



Interviewee: Russell Roper

Place of interview: Mosquito Beach, Charleston County, South Carolina

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Interviewer: Michael A. Allen

Transcriber: Home Row, Inc.

Length of interview: 32:54

BEGIN INTERVIEW

Michael Allen: Well, good afternoon, Mr. Roper. How are you doing?

Russell Roper: Fine. Thank you.

MA: All right. Great. Can you give me your full name and address, please, sir?

RR: Russell C. Roper. I live at 2158 Shrimp Street, Charleston, South Carolina.

MA: Okay. And when and where you were born.

RR: I was born in Charleston, South Carolina.

MA: And your birthday, sir

RR: February the 26th of 1943, mm-hmm.

MA: Okay. Let's talk a little bit about Mosquito Beach and Sol Legare and James Island. Tell me a little bit about mainly some of your first memories of Mosquito Beach first, first memories.

RR: Yeah. Well, that was in the early - early '50s I remember Mosquito Beach, yeah.

MA: What do you remember about it? Tell me.

RR: Well, it was the place where you could come and have fun, enjoyment, and meet a lot of our friends down here; you know? And it was nice. Could go in the pavilion and dance and have fun and things like that, mm-hmm.

MA: What was special about the pavilion to you? Because you said that you - I saw a gleam in your eye when you said pavilion. What's so special about the pavilion?

RR: It bring back memory because we used to go on that - on the pavilion and dance and have fun, and, you know, do what we want to do on the pavilion; you know? Mm-hmm. It was nice on pavilion. Nice cool breeze, sit out on the banister and watch the water and the tide. We used to swim - swim off the pavilion, have fun on the pavilion. It was nice back in those days, mm-hmm.

MA: Good. What else do you remember about the other buildings that were here at Mosquito Beach?

RR: Oh, yeah, let's see what they had. They had a building over there and farther back down there, there was a building. My uncle had a building, a little club down there. Used to go sit out there in the window.

MA: Do you remember the name of it, sir?

RR: Yeah. The name of the little club he had, we call it the Uncle Jimmy Club.

MA: Uncle Jimmy Club.

RR: Yeah, uh-huh, Uncle Jimmy Club, mm-hmm. And I think Thelma and them had a club on the end down there because her granddaddies had a club down there and we used to go down there. We go from club to club. Then they had clubs on this end down here. Yeah, that's Jack Walker Club.

MA: Okay.

RR: Yeah. We used to go down there and have fun. Just go from club to club, yes.

MA: Well, that's good.

RR: Yeah.

MA: So, it's a active place at Mosquito beach...

RR: Yeah, mm-hmm.

MA: So, you and your friends, when you all came down here, you all just, you know, just swam,

RR: Swam, hang out.

MA: - to the pavilion, you hung out.

RR: Yeah, they had boat races down here.

MA: What type of boat races did they have here?

RR: Yeah, my uncle had a boat, had a boat with a 25-horse Mercury. My other cousin had a boat. He had 17-horse Mercury and, you know, couple of people had boats down here, used to have boat race on Sunday. People used to come out on Sunday and - and enjoy the boat - watch the boat races and stuff like that on Sunday. It was nice.

MA: We talked to a lot of people and they said that Sunday was special -

RR: Yeah.

MA: - on Mosquito Beach. Why do you think Sunday was so special?

RR: Because everybody come on Sunday, they shoe off their clothes, enjoy theirselves, yeah, that what make it so special. You come out here, you know, drink your beer, soda, whatever, and you get on the beach. It's free. It's free for Sunday. It was nice.

MA: So, it was just a time that you can enjoy yourself...?

RR: Right, right, uh-huh. Enjoy and have a good time, mm-hmm.

MA: When you came, did you come by yourself, you came with family members, cousins? Who was coming when you came?

RR: Well, I live right across the street from Mosquito Beach, so you just - we just walk across the street and come on down Mosquito Beach. Most of the family members used to be here. They come on their own because they live right around; you know? Uh-huh. Some from off, you know, they came down on, like, a 4th of July or Labor Day, they came down, enjoyed theirselves.

MA: What do you mean by off? They would come from other places?

RR: New York and different part of the state, uh-huh.

MA: So, people came from all over the -

RR: All over came down here, came down to Mosquito Beach.

MA: And somebody else who we talked to said that they felt that, you know, Mosquito Beach offered them an opportunity to express themselves that sometime they couldn't because of Jim Crow and segregation.

RR: Oh, yeah. Well -

MA: Talk about that. I see it in your face.

RR: If I talk about that, it make me angry, man.

MA: Well, that's fine. We need to -

RR: Yeah.

MA: Share what you can share.

RR: Yeah. We had - we couldn't go no place else to go to have fun on Sundays, so you had to come down Mosquito Beach and enjoy ourself down here; you know? You couldn't go on Folly Beach. If you go on Folly Beach, you got to get off of there a certain time - leave Folly Beach at a certain time. Got to catch the last bus - last bus was a beeline bus, and you don't catch that last bus around - what time that bus leave Folly Beach - I think around 7:00 - you have to walk.

MA: Oh, wow.

RR: Yeah, walk home or call one of your family members come pick you up; you know?
Mm-hmm.

MA: And I ask you that because I - I gather in an earlier conversation that we had that you and others were a part of a group that really wanted to try to integrate Folly Beach.

RR: Yes.

MA: So, tell me a little bit about - tell me how you all thought about that, how did you all plan that, and then how did it happen, if you don't mind...?

RR: Well, happened so long ago. We was - we had a little patio right over there, and we used to go down there and sit underneath the tree and eat watermelon and - and, you know, do our thing. So, it was so hot one summer day and those guys said, man, the water around - you see the water around here go down and come up. There was no water - you couldn't go in the water down here, so me and a group of guys said, well, let's go down to Folly Beach and just walk on shore by the river; you know? By the ocean; you know what I mean? I think it was about - I think it was about ten of us.

MA: You might call it the Folly Beach 10?

RR: Yeah. The Folly Beach 10, yeah. So, I had my car, and my other friend had a car, and a couple other guys have car, so we drove down there on Folly Beach on Front Street. Be Front Street there one time, mm-hmm, they done change it a whole lot now. And we park by this - this parking lot on Folly Beach. And we walked down, walked farther down until we get down to a - the place we could walk down to the beach. Yeah. I think it was about - about eight or nine of us walk down on the beach and just walked down. You know, they had the water, lounge side, mm-hmm.

MA: Okay.

RR: And those people - those white people, man, they said," look at them nigger. Look at them nigger walk down on this beach."

MA: Okay.

RR: And they get behind us.

MA: Okay. This is on Folly.

RR: On Folly Beach, yeah. On Folly Beach. And they say, "y'all come down here to swim? Well, y'all need to leave here." And they walk behind us, man, and so we have to take our belts off. That's the only way we could defend ourself.

MA: Okay.

RR: Yeah. And one of my friends, he fell down, you know, on the side of the shore. And when he fall down, the white fella kick him in his face and broke his nose, nose bone, yeah. And my other buddy, well, he had a little knife, a little sharp knife. He take out his knife and he - and they was running behind us, but anyway and this fella said, "let's hold hand together and let's run on down the beach." And then -

MA: You all held hands together and run into the water?

RR: No, just run on the shore. Run on the side of the shore; you know? Uh-huh. And the guy with the knife, he pull out his knife, you know, and he was just - just hold it he hand, and then the - not the Coast Guard - the guard on Folly Beach, he see us down there running - running for our life or whatever, and he came down there, and they got us up on the - up on shore, up on an embankment, yeah, and they get us out there. And one of the guy, they locked that - they locked that guy up that had the knife, yeah. Locked him up. And they got us out to our car, I think, and we drove on home. We didn't know that - that they threw sugar in our gas tank.

MA: Wow.

RR: They put sugar in that boy's gas tank and he barely make it back home on Sol Legare. And when I got home, I found out they had put syrup in my gas tank - syrup - Karo syrup. But it didn't get to my engine because it get to the fuel pump and stopped the fuel pump stopped the syrup right there. It didn't get - it didn't get my engine, but his - it messed his engine up bad. He had to put another engine in his car; you know? Folly Beach didn't pay for that, so we had to do it on our own.

MA: When you all made that decision to leave here -

RR: Uh-huh.

MA: - and to go over to Folly , did you all think about danger or anything like that?

RR: We didn't scared of nothing. We wasn't - we wasn't afraid. We just thought they wasn't going to do that; you know what I mean? What they did. But [00:10:38 anywhere, we made up

our mind to go down there, you could - you could - if you work on Folly Beach during that time, you could go down there and clean up and pick up the stuff, but you couldn't go in the water. Uh-huh.

MA: Looking back at it where you are now. Its 2019, looking back at what you all did, do you think that was - that that was something that was very important that you all needed to do?

RR: Yeah.

MA: And why do you say that?

RR: Well, because the ocean was there. We had to go all the way to dern Edisto to go to the beach or go Atlanta Beach, North Myrtle Beach to go to the beach to swim if you wanted to swim. Mm-hmm. Enjoy the water. Mm-hmm.

MA: So, you all felt on this – Im just asking, don't want to put words in your mouth...

RR: Yeah.

MA: - by doing that -

RR: Yeah.

MA: It maybe opened the door?

RR: Yeah.

MA: to where you could freely go...?

RR: Right, right, right.

MA: And do you remember what happened after you all did that? How did that affected things?

RR: Well, we going to - somebody got in touch with the NAACP. Uh-huh. Then they start having bus excursion down there.

MA: To where they would bus black people...?

RR: Yeah. Yeah. Uh-huh. And they had a couple buses went down there and they walk around on the beach, you know, and that's when things got broken open, break loose, yeah.

MA: So, I guess looking at it, you all, the Folly Beach 10..

RR: Yeah.

MA: You all opened the door.

RR: Yeah, we opened the door, yeah, uh-huh.

MA: So, a lot of folks have said that they felt that Mosquito Beach was a Civil Rights place.

RR: Yeah.

MA: And then why would you say that... would you agree

RR: Civil Rights ...you mean black only?

MA: Yeah.

RR: Well, some white people used to come down here. Very few used to come down here; you know what I mean? Yeah, because the beer truck driver, he was white.

MA: Who brought the beer.

RR: Who brought the beer. The Pepsi-Cola company used to come here and bring Pepsi-Cola. When we used to stuff on - like on 4th of July and stuff, they came and they brought, you know, a banner and stuff for us; you know what I mean?

MA: They did?

RR: Yeah. They brought banners and stuff back then because white people, they were kind of skeptical of coming to Mosquito Beach, think that we would fight - would fight them, so people come.

MA: But white beer drivers

RR: Yeah.

MA: they brought you all the products....?

RR: Yeah, brought us the products. Bring their truck and park it on the side over here and unload right here, mm-hmm, yeah.

MA: Are any of those other guys of the Folly Beach Ten], are they - are some of them still alive today?

RR: I don't know. I don't - since that happened, I ain't never went back down there. I intend on going back down to Folly Beach after what they did to us; you know what I mean?

MA: So, even today you are hesitant to go to Folly?

RR: Yeah, I don't go there that much. My kids, my youngest kids, they do. They like to go down there, but I don't go down Folly Beach too much. It bring back too much of memory.

MA: A lasting memory...

RR: Yeah.

MA: Do your kids knew what you did to open up Folly?

RR: Yeah. Yeah, I told them. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

MA: So, what did they say when you told them that? They didn't believe you.

RR: Didn't believe - yeah, been a long time since I talk about that incident; you know what I mean? Yeah. But I tell them what's happened, yeah, mm-hmm. They say we had nerve. We was brave during that time. It was rough during that time, man. Yeah.

MA: What do you mean by rough? If I was a young person and you said it was rough, why you say it was rough or what made it rough?

RR: Well, when you go down to Folly Beach, you got to leave there a certain time, and those people - those white people catch you walking on the side of the road coming back home, they'll throw a ball at you and all kinds of things at you. And some of them people get - some of those people get slapped, you drive the car close on the side of the road and slap at you, yeah. So, that's why I say it was rough, yeah, during that time. Mm-hmm.

MA: A number of folks said to us that they felt that Mosquito Beach was a safe - safe place. Do you think Mosquito Beach was a safe place?

RR: Yeah, yeah, it was safe, yeah, uh-huh. The boys didn't bother nobody, uh-huh. They found yeah, uh-huh, yeah. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

MA: Besides Mosquito Beach and your experience here, what else did you do in the community on Sol Legare or James Island... tell me a little bit about life in this community.

RR: Well, they had the center up there, the hall up there. They used to have shows and stuff there.

MA: What type of shows?

RR: Well, back then they had picture shows there.

MA: Movies.

RR: Movies and stuff, yeah. We come have movie and - and sometimes they have large turnouts back in that time. The older people used to come in to have ice cream soda and

different things there. Yeah, it was nice during that time. Parades, you'd have parades and stuff, mm-hmm.

MA: Certain times of the year like 4th of July...

RR: Yeah, 4th of July, yeah, you have parades and stuff. And Christmastime they have different events there for blacks, yeah, mm-hmm, yeah.

MA: Were there any celebrations there for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day?

RR: New Year's Eve and New Year's Day? I can't remember too much about that, New Year's Day. Yeah.

MA: One thing we've heard a lot about is that this place is special.

RR: Mosquito Beach?

MA: Yeah, Would you agree? And tell me why you think it was special...

RR: Well, especially because we had no place to go to have fun; you know? And especially me, I [should be over there, be over there in the field picking beans and stuff with my grandparents and them, and when we finish do that, do that picking beans and stuff, shell beans and stuff, you come on down to Mosquito Beach because you used to have bus excursion on Mosquito Beach. Buses from different places come down here and bring people down here, and they used to come and celebrate and have a nice time down here, man, uh-huh, during that time, yes. Very special.

MA: How would you share with a young person today why you think this place is important? Because they may not - they may not see what you do today...

RR: As it was -

MA: - was then.

RR: Yeah. Well, now the young generation, they come out - they can go places, you know, different places in the city and -

MA: They can go to Folly.

RR: Go to Folly Beach because we done make the way for them.

MA: Okay.

RR: Yeah. They go downtown on The Battery and walk around on the Battery and things like that; you know what I mean?

MA: Yeah.

RR: And different restaurant they can go in that we couldn't go back then and different motel they can go in back then we couldn't go, yeah. That's a big difference now.

MA: So, that's - those things make Mosquito Beach -

RR: Yeah. Yeah, uh-huh. There was a motel right there.

MA: Okay.

RR: Mosquito Beach motel is right there.

MA: So, tell me about the motel. What do you remember or what do you know of it?

RR: Yeah. It was a two-story building right there.

MA: Okay.

RR: And the man that owned it name Mr. Wilder

MA: Okay.

RR: Mr. Wilder. Apple Wilder was my uncle.

MA: Okay. He was your uncle.

RR: Yeah, it was my uncle, and they had rooms there. You know, there's room there. I think the room was 8 to \$10, something like that; you know?

MA: A night?

RR: Yeah.

MA: Oh, wow.

RR: It was \$10 a night, and it was nice in there, man. I used to work there for my uncle.

MA: Oh, you did? Okay.

RR: Yeah.

MA: What did you do when you worked there?

RR: Clean, cleaned. Cleaned the floors, sweep, cleaned the floor and stuff like that; you know?

MA: Mm-hmm.

RR: Yeah, that's what I used to do. Make up the beds, stuff like that, mm-hmm.

MA: So, people would come and stay there from all over - all over [

RR: People used to come on - people used to come here on a Friday evening, get a room over there, and don't go home until Monday morning. Come stay, spend the night over there, uh-huh, they used to go back, mm-hmm.

MA: So, this place was crowded

RR: Oh, yeah, it was crowded, man, yeah, it was crowded. I had a parking lot over there.

MA: Well, you know, I'm glad you asked that because some - we were asking people, we said, where did people park?

RR: Yeah.

MA: - So crowded...

RR: Yeah. We had a - right across the street over there, my grandparents then had a two acre of land over there, and in the summertime, me and my other cousin changed it into a parking lot. You know, we had it fenced in, you know, fencing around it. People used to come in at nighttime and park there. We used to charge ... how much did we charge to park there? We used to charge \$2 to park; you know? Give them a certain time to leave. I think about 1:00 - 1:00 or 2:00, yeah, we charge them. And, you know, they used to be full, man. Full of people's cars over there. People used to park all on the side of the road; you know?

MA: It was always too crowded.

RR: Always be crowded, yes, yes, yes.

MA: One of the things that we've learned in talking to people here is that before Apple built the pavilion and things....

RR: Yeah.

MA: There was a oyster factory that was here...So, were you aware of that?

RR: I heard about it, but I wasn't aware about it; you know? Yeah. Had a oyster factory I think on - on this end here someplace, yeah, yeah. That's before my time. Yeah, I heard about it.

MA: In talking about the music, so was it a piccolo, was it a DJ, or was it a live band that performed ...?

RR: We had a live band. We had Flo Myers used to come down here.

MA: Okay.

RR: Bob Nichols used to come here at certain time, and we had Honest John. Honest John used to play in the pavilion over there a lot; you know what I mean? Yeah, he beat the drum and played music. Good music man back then, yeah. And they had people used to come and sing, mm-hmm. Sing with the band.

MA: A lot of people came and performed out here...?

RR: Yeah. Yeah, uh-huh. Yeah, What's the other guys name? He was kind of funny guy. He was Shake-a-Plenty.

MA: Oh, Shake-a-Plenty.

RR: Shake-a-Plenty used to come and dance and sing on the pavilion over there.

MA: Okay.

RR: Yeah, man. Good time over there, man. Mm-hmm.

MA: When you drive down here today, what do you think of [00:21:47 unintelligible] -

RR: Well -

MA: [00:21:50 unintelligible] -

RR: Well, got more clubs down here.

MA: [00:21:56 unintelligible] -

RR: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. They had a - this guy had a dern car - a car -

MA: Bumper car?

RR: Bumper car. Bumper cars right back over there.

MA: Okay.

RR: Yeah, and I used to work for the bumper cars.

MA: Tell me a little about that. How did it operate and how did - how much did it cost to ride on it, and how long you rode. I mean, I've never ...

RR: Yeah, bumper car. I think it was between 3 and \$5 they had used to pay to ride in the bumper car. Then they had about a -

MA: How many bumper cars were there?

RR: I think it was five of those bumper car over - was over there, uh-huh. His name was Bobby. He used to own that bumper car over there, and I used to work for him, too. Yeah.

MA: So, the bumper cars were here for a long period of time or a short period of time?

RR: It lasted I'd say about - I'd say about three or four years it was over there, yeah, uh-huh. Then all of a sudden, he do away with it.

MA: But when it was up, a lot of people took advantage of it?

RR: Yeah, yeah, uh-huh, a lot of people wreck up themselves, wreck up them cars, man. I used to go out there and straighten them out, you know. Get them unhooked, you know what I mean? Yeah, but it was nice, yes.

MA: So, there were a lot of things that people could do...

RR: Yeah, right, right, right. Uh-huh. Get people here, yeah.

MA: Well, I'll ask ... let me ask you this...Mr. Apple was your uncle; am I correct?

RR: Apple - Apple was my uncle. His wife was my aunt, yeah, uh-huh.

MA: Tell me a little bit about them. What do you remember about them? What was special about them?

RR: Well, Apple was - he was a smart man. You know, he create a lot of - a lot of thing on Mosquito Beach. The first Mosquito Beach was over there, and then Gracie blew it down and mess it up. Then he decide to build one over here. Was right there, uh-huh. And then he had the motel, he had -

MA: He was an entrepreneur.

RR: Yeah, yeah, uh-huh. He had a club right there, right there over there. Yeah. And then other people started having clubs down here, yeah.

MA: So, he's like the backbone].

RR: Yeah, yeah, yeah, he create a lot of stuff down here, man. One time back he tried to build a road go over to Taylor over there, Cross over to Taylor island over there. But they stopped him because he couldn't block the creek off, yeah, during that time, mm-hmm.

MA: And tell me about - a little bit about his wife.

RR: Laura?

MA: Yeah, Laura.

RR: Yeah. She was a smart lady, mm-hmm. He used to, when Apple would get the money or we get our money take the money home, she would do all the accounting and stuff like that, yeah, uh-huh. And then she used to be back there cooking chicken and stuff, frying chicken and stuff, mm-hmm.

MA: It was her specialty?

RR: Yeah, it was specialty, yeah, mm-hmm. Try to keep the business within theirselves; you know what I mean? Yeah, yeah. I remember her. She died. She died young. Yeah, young yeah, yeah, yeah, she passed away young, uh-huh, yeah. She was a nice lady, man, yeah.

MA: And if there's one thing that you would want people today and tomorrow to know about Mosquito Beach, what's one thing you'd want them to know about this place?

RR: Come here and you - you free. You walk about. Nobody to bother you; you know what I mean? Yeah. Have your little party; you know? Car party. We call them car party. People coming here and bring their car and bring their little bin back out under a tree and be free, mm-hmm. Used to walk from club to club, you know, and nobody don't bother you, man. It was nice back then at that time, man, uh-huh.

MA: So, that's one thing ...

RR: You're free. Free to walk about and, you know, go from club to club, mm-hmm. Nobody bother you, mm-hmm, like now.

MA: It's a little different now -

RR: Different now, yeah. A lot different now, man, yeah. People used to come and sleep out on the car.

MA: Oh, wow.

RR: In the summertime, mm-hmm.

MA: Spend the night out here?

RR: Yeah, some of them spend the night on the car, uh-huh, during that time. Nobody bother you, man. But things changed. [00:26:28 unintelligible], mm-hmm.

MA: What about moonshine. What did you know about moonshine and its relationship to Mosquito Beach?

RR: Moonshine? Well, yeah, used to make moonshine over here, uh-huh.

MA: Just on Sol Legare, you could pick a place...?

RR: Yes.

RR: Yeah, yeah, uh-huh. People used to buy moonshine, come to the beach and buy moonshine.

MA: Black and white?

RR: White people - whites buy moonshine, too, yeah, mm-hmm, buy moonshine. You sell, we'd get them in a half pint bottle, you could get them in a quart bottle - quart or gallon, whatever you wanted you get it in, yeah, mm-hmm. That was money-making thing back in them days, yeah, for the blacks, mm-hmm.

MA: So, you got the boardwalk, you got all the different clubs going on, you had moonshine going on.

RR: Yeah, oyster.

MA: And oysters, too.

RR: Oyster and shrimp.

MA: And shrimp.

RR: Yeah. Uh-huh. During that time.

MA: Do you remember any bad hurricanes or storms when you lived here or around here that had any effect on – on this place?

RR: Well, I was here during Hurricane Hugo. That's in '89?

MA: '89, yes.

RR: Yeah. I used to work out the paper mill, Westvaco, yeah. And if you want to come home during the storm, they let you come - you could come home. Or if you want to stay, they will pay you extra to stay, you know, to secure the building, you know, yeah. And I came here, but a lot of people went to higher ground, but I don't leave to go to higher ground. I stayed in my house down there; you know?

MA: Was it flooded here badly during Hugo or Gracie or Hazel, any of those hurricanes?

RR: Hugo was the baddest. Hugo was the one take Mosquito Beach, Mosquito Beach come down here. Float them - float them all the way down the creek down there, mm-hmm. And - but my family, some of my family went away. They went to - some went to North Carolina, some went to Atlanta, you know, farther upstate, but I didn't go. I stayed here and yeah, uh-huh. Had a lot of water in my house.

MA: So, a lot of water was all over the place.

RR: Yeah, yes, a lot of water, uh-huh. But it didn't damage none of these other places here. No, they didn't have no problem. Got high water damage if anything - water damage. But the building was safe, mm-hmm.

MA: Well, that's good. Well, like I said, we wanted, you know, to kind of spend some time with you so you could share your experiences.

RR: Yeah.

MA: About what you did here, what you saw,

RR: Yeah. They had other people here, too, that share the things that went around on Mosquito Beach, but I guess they just need to come out, uh-huh.

MA: But you know everyone may not want to come and talk so we appreciate you

RR: Yeah, yes, man, because I tell you, it was rough here during that time, man, mm-hmm.

MA: You said that a lot, it was kind of challenging [00:29:56 unintelligible] -

RR: Yeah, yes, yes, uh-huh. We had some opportunities man, mm-hmm.

MA: Is there any other thing you want to share in closing about Mosquito Beach that we should know?

RR: No. I had a club down here one time. I had a little club.

MA: Can you tell us about that? Okay.

RR: Used to be a little building right over yonder right over here, I used to have a camera shop. I used to take pictures.

MA: Oh, you took pictures? You were a photographer?

RR: Yeah, a photographer, yeah. People used to come down and they want a picture of Mosquito Beach. Had a nice little building over there; you know? People used to come there when they're done dancing and everything over there on pavilion, they want to come - they want

to take - they and their boyfriend, they want to come and take pictures, and they come over there to me and I had - I snapped their picture, a Polaroid.

MA: Okay. Polaroid, okay.

RR: They get their pictures right away.

MA: Instant.

RR: Instant, right, yeah, yeah. I had Polaroid – got three Polaroid camera.

MA: Wow.

RR: Yeah, during that time, man.

MA: [It was a good business for you?

RR: Yeah. Real good business for me, uh-huh. That lasted about two seasons - two seasons. But before that I had a camper. I used to pull it behind my truck, you know, and I used to come and park right over there in the summertime with the camper. The camper had a pushout window. It push it out; you know what I mean? And people come to the window and - and buy this stuff: hotdog link and hamburger, soda, and stuff like that.

MA: Wow.

RR: I had a good business, man. Then Mosquito Beach started getting kind of rough. Rough, but, you know, yeah, pull it back then I moved because them youngsters was getting kind of rough back then during that time, man, there. But during my time, man, I made good money down there. Make good money. I had a peddler license. I had a peddler license. I went down to the tax place and got me a license. So, I had a license to sell - sell stuff, mm-hmm. And I turned it into my taxes every year, every year, mm-hmm. Mosquito Beach was a money-making thing for me, man.

MA: A money-making thing.

RR: Yeah. That's why I enjoyed it, man, mm-hmm. See, I used to work to the GE plant in Ladson. And after GE closed down and went to - build it overseas in China, I had no work for almost two or three years. I was peddling on Mosquito Beach.

RR: Right on Mosquito Beach. And I made good money down here, man. I ain't going to lie to you, yes, mm-hmm, yeah, yeah.

MA: Well, like I said, we appreciate you coming down today and for sharing your experience of growing up on Sol Legare.

RR: Right.

MA: Your experience of, you know, opening up Folly Beach and -

RR: Yeah.

MA: - your experience. We just want to say thank you for doing this.

RR: Yeah, I appreciate it, man. So, that's it?

MA: Yes, sir.

RR: Oh, okay. Yeah.

END INTERVIEW