next to Norco, but Muntz is like right along the river.

D: Okay. Alright.

H: Um, because I remember as a kid we'd get cardboard and we used to slide down the levee, and you know, we were doing something great, you know. But um, that – I think that's German - Keller. They said the um, the St. John, St. James, St. Charles, they called it the little German coast. Yeah.

D: So your dad went to work for Humble Oil let's say before you were born?

H: Um, probably um, I'm trying to think – maybe before, yeah.

D: So let's put that in the middle of 1930s?

D: Since 1935.

H: Yeah, probably so.

D: And how long did he work for Humble?

H: Well, he retired from Humble, um, gee. You know.

D: 1975? Earlier?

H: Um, when did Dad retire.

D: Just close.

H: I'm trying to think when he retired. I got married – I forget...

D: No, I – my guess is he-

H: I would imagine he retired what, '65? I'm not sure. Um..

D: That could easily could put it in early 1970s, so for discussion, he worked for Humble Oil for forty years.

H: Probably so, yeah.

D: So when he came out of – and we're gonna guess here. When he came out of high school or when he got out a job, probably worked for Humble all his life.

H: Well I think he first – I don't remember this because I don't think I was born, but I think he owned a filling station in Paradis.

D: Okay.

H: And I don't remember if it was – when did the war end?

B: '45?

H: '45. Yeah. I remember hearing him talk about, you know, you'd have to um, but they'd have blackouts and stuff? He would mention stuff like that, and he would have to go on the highway and make people turn their lights off and stuff like that. So I would imagine it must've been around then that he went to work for Humble.

D: Okay.

H: He was offered a position, and that's when we moved to Bayou Sally. And um, so...

D: Now, would you have any of your family photography from that period? You know, at the Humble camp, or Paradis camp at Grand Isle, um, no the Humble Camp at Grand Isle and Paradis, um, any sort of photography from that time period that you or your sister was in?

H: Um, my sister probably has some older pictures with um, us with fish and all that kind of stuff. Um, I don't have anything that you know, that I know of, except just, you know, pictures of the family, you know, their 50th wedding anniversary and all that kind of stuff.

B: Well the reason we ask is Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav and Ike have shown us just how precious those kinds of images are. So few of them are left after those four storms.

H: Yeah, well Sheryl has a lot of those pictures. My little sister. We just need to...

B: That would be really nice to see what the camp looked like – you know, the camp life and a lot in the camps during this time period because there are virtually no pictures at all.

H: I'm sure one of us has – I know there's a box of old pictures at home.

D: And the reason we ask is we would take them and we would bring the appropriate equipment – put them in a digital format, and then they would be stored under your family name because sometime a researcher that we don't know yet is gonna get interested. You may have the only photographs of those buildings, and we have access to them.

B: And they may still be around.

D: So if you don't mind, and you would...

H: I'll ask..

D: Tell your sister. Um, again, we're not trying to infringe upon anybody's personal collection, but...

B: We're just trying to preserve it.

D: That's all.

H: Most of the pictures I have now are when I started raising my children. And all my kids – you know. You know,

D: We understand.

H: You know. I do have a picture of my high school, huh. You know, but I – you know, because I went to one of my class reunions and they had a picture of my high school and stuff. You know, but um,

D: That's when Hahnville High was in Hahnville.

H: Yeah.

D: Not in Paradié.

H: Right.

D: Always intrigued me that...

H: Yeah, I don't know why they moved it.

D: Ha ha.

B: You said in your letter that you remember people walking on the shrimp. Did you actually them dancing the shrimp?

H: I think they – I think they said they walked on them. I don't think I saw them dancing. Um...

B: Well they called it dancing. They would shuffle their feet on them.

H: I think they – they were drying them there, you know. Um

B: Yeah, right. But you didn't actually see them walk on...

H: I don't know if it's – all I remember is that they were like this, and I don't know if they did that because maybe – I guess when it rained. I'm just thinking they'd have gotten all wet.

D: Yes. Yes.

H: I wonder what they did.

D: Well sometimes we found that there's these little A-frame right at the, the tip of the wave up here. And they would lay a tarp down, and they would rake them all to the top, and then the rain would hit the tarp and run off. Because they could dry in about um, a day and a half. Um, that's what we've been able to describe.

B: Seeing if it were flat, then the moisture would stay...

H: Yeah, I remember it wasn't flat. I do remember that, you know.

B: Okay.

H: I wish I'd have been more...

D: No, no, no, no. You're giving us wonderful...

H: It was just so much fun riding in the boats, you know. Ha ha ha.

B: Well Don? Do you have anything?

D: I – this has been good.

H: Yeah.

B: Well we can't thank you enough for your time. And for sharing this with us.

H: I enjoyed it, yeah.

H: We earned some money.

D: Do we have any of this?

B: Yeah, just uh, I need to...I just need to make sure that it's working. Let me turn this one on.

D: Yeah, this is a good story. Um, which one line in.

H: You could tell, we didn't have too much to do, huh?

D: No, no, no. I think I know what you were doing because it's important.

H: Yeah.

D: Testing, one, two three. Testing one two three.

B: Are we picking up a signal?

D: Not very well. Didn't do anything. But the...

D: Hello hello hello hello. That looks like it's okay. Hello. Hello hello hello. Okay. Go ahead.

H: Yeah. There was a um – a geologist, Mr. Brashear. I don't know exactly what his title was, but he would have these um, sacks of mud I guess, um, of sample mud, and um, we – our job - he would give us a job, and we'd make a little bit of money. He would um, we would get one sack and then it'd might have to go six or seven different places and then we'd have to write on the um, the paper bag the footage or whatever that was on the original um, bag of mud, and then roll them up, and um, we did this a lot of times for him, and we'd work maybe all day long, and he might've gave us 25 dollars and we'd split it three ways. But um...

B: Well that was a good little bit of money.

H: Right. It was um, it was down by where my daddy's um, with the big um, garage type thing was where all the um, my dad's big engines and stuff were. Well there was like a little building that we – he would bring – we would go in that little building. Um, and he would bring the um, mud samples for us, and we would evidently just bag all these things in little tiny bags for him. I don't' exactly know what he did with them or what.

D: Well those are called mud logs.

H: But he – he paid us to do all this. But it was just tedious work, you know.

D: Oh yeah.

H: It was just tedious. And um, I can remember my brothers would me what to do, and we'd write numbers on the bag and then roll them up.

D: So there was a – a lab some sort of laboratory?

H: It was like – just a little old room that we worked in – just like a little old shed. Um,

D: Did it have scales in it? You know, standing...

H: Um, I think it was just a place where..

D: Just...

H: Just a place where we would – he'd brought the samples to us in there, and we would just work there, you know, and do that sometimes all day long. And we'd – but we just thought we were rich, you know.

D: Oh yeah.

H: Doing this. Um...

D: That's a good start.

H: Yeah. I mean we had – I guess back then, you know, kids did a whole lot of things, you know. Um, I mean the big fish we caught on the trout line – we'd sell it, you know. We'd go in Des Allemands and sell it – big catfish.

B: Where would you sell it – in the market?

H: I'd just – yeah, there was a um, a place where they'd clean fish, and you know, gutted them and stuff like that. We'd just bring it over there and sell it. And then um – oh. We also had a paper route. And we had a, um, a motor scooter – well, what do you call it with a little side car?

D: Yeah, that'd be a motorcycle or motor scooter.

H: A motor scooter with a side car. Okay. Well we'd have to go to Paradis to get the papers, you know. And so my brother would drive and I would be in the side car, you know. And he'd roll the papers up and we'd deliver them.

D: This was the local paper or the Picayune?

H: It was probably the local - must've been the Picayune. Must've been. We'd have to go to New Or – I mean to Paradis to get them, so it was probably out of New Orleans. I would imagine. I remember we did a paper route to make money.

D: Well sure.

H: We – yeah, we did all kind of stuff. Yeah.

D: Sure. Got it.

H: Okay.

D: Well we really...