

This is Helen Ross. Today is June 1, 1983, and I am now talking to:

A. Stanley Nels Palmer, 2824 - 51st Street South, Gulfport. The telephone number is 321-8507.

Q. And your date of birth?

A. I was born May 23, 1909 in Charlevoix, Michigan. When I was six years old, my father took command of the North Manitou Coast Guard Station which at that time was named the United States Life Saving Station and we moved to the Island and established our residence there. We were 14 miles from the mainland of Michigan. Our closest port was Williams, Michigan. We obtained our food and other necessities from the mainland, although the island itself was very productive, growing fruits, vegetables, and many, many other things. In 1920, my father was transferred, but at that time it was still the United States Life Saving Station, in Luddington, Michigan, and the Palmer family established their residence there. I went to school there, and spent until my 28th birthday in Luddington. My father retired in approximately 1936. My mother and father found that Gulfport was an ideal place to live, and many of the members of other coast guard stations and lighthouse stations that my father knew in earlier years, established their homes in the Gulfport area, so it became, in one sense, a colony of people who knew each other in Michigan many previous years back. Now the details of our experience in Gulfport, which I understand are of principal concern are maintained in my diaries and records and in contents of records and diaries which my father maintained, and that would include the people who were established residents of Gulfport, who were born and raised in Gulfport, and with whom we were close personal friends, including the Steinwinders, who lived directly across the street from my parent's home. Mrs. Steinwinder was in her 90th year when I first met her. She was born and raised in the

Gulfport area. She has descendants who could probably add invaluable records and historical memories of her experiences when this part of Florida was practically undeveloped in nearly every sense. There are other things that I have been told about--I did not experience, but I have been told about--the hurricane of 1906 and how destructive it was, and many other things that happened in the years that followed--the building of the first railroad. At that time, Gulfport was called "Disston." The man, Mr. Disston was very instrumental in developing Gulfport in the early beginning. But there were others who were equally important, certainly important enough to be ~~memorized~~ ~~(~~memorialized~~)~~ in their contributions to this part of Pinellas County. ( There are a great deal more things that I could add concerning our experiences since I first came to Gulfport, which was in 1943.) My parents had built their home at the present address in 1941, and the home had been maintained during their lifetime, and will be maintained by myself and Mrs. Palmer for the remainder of our lifetime, I hope. ( There are other incidental details which might be interesting that I have heard that I will attempt to record and see that they are delivered to Mrs. Ross, for whatever value they may have for this project, which I think is going to be a wonderful thing for the Gulfport area. There are many things I could add, but I would prefer enough time to gather and put them together in proper sequence, present them, have them analyzed, and any part that may have some useful purpose--that would be a matter of the choice of the Gulfport Historical

Group. I appreciate very much the opportunity of discussing what I know of Gulfport and I hope I have the opportunity of adding more information from time to time, as it comes to my attention from records and files from the materials that I have maintained, throughout these past few years. It has been a real pleasure to discuss this matter with Mrs. Ross, and I hope that we will have an opportunity to meet again and go further and into more detail if the occasion should arise for such a meeting. I thank you very much.)

- Q. Could I ask you one question before we close this out? Do you recall why the railroad went to St. Petersburg instead of to Gulfport?
- A. As I recall the history, and I'm sure you can find records of this, there is more traffic into the downtown area of St. Petersburg, there were more hotels being built in downtown St. Petersburg. They began to build more rapidly than Gulfport. And consequently, the traffic in rail supplies, raw materials, foods, and so forth lessened in the Gulfport area but continued to grow more in the St. Petersburg area. (I do not recall the year that the Disston railroad was discontinued.) The trolley car rails came later, and they were the main source of traffic for those who had no other transportation. (And I was here during the earlier forties and into the fifties.) The trolley car gave way to the automobile as more people developed this area and established residences in this area. At that time, it was a wonderful experience to ride in Pinellas County on those trolley arrangements, although it was slow, tedious,

and sometimes it seemed that it would take forever to go just a short distance. (But this is something we can comment on at another opportunity.

Q. You will make a tape for me?

A. I will, I'll be glad to record as much as I can. Now, you'll find many people who still remember Gulfport and St. Petersburg and Pinellas County, many, many years before I ever heard of it.

Q. Now, you mentioned Mrs. Steinwinder. I just wanted to make sure that the family you were talking about--

A. Mrs. Steinwinder was one of the original families in the Gulfport area and they established their home here way back in the mid-80's or somewhere in that area. I knew her in 1941 and at that time she was 90 years old. (Now, if she were born here, it's just a matter of subtracting 90 from 1941 and that would give you some idea--

Q. (You were going to tell me how long it took you to go to Tampa--)

A. Well, I remember her telling us, because she <sup>daughter was</sup> was a very dear friend of my parents, (and her daughter was a very dear friend of my parents,) and we spent many hours listening to the stories that Mrs. Steinwinder would tell. <sup>P</sup> I'd make my trip from Gulfport to the Tampa area, which was more or less a horse and wagon ordeal, the wagon being to take certain supplies over, and of course to bring back other supplies from the Tampa area. At that time, there being no bridges or any connection between the St. Petersburg side and the Tampa side, it was necessary to go entirely around the gulf area by land.

Q. They would go up Tampa Bay--

A. They would go up Tampa Bay, that's right. And if the bridge were still standing, they could get across.

Q. What bridge was that?

A. The bridges that they had to cross where there were little rivers and so forth, came down. There was no communication of any kind to let <sup>you</sup> ~~them~~ know the bridge was no longer there - it was there yesterday, but it was gone - the high winds or perhaps a sudden *storm*

Q.

A. ( But it was strictly a matter of a horse and wagon, a horse and buggy, or by sailboat. I could recall many other stories that Mrs. Steinwinder told me of experiences concerning Gulfport, which I shall remember as long as I live.) The hurricane of 1906 which was devastating. If Gulfport, as it is today, were to encounter such a storm as I understand occurred in 1906, there wouldn't be very much of Gulfport left to talk about. The waters just rushed well over 22nd Avenue - ~~walk way~~ beyond 22nd Avenue. At that time, streets were not laid out, or numbered, so it would be difficult to describe how far the high tides and winds actually went inland, but they did go a long, long way.

Q. Do you think the palmetto growth, the root system, was what actually preserved the land?

A. Well, I believe the mangoes, the growth that they had at that time, had a considerable effect on retaining moisture in the land. What is today Tyrone Triangle, at the time that I was here, and of course, a number of years to follow, Tyrone Boulevard was the place that we avoided, because of the ruts and broken concrete, or tar covering, was very, very detrimental to tires, if you tried to go that way. There was an S turn where the railroad crosses and many cars failed to make that turn and of course they would end up on the railroad tracks in the ditch. That was at that time the Tyrone Triangle was mangoes. Where Sears and Roebuck and all of your other stores exist today, in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's were mangoes. There were very few ways that one could get to (Gandy Boulevard - not Gandy Boulevard, but) Bay Pines Hospital. We had some *roads* in this area that we could go into Pinellas Park to the main street, but from the main street north was sand roads - there was nothing

going on past the main street that ran north and south through the Pinellas Park area. At that time Pinellas Park had a very limited number of businesses. It had a large number of trailers - house trailers - people who could not afford something more elaborate, would bring their trailer down and live in their trailer. The homes followed later. But this did not take ~~pak~~ place until into the 60's, when Pinellas Park began to ~~develop~~ develop. And as the new roads were cut through, it became an open invitation for new shopping centers, and condominiums and tall buildings and other businesses to grow and develop, that looking at the photographs of the 1950's and the 1960's would show, very clearly, that there was little there but mangoes, snakes and no one would think of walking off the main road at all.

Q. Was Bay Pines Hospital there -

A. Bay Pines was there when I arrived in 1943. It was the most beautiful structure I've ever seen, and my father spent the last two years of his life at Bay Pines. He died at Bay Pines in 1957.

Q. I thought that was strictly for the army - I didn't know -

A. No, that was for those who served in the military services during wartime, and certainly my father went through World War I. Of course he was retired during World War II, but he had the highest privileges.

Q. My husband's uncle, Bill Donahue was in the submarine service in the Spanish American War - was that in 1912? He was in 5 or 6 wars and he lived up on 22nd Avenue North and he had to go all the way over to McDill Air Force Base in order to be treated as an out patient.

A. Well, I don't believe that McDill Air Force Base was there -

Q. This was in the 1960's.

A. The 1960's. I thought you were speaking of earlier in the century.

Q. No. In the 60's you couldn't go to Bay Pines.

A. That's quite possible. I didn't know they had a hospital at the Air Base.

Q. I guess they called it an infirmary. You could go in to see the doctor and get a prescription -

A. Yes, they had military doctors and nurses and so forth. (Yes, I do remember that area.) I did a considerable amount of work at McDill Air Force Base when the jets were first introduced and the training of the pilots -- a lot of it was done at McDill Air Force Base at that time. It was really in a sad state of deterioration. The buildings were wooden structures, (the barracks were wooden structures. There are so many families that I would remember who are so much better acquainted with the history of Gulfport than I, myself. I would like to make one reference - Mr. Conrad Boaddy was a very dear friend - is a very dear friend, as I believe he's still alive, although he's almost completely blind. But) Conrad Boaddy was a builder of what used to be called "the blinker", ("the blinker" I believe they called it.) He was the one who somewhere in the '50's or 60's, the 50's, I believe, started bringing in peanuts. He bought the peanut grocery, and he would serve/<sup>free</sup>peanuts. The customers would crack the shells and wonder what to do with the shells, and he finally said, "Just throw them down on the floor." And over a period of not too much time, there were several inches of peanut shells on the floor. But all visitors, everyone who came into this area heard about the place - "The house of peanut shells" and that is probably one of the most memorable memories that I have -

Q. Do you remember where it was located?

A. Yes, it was located on the corner of 22nd Avenue and 49th Street, where now, on the right hand side is a large gasoline station. Now Conrad Boaddy's peanut shell bar - he only served beer and wine - was a small building, frame, that was perhaps 150 feet from the corner of 49th Street and 22nd Avenue.

Q. Was this more like a tavern -

A. Yes, this was a tavern. It was one of the very few taverns that they had in this area. The first tavern that could sell hard liquor was located on Boca Ciega Bay in Gulfport. At that time, the liquor license allocations were based on the population. It required a certain population before another liquor license could be granted and the population did not -

Q. This is July 27, 1983 and I am talking to - would you give your name please?

A. Stanley N. Palmer. We are discussing Florida from several different viewpoints.

Q. Would you give your address please?

A. Oh yes. 2824 - 51st Street South, Gulfport 33707. Gulfport, as it was, in the late 1880's and 90's and on through the early years of the 20th century. We've discussed the first railroad proposed for Gulfport and Gulfport perhaps would have been the major center of the city of St. Petersburg -

Q. Now, what date did your family first come here?

A. Well, my parents -- my father was a commander in the Coast Guard in Michigan - they came down here in ~~perhaps~~ perhaps 1936 as winter visitors. In 1939 a friend of theirs had built a home on the corner of 28th Avenue and 51st. St. South and his name was Wilson. He knew my father well, and through discussions it was suggested that my father buy a lot and build a home in the same area, which took place. The present home here was built in 1931.

Q. Do you know what he paid for the lot then?

A. The lot at that time was possibly a thousand dollars.

Q. That would be a double lot, wouldn't it?

A. I think they paid \$1,500 for both lots, I'm not sure. They developed the one lot which has the home. And the second lot, my south lot has been free and clear of construction of any kind. For tax purposes of course. We are trying to hit on as much of the history of Gulfport as we can, in the short ~~time~~ time that we have to discuss it. I mentioned to Helen that there is a line across the state of Florida, just before entering Georgia. It's an imaginary line, but it's ~~not~~ quite effective from a tax standpoint. In the early days, all products, materials, etc. shipped into Florida came in by rail. They had nothing to ship out, so consequently the rail companies put a tax on empty cars going back. Today, we can fill as many cars with Florida products as we ever had shipped in, but they have never changed the tax structure. To ~~my~~ my knowledge, it's still in effect

Q. The moment it reaches that line -

A. Yes, you automatically are taxed, for heavy goods, for dry goods, or whatever you are shipping. This is true in citrus fruit, it would be true in anything else, that you ship north. You pay a higher rate before you leave the state of Florida.

Q. But you got around that at one time?

A. Yes, it was suggested that the vehicles going to the line be disconnected from the power system, the truck, or whatever, and then pushed across. Now if it's being pushed across, that is not being hauled across, and that would avoid paying that tax. BUT they never did pursue it any further than that.

Q. Would this have been in the 1950s?

A. This would have gone back possibly--I do not know when that line was drawn --when that tax would have gone into effect--I would have no knowledge of the year, but it has never been changed. And it should be today, because Florida is shipping out as much as it ships in.

Q. Now, on the house here. You told me that most of it was built on the Coast Guard?

A. Well, most of it was built by friends of my fathers, who were in charge of other Coast Guard Stations, in Michigan or light house stations in Lake Michigan and Michigan proper, yes. They had to be jack of all trades, and carpentry work was one of them. It was all built by individuals.

Q. ~~Was~~ Were they also retirees here in Florida?

A. Yes, they were all retired. The house originally was built just for two people. Everything there is today has been added over the years, because it continued to increase -- more and more people came, and at that time they had different clubs, the Michigan ~~Club, the~~ Club, the Pennsylvania Club, the New York Club, and of course, most of their festivities and get-togethers were down at the Gulfport beach on the present <sup>Casino</sup> colosseum and that section west of there.

Q. Do you care to talk about it, that about a year ago, you received rather an unusual loan, a new form of loan, wasn't it, but it has been discontinued?

A. Oh yes, at that time I was informed that the government had a special loan for the improvement of structures such as mine - mine was inspected and it was approved -

Q/ Do you know what the loan was called.

A. Well, I had the name of it, because I had the contract. It was a federal grant that ran into millions of dollars. But so few people knew about this grant that very few took advantage of it. Now, in July of 1982 - I got in in June - Each year as the payment comes due, it is written off. Now those who came in after the 1st of July, they paid \$20.00 a month, or \$220 a year, but here again it could have been a \$30,000.00 project that could have been written off, with the exception that they would be paying \$220 a year. I think that plan is still in effect, I don't know.

Q. Oh, I was under the impression that you were one of the last to receive it.

A. No, I was one of the first.

Q. Now, this is where they come in and --

A. They come in and completely measure every bit of the home and then the architect more or less concludes how it could be reconstructed and improved upon and all of the old paint and so forth is removed and all of the old roofing material is removed and everything starts brand new.

Q. You mentioned that there were about ten layers of topping-

A. Oh, at that time, I think when the roof was removed, I think from the time this place was built in '41, I believe they found 11 tiers of roofing paper, because at that time they just put a new tier of roofing material over the old. That all came off.

Q. Now, in order to get this loan, you had to sign a paper that <sup>you will not sell</sup> this property

A. Yes, ma'am. The property cannot be sold or rented, during that 20-year period of the pay-off, as long as it remains in the possession of <sup>and</sup> the occupancy of any member of my family, it is written off each year. If, for any reason, any member of my family, or no member of my family cared to occupy the premises if it were sold, then of course, the entire unpaid balance would come due.

Q. And you say these specialists commented on the structure of this house?

A. Oh yes. They made a complete survey of the home and made drawings and redesigns for improvements. Today, everything is the latest equipment.

Q. I mean, they commented on how well ~~how~~ built the home was.

A. Oh yes, They were quite complimentary about the structure of the house - the way it was built, the precision work that was employed - the craftsmanship, and of course the house was mostly cypress, which is indestructible. At that time you could buy cypress. Today, I don't think you could get it for all the tea in China.

Q. It also came under the Grandfather's Clause. We won't go into the details, but what was the Grandfather's Clause?

A. Well, the Grandfather's Clause means that if a law is in existence and you have met the requirements of that law, a later change in that law cannot effect you, because you had the Grandfather Clause. It just means that what you had cannot be taken away by a new law. Now that may not always be true. Now zoning, we would not have any control over that. At one time this was zoned as strictly residential. Then a power play was made and across the street from my home a duplex was built -- I think it accommodates 25 or thirty separate families. But that was done by pressure. They rezoned that section so that certain structures of that nature, commercial structures, could be built on what was previously considered private residential.

Q. Referring back to a point now, your father was in the Coast Guard before it was called the Coast Guard

A. My father joined the present Coast Guard back in the early 1900's, possibly 1901 or 1902. At that time it was known as the United States Life Saving Service. By an act of Congress, it ~~became the~~ was changed to the United States Coast Guard Service and put under the United States Treasury Department, somewhere in the early 1920's - I would think about 1922 or '23 - along in there

Q. As a retiree, did he give his services in any way to the Coast Guard in Florida

A. Yes, Another act of Congress recognized the U.S. Life Saving Service men as having donated a tremendous amount of their time at no financial return. I think my father told me at that time that they paid a dollar a day. I think that they were paid two dollars if they were taken out on a call,

and had to man one of the lifeboats.

Q. So he was on call here?

A. No, no. This was all in <sup>Charlevoix,</sup> Michigan.

Q. Then, after he came to Florida -

A. Well, I was born in 1909, and in 1913 he was transferred to North Manitou Island, a life-saving station which is 14 miles off the mainland of Michigan, The main port would have been Leland, Michigan. And that 14 miles of Lake Michigan, during the winter months, at times it would be passable, but a storm could disrupt it, and the ice, once it begins to move, it piles up, and nothing stops it until the weather changes.

Q. But then he came to Florida, to Gulfport in particular -

A. Well when he retired, he came to Florida in, I believe, 1936, and after his retirement, my parents would move this way for the winter and go north in the summer. Then in 1941, they decided that Florida was their place, so they built their home ~~there~~ down here. They had built a beautiful home in <sup>Guard</sup>, Michigan which is called a farmhouse, just one block from the Coast /. And it's still as beautiful and as well kept as it was then - when it was built in 1930.

Q. What I'm trying to lead up to is, did he work with the Coast Guard down here in Florida?

A. No. He came down here and retired.

Q. As a retiree, during wartime --

A. There were different meetings, with the local Coast Guard and out of respect for my father's background and sometimes for advice on various matters, such as the type of ;boat best qualified to meet the waters and waves and so forth, I remember, because I was with my father on several occasions when they discussed what is the right length for a boat to survive on on the gulf.

Q. Well, I know during World War II, several retirees did work with the various services.

A. Yes. In World War I, North Manitou Life-Saving Station was considered a highly important place because it commanded the channel that the big ships carrying iron ore and other supplies from <sup>the coast on</sup> Lake Superior and they all had to pass

between North Manitou Island and the mainland of Michigan.

Q. But what I'm getting at, is in Gulfport/<sup>in</sup>particular -

A. Gulfport is another story. Gulfport, out of courtesy and respect for my father's position, he had been recognized by the President -

Q. President Johnson gave him a citation -

A. Yes, that's it -- for valued service and so forth.

Q. Well, not to detract or anything, but the Steinwinder family, I'd like to get in -- Mrs. Steinwinder was a neighbor and a friend of yours

A. Well, yes. Mrs. Steinwinder and her daughter, Lucia - Lucia had married, and did I ~~don't~~ know her last name - I can't remember it. I think it was Blackstone - or something, I'm not quite sure. Mrs. Steinwinder was possibly in her nineties when I first met her - a very, very marvelous person, but she was here when Gulfport was still floundering ~~xxxxxxx~~ along.

Q. And she lived right across the street -

A. Yes. I remember her telling me that it took as much as two days to get from Gulfport to Tampa, going around the entire bay.

Q. Now, would she go by wagon, or carriage -

A. By wagon, yes.

Q. By wagon. Did she go by herself?

A. Oh no. Women didn't travel alone in these days--it was quite primitive. We had wild animals and we had other -- no, no woman would have attempted to go alone. But it was really a two day trip. It was an overnight trip.

Q. And did they usually make camp in the wagon or -

A. Well, they might possibly sleep in the wagon. I don't know that they carried tents or anything like that. But it ~~was xxxxxx~~ would take two days and a night. I forget the distance. Possibly the distance would have been 30 to 40 miles. But the roads at that time were sometimes impassible.

Q. And then there were no bridges crossing Tampa Bay?

A. Very few bridges, and then you weren't sure they were going to be there when you got there or not. They were built as well as they could build them at that time but even that didn't guarantee anything.

Q. She didn't tell you how the route went?

A. No. As I understand it, it was mostly a dirt road all the way from Gulfport down through to what is now the City of Gulfport. There were no buildings of any consequence along that trail, so it was more or less just a trail, a road that was passable. The state or the county or whatever, did keep it passable, from brush and so forth. But it was quite a feat to make the trip, the way they had to make it.

Q. Did she mention anything about the lifestyle, how they lived, how they got their income? There was no social security for them.

A. No. This of course we never discussed. I would have no idea. I would assume that they had money. Survival money, if not more than that. But there were a lot of exchanges. One person might bake a pie and somebody else would bake cookies - it was a barter system, in other words, they would swap this for that.

Q. Did she have a garden over there?

A. Everyone had a garden. They would grow their own vegetables. This place down here is very healthy for growing things.

Q. Was she a widow? Do you know how long her husband had been gone?

A. No, I never - at the time, I had just come back from my trip to Africa, and we talked about many things, but I never did go into too much detail, and I'm only remembering bits and sketches about conversations. I used to carry a camera, because I was always interested in taking pictures, but I never even took her picture. I'm sorry I didn't

Q. From her memories, how many rooms would you say were in her house? What type of a home was it?

A. Well, they had a small frame - possibly one or two rooms <sup>building.</sup> -/very tiny.

Q. But nice?

A. Yes. It could have been larger at one time. Fire, or what <sup>ever.</sup> ~~haxexyxx~~. I don't know. I never thought to ask. But they had huge oak trees there. They were completely surrounded with oak trees. And it could very likely have been a larger home at one time.

Q. Well, at that time, if she only had two rooms, what could it have been? A kitchen and a bedroom?

A. Well, I assume that one room would have served for a kitchen and living room and dining room and so forth. There were just she and her daughter. And they

were somewhat reclusive in their ways. They were attached to my parents and got to know them well.

Q. I believe she had four children, didn't she? Or don't you know?

A. I know there <sup>were</sup> /dēscendants. I don't know how many.

Q. But at the time you knew her, there was just the one daughter?

A. At the time, I was just acquainted with Mrs. Steinwinder and her daughter., Lucia. I never met any other members of the family.

Q. Did her daughter have a nickname?

A. Her daughter?

Q. Yes, didn't she have a nickname?

A. All I know is that we called her Lucia. It's rather a strange name, Lucia. I never heard it before. I can't remember the last name, but I know it was Black---something--Blackwood, or Blacksmith, or something. But I'm sure you could find the records of that.

Q. Steinwinder is an odd name--not a common name.

A. Yes, it is. Possibly German, or it could be a number of things. It's not a name that you hear often. I don't believe that I've ever heard it before or since.

Q. Oh, I want to get the address of her building. 2865 - 51st Street South?

A. Yes, that should have been her address. Now, of course, it's a large apartment structure.

Q/ Now, on the balance of the building. An individual bought her home?

A. No, an attorney that I knew. I can't think of his name right offhand, but he bought the building. But very likely he was acting as a front for a conglomerate or another group. But certainly he was an attorney, not a contractor. But they started cutting the trees. I spoke to them about those fabulous oak trees out there and they explained that they had very carefully laid the trees out on their tract and only those that had to go, would go. The rest would remain. And I think, if you look over there, you will see that they did save many of those fabulous oak trees.

My deepest regret is that they did not convert that into a park or a memorial of some kind, because it does go back into history as one of the first families of Gulfport.

Q. Well, it's now an apartment building or a condominium?

A. It's not a condominium. It's a two story affair. Once you go through the main gate, you find a swimming pool and--it's quite attractive.

Q. But it's called the Villa Roba Apartments?

A. Yes, that would be the name, I think, that they've given it. And that was built in 1974. I was over here that day. My mother and I were looking through the front window when the bulldozer hit the Steinwinder's little frame cottage and there was no more cottage, and we saw history just go down, and I think we both shed a tear

Q. I'm sure you did. Was that their original home, do you know?

A. I have no way of knowing. Most likely, they would have had a larger home, on the same property. Whether it blew down, or burned down, or whatever, I don't know. But that little cottage they had there--it probably wasn't more than 12' by 20'. It was very small. You'd wonder how they could manage to live there.

Q. Was the house painted, or was it just weatherbeaten?

A. No, it seemed to me that it had red paint on it. I've never been in the house. I didn't want to intrude. I've often thought I'd like to see the inside, but then I thought it might be better if I didn't.

Q. Of course, she was in her nineties when you knew her.

A. Yes, she was quite elderly.

Q. Pioneer women were supposed to be very hearty people, both physically and mentally. Can you describe her at all, or your opinion of her?

A. Well, I would say that she certainly was sturdy, and active. How old she was, I wouldn't know, but my mother had mentioned several times that she was way up in her nineties. But I remember that we had an office down on the boulevard down here--that would be 56th Street, and I think it was

a doctor's office, a medical office of some kind, and I remember I was visiting one of the doctors there, I think there was only one doctor. But I remember one time when I went down there, she was there. Now she walked down. She was a very agile, very sturdy woman.

Q. Do you remember the name of her doctor?

A. No. I could go back and look it up, because I keep records, as you know.

Q. Would you say that, although she was well along in years when you knew her, that she was capable of taking care of herself?

A. Oh yes. She told me different stories because I asked. And she told me about some of the storms that had occurred during her lifetime. And when she was a little girl and they used to make the trip to Tampa by going all the way around, I think that would have taken them, well, I could look at the map--

Q. Did her parents come from Gulfport too?

A. I never did know. I doubt very much that her parents came from Gulfport, because if she was ninety some odd years old at that time, then they would have been here in 1801.

Q. But what I'm trying to get at--was she a very positive person. Did she make decisions --

A. Well, I thought so. I found it extremely interesting to talk with her. The subjects that we would be on were my inquisitive questions about what was this like at one time. So it was mostly about what it was like at that time.

Q/ Can you remember any of those things now?

A. Well, the only thing I can tell you is that it was quite rugged. They could shoot game practically from any one of the windows. They had wild birds, they had rabbits galore, there was just everything here.

Q. Do you think she shot a gun, too?

A/ Well, I wouldn't have any way of knowing, but I doubt that very much.

Q. Did she ever mention clothing? Did she do a lot of sewing?

A. Frankly, we never got on subjects like that. I do remember in discussing

it, that there were so few stores, so few places where you could buy anything ready to wear. You bought cloth and you made your own. I think there were stores where you could buy shovels and hatchets and things of that nature, but everything else--you had to pretty much make it yourself.

A. There were a couple of other subjects I wanted to get in. One was when they dredged Boca Ciega Bay. What year was this?

A. Well, this is a guess, but my son who is now 37, was about 10 or 12 years old. When they started the dredges to work, they pumped out thousands and thousands of sea bottom out of Boca Ciega Bay, and my son was down there, watching the debris that came through, and as it rolled up, his collection of shark's teeth and prehistoric relics of so many descriptions--various kinds of fishes, petrified. I'm sorry he's not here to show you his collection, but he probably has one of the finest collections of shark's teeth.

Q. You mentioned one particular shark's tooth?

A. Yes, he showed me one that was the largest thing I've ever seen. It's approximately four inches long overall, and at the top, it was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " at least wide. It would have been a tremendous shark. I would say possibly the specie of the great white. But there's no way of identifying it. (But I've never seen a shark's tooth of that size.) Sharks lose their teeth very easily and they grow back, but they do have a tendency to lose teeth. The bone structures that he brought back, it's quite a collection. It's possibly one of the big collections. The only thing I can compare it with and I've visited some of the big collections some years back--they showed me tusks from huge elephants, and going way, way back because these were being pumped out from several hundred feet below the land level. Because they had to go down a long ways to get the phosphates that they wanted. And they were finding some of these relics several hundred feet below the ground level.)

Q. Now, was this in Florida?

A. Yes, that's your whole area--

Q. There were elephants here?

A. Well, at one time--prehistoric elephants. This would go back to the mammoths. They were destroyed mostly during the ice age. But then of course, for no reason at all, they disappeared. But today your oil and everything else comes from the millions and millions of them from over millions of years that death occurred and decomposition came in and the oil is indestructive and that remained. But if you wanted to see some of the relics of Florida, now these are not necessarily Gulfport, but you would find five or six large phosphate mines south of Gulfport--south of St. Petersburg. They range quite a distance. And they have trophies there--I've seen them and they're unbelievable.

Q. Now, about the Presbyterian Church. You were not actually a member, but this is the First Presbyterian. Where was it located?

A. Well, that would have been on the corner of 27th and 56th Street. It's still there today, although it has been completely rebuilt. As a matter of fact, the first church was torn down and a second one was built. And I believe that they even went into a third section, whether that was built on or not--but it was not the original Presbyterian church as it stood in 1950.

Q. Well, who was the minister?

A. A Reverend Ruff. I can't remember his first name. A very marvelous person. He built the congregation from possibly a hundred senior citizens to a thousand, consisting, of course, of younger people. It became one of the main central places of Gulfport. Very popular.

Q. And what part did you and your friends play in building the addition?

A. Well, we didn't do any of the physical construction work at any time. We just built the membership.

Q. Oh, I see. I thought you raised funds for the building.

A.. Well, We did, I suppose, in many ways, by bringing in new members.

And the names of some of the people--Wanderlee's - Mr. Wanderlee lived over on 27th Avenue at that time. He was a neighbor of mine. We had our home over on 27th Avenue and 52nd Street--the second house down. That was built by an old retired Coast Guard man--a life saving man, that is, a lighthouse man.

Q. Well, did members of the congregation help to build the church?

A. Let me say, they helped in this way--they didn't do the actual construction but we did the painting. And we raised funds for the pews and for the diocese, and so forth, in other words, that's the part--yes, we raised funds. Through donations and many other things.

Q. And now, how did he raise this congregation from approximately a hundred to a thousand? What did he do?

A. Well, he brought in younger people. He would have these late Friday afternoon, early evening get-togethers. The mothers would bring hot dogs and buns and mustard and pickles, and we had more or less of a cook-out. But this brought the children, and middle aged people and younger. It became the only place in Gulfport that was fun. Fun and games, so to speak. We had wonderful times. We took our work quite seriously. The Sunday School teachers, we formed a group, and then each two weeks we would meet at one of the member's homes. And I think that's the first time that I ever baked a cake in my life. I made a remark and I should have kept my mouth shut. I said, "When we have the meeting at my place, I'll bake a cake." And I had never baked a cake in my life. But I did come up with a chocolate cake that turned out very well, because I have rather a natural tendency to cook.

Q. But you said they had all kinds of social activities?

A. Well, we had so many things--we would go out on picnics to Lakes and places of that nature. Everyone would furnish a car and carry as many as we could, and we would try to go in a train, we'd try to keep together

but if we lost each other, we knew where we were going, and we'd have a Sunday outing after church. Yes, it was probably the largest group of assemblies that Gulfport has ever experienced. Because one man had the personality to bring people together. But, like all things, something always happens. The senior members of the church felt it was getting too much fun and games. In other words, they wanted something much more serious, more more stiff-necked than that, so they made it very difficult for the Reverend. Mr. Wanderlee and myself, we went to Lakeland, I believe it was Lakeland, where they had the diocese, or the head of the Presbyterian church, and we spoke in defense of the problems that we had--we outlined the problems we were having, but we recognized that we all had to occupy the same church and we were all going to go to the same heaven, but it turned out that everybody wanted to go to heaven but not with that bunch. The older people wanted to go to heaven, but not with the younger people.

Q. So did the older people finally go to another church?

A. No, they remained, and the congregation fell off, by possibly 600. My mother went there to the last Sunday of her life, and every Sunday I used to take her to church. I was always very faithful to the church, but we've always had ministers who could make it extremely interesting, and not boring. I don't think anyone ever went to sleep.

Q. Did the church own property that they rented?

A. No, we made provisions financially, that everything we had, we paid for. And we never took on an obligation that we weren't positive about.

Q. But they didn't have rental property of any kind in the City of Gulfport?

A. You mean the church? Well, I don't know, just what you mean, did they have rental property. They were not in the business of going into real estate. They didn't buy any property other than what the church needed for its own use. No, there was nothing of that nature. It was only what the church needed and the church paid for. My father donated a ship's bell

from an old sailing ship--it was the last one that carried it. I think there were three ships that carried that bell, and they all went down in the ice floes in the high seas. The last ship--the bell was taken off and my father repainted it and I brought the bell down from Luddington, Michigan on one of my trips north, and donated the bell to the church. Later, when the situation changed, the bell was donated, with my permission, to the boy scouts and girl scouts--they have a large camp, I'm not sure just where it's located, but its out towards Seminole, somewhere out there--it's a large place. I understand they sold it and they're going to get another piece of property somewhat like it, but I'm not sure. The amazement was that the bell was a loan, that if the church and the boy scouts and girl scouts ever broke up, I was to get the bell back for the family. But as far as I know, I checked on it a year ago and the bell was being tolled at all meetings to call the children in.

side #2 - Stanley N. Palmer - by H. Ross - 7-27-83

17 I am talking to Stanley N. Palmer, we were discussing Florida from several different view-points. My address is 2824 - 51st Street, South in Gulfport-Gulfport as it was in the late 1880's and 90's and I am sure that the early years of the 20th century, we discussed the first railroad proposed for Gulfport and Gulfport would have been the major center of the city of St. Petersburg. What was the first date your family came here-my parents, my father was commander of the coast guard in Michigan, they came down here, perhaps in 1936 as winter visitors-in 1939 a friend of theirs had built a home on the corner of 28th Avenue and 51st Street, South and his name was Wilson. He knew my father well and through discussions it was suggested that my father buy a lot and build a home in the same area and it took place the present home here was built in 1941. Do you know what he paid for the lot. The lot at that time was possibly \$ 1,000-that was a double lot and I think they paid \$ 1,500 for both lots, I'm not quite sure. They developed the Lum (?) lot which has the home and the second lot myself has been free and clear of construction of any kind. We are trying to hit on as much of the history of Gulfport as we can in the short time we have to discuss it.

6 I mentioned to Helen that there is a line across the state of Florida just before entering Georgia, it is an imaginary line but its quite effective from a tax standpoint. In the early days materials and products came into Florida and they came in by rail-they had nothing to ship out, so consequently the rail companies put a tax on empty cars going back. Today we can fill as many cars with Florida products as we ever had shipped in but they have never changed the tax structure which to my knowledge is still in effect. You automatically are taxed, are taxed for heavy goods or dry goods-it is true in citrus fruits, it is true in anything else, we pay a higher rate before we leave the state of Florida. But you got around that at one time. Yes, it was suggested that vehicles be drawn to the line, be disconnected from the power system and then pushed across. If it is pushed across, it is not being hauled across and that would avoid paying that tax. We never did pursue it any further than that. Was this in the 50's. This goes back possibly a long way back, the date I don't know but this should be changed because Florida is shipping out as much as is shipped in.

17 On the house, most of this was built by friends of my father's who were in charge of other coast guard stations in Michigan or lighthouse stations in Lake Michigan and Michigan proper. They had to be jack-of-all-trades and carpentry work was one of these-it was built by individuals who were all retirees. The house was originally built for just two people but over the years there has been added on and over the years more people came and at that time they had clubs, Michigan club, Pennsylvania club, New York club and of course most of the festivities and get togethers was down on the Gulf beach between the present coliseum and that section west of there.

17 About a year ago you received rather an unusual loan- a new form of loan wasn't it. At that time I was informed that the government had a special loan for the improvement of structures, such as mine-mine was thoroughly inspected and approved-I have the name of it I have the contract because it was a federal grant that ran into millions of dollars but so few people knew about this grant that very few took advantage of it. In July 1982, I got into it in June, each year as the payment comes due it is written off. Now those who came in after the first of July, they paid \$ 20. a month or \$ 220. a year, but still it could have been \$ 30,000 project that would have been written off with the exception that they were paying \$ 220. a year. I think the plan is still in effect and I was one of the first. Now this is where they came in and they completely measured every bit of the home and then the architect concludes how it could be reconstructed and improved upon and all of the old paint and so forth and all of the old roofing material is removed and everything starts brand new. You mentioned that there was 10 layers of tar paper. At that time when the roofers removed the roof that had accumulated from the time it was built in 1941, they found 11 tiers of roofing paper because at that time they put a new tier of roofing paper over the old and all of that came off. In order to get this loan, you had to sign a paper that

you would not sell the property. Yes ma'am, the property cannot be sold or rented during the 20 year period of the payoff as long as it remains in the possession of and the occupancy of any member of my family, it is written off each year. If for any reason, any member of my family or no member of my family care to occupy the premises if it is sold then of course the entire unpaid balance would come due. You said that these specialists commented on the structure of this house. Oh yes, they made a complete survey of the home, they made complete drawings and redesigned for improvements-everything is the latest equipment. 17 They were quite complimentary as far as the structure of the house, the way it was built, the precision work that was employed, the craftsmanship and of course most of the house was cypress-I don't think you can today for all the tea in China duplicate it. It also came under the grandfather clause, didn't it. The grandfather clause, all it means is that if a law is in existence and you have met the requirements of that law, later change in that law cannot affect you because you have the grandfather clause-it just means that what you had cannot be taken away by a new law. Now that may not always be true in zoning-we would have little control over that-at one time this was zones strictly residential, then a power play was made and across the street from my home, a duplex was built that accommodates 25 or 30 separate families and that was done by pressure, they rezoned that section so that certain structures of that nature, commercial structures, could be built on what was previously considered private residential. Your father was in the coast guard before it was called the coast guard. My father enlisted, i.e., he joined the present coast guard in, possibly 1901-2 (?). 12 At that time it was known as the U. S. Life Saving Service. By an act of Congress, it was changed to the U. S. Coast Guard Service and put under the U. S. Treasury Department and somewhere in the early 1920's, I would think possibly 1922 or '23.

As a retiree did he give his services to the Coast Guard in Florida. Yes, in another act of Congress they recognized the U. S. Life Saving Service men as having donated a tremendous amount of their time at no financial return. I think my father told me at that time that 12 they got a dollar a day on call and if they went out on lifeboats. This was all in Charlevoix, Michigan. I was born in 1909-in 1913 he was transferred to the north Manitou island life saving station which is 14 miles off the mainland of Michigan-the main port would have been Leland, Michigan and that 14 miles of Lake Michigan during the winter months, at times it would be passable but a storm would disrupt it and the ice would begin to move and that would stop any traffic on the lake until the weather changed. When did he come to Gulfport. When he retired he came to Florida, I believe in 1936 after his retirement. At that time, in 1941 they decided that Florida was their place so they built their home down here. They had built a beautiful home in Ludington, Michigan. What I'm trying to lead up to is did he work with the Coast Guard down here in Florida. No, he didn't, he came down here as a retiree-there were different meetings with the local Coast Guard only out of respect for my father and sometimes for advice on various matters such as type of boat best qualified to meet the waters and the waves of the gulf-I remember that I was with my father on several occasions when they discussed what would be the right length for a boat to survive on the gulf. I know during World War II, many retirees on the gulf did work with various services. Yes, in World War I, on North Manitou island, life saving station was considered a highly important place because it commanded the channel, the only channel that big ships carrying iron ore and other supplies from the Ste and Lake Superior and Duluth, they all had to pass Manitou Island and the mainland of Michigan. What I'm getting at in Gulfport in particular. Out of courtesy and respect for my father's position, he has been recognized by President Johnson for which he received a citation.

1 The Steinwinder family, I'd like to get in. Mrs. Steinwinder was a neighbor and a friend of yours. Mrs. Steinwinder and her daughter Lucia, who got married and her name I believe is now Blackstone. Mrs. Steinwinder was possibly in her 90's when I first met her-a very marvelous person but she was here when Gulfport was still floundering around. She lived right across the street and I remember her telling me that it took as much as 2 days to get from Gulfport to Tampa-going around the entire bay and she would go by wagon. No one traveled alone in those days, it was quite primitive-we had wild animals and other things that certainly no one attempted to go alone but it was nearly 2 full day trip, overnight trip. they would possibly sleep in the wagon, it was 2 days and a night-the distance couldn't

have been more than 40 miles but the roads at that time were sometimes impossible-very few bridges and you were never sure that they were going to be there when you got there or not- they were built as well as they could be built at that time, even that couldn't be any guarantee that you would get there. As I understand it, it was mostly a dirt road all the way from Gulfport down through what is now the city of Gulfport, there were no buildings of any consequence, very few buildings along that trail-it was more or less just a trail a road was passable, the state or county would keep it passable but it was quite a feat to make that trip the way they had to make it. Did she mention anything in the life style of how they lived, how did they get their income, there was no social security then. This of we never discussed. I assume they had money but there was a lot of exchanges, one person would bake cookies, it was a barter system, in other words I'll swap you this for that, the same thing was true of apples and the like. Did she ever have a garden over there. Everyone had a garden, they would grow their own vegetables, the place down here is very healthy for growing things. Was she a widow, do you know how long her husband has died. No, at the time I had just come back from my swing in Africa and we talked about many things but I never did go into too much detail and I'm only remembering now snatches of our conversation. I used to carry a camera as I was always interested in taking certain pictures but I never took a picture of her and I'm sorry I didn't. From her memory how many rooms would you say was in her house, what type of a home was it. They had a small frame, possibly 1 or 2 rooms building, there could have been a larger home at one time, but they had huge oak tree growth, they were completely surrounded with oak trees but they could have likely lived in a larger home at one time. At that time, if she only had 2 rooms, what could it have been, a kitchen and a bedroom, I would assume that 1 room would serve as a living room, as a kitchen, dining room etc.-there was just she and her daughter and they were somewhat recluse in a way, they were attached to my parents-I believe she had 4 children didn't she. I know there were descendents but I don't know how many. At the time I was only acquainted with her and only her daughter. Did you tell me her daughter had a nickname. All I know was that we called her Lucia. Steinwinder is an odd name, its possibly German or it could be a number of things. Her building is 2865 - 51st Street, South. On the balance of the building, an individual bought her home. No, an attorney bought the building but very likely he was acting as a front for another group. They started cutting the trees, I spoke to them about those fabulous oak trees out there but they explained that they had very carefully laid the trees out on their chart and only those that had to go would go and the rest would remain and I think you'd notice if you looked over there they did save many of the fabulous oak trees-my deepest regret is that they did not convert that into a park, a memorial of some kind because it does go back in the history of one of the first families of Gulfport.

It is now an apartment building, a 2 story affair, once you go there the main gate, there's a swimming pool and its quite attractive, but its called Villa Yorba (?) Apartment and it was built in 1974. I was over that day, my mother and I were looking through the front window when the bulldozer hit the Steinwinder little frame cottage and it went right on through and there was no more cottage and we saw history just go down the drain and we sort of both shed a tear. Was that their original house. I have no way of knowing, most probably they would have had a larger home on the same property, whether it burned down or blew down, I don't know but that little cottage they had there was very small. It seemed to me that it had red paint on it-I8ve never been in the home. I'm not that social, I don't like to intrude-I've often thought I'd like to see the inside. She was in her 90's when you knew her. Pioneer women are supposedly hardy people, physically and mentally. I would say that she certainly was sturdy and active-how old she was I don't know but my mother had mentioned at different times that she was way up into her 90's but I remember we had an office down on the boulevard down here, that would be 56th Street and I think it was a doctor's office or a medical office of some kind and I remember I was visiting the doctor there, she was there. she walked in and she was very fragile looking. Would y' say even though she was along in years when you knew her, she was quite capable of taking care of herself. Oh yes, she told me different stories because I asked and she told me of some of the storms that had occurred during her lifetime and when she was a little gi and they used to make the trip to Tampa by going all the way around that would have take them a long distance. I don't know if her parents came from Gulfport because if she wa

19 years old at that time, well they would have been here in 1801. What I'm trying to get at was she was a very positive person, did she make decisions, etc. I thought so, I found it extremely interesting to tal with her-the subjects we would be on would be my inquisitive questions, what was it like at one time-so we spoke mostly about what it was like at that time. Do you remember any of those things. The only thing I can tell you is that it was quite rugged-they could shoot game practically from any one of the windows-they had wild birds, rabbits galore, just about everything here in Gulfport. Do you think she shot with a gun too. Well, I wouldn't have any way of knowing-I would doubt that very much. Did she ever mention clothes-did she do a lot of sewing. I don't know, it was a subject we never got on but I do remember, in discussing it there were so few places that you could buy ready-to-wear things-you bought a bolt of cloth and you made your own. I think there were stores where you could buy shovels, hatchets and things of that nature but everything else you had to pretty well make it yourself. I know I'm skipping around but now I wanted to get a couple of other subjects in-one could be brief; when they dredged Boca Ciega bay. I'll have to make sort of a gues, but my son who is now 37 was about 10 or 12 years old when they started the dredges to work-they pumped in thousands and thousands of yards of sea bottom out in Boca Ciega bay and my son was down there watching the debris that came through that buildup and there was a collection of sharks teet and prehistoric relics of many descriptions, petrified fishes-he has an unbelievable collection of sharks teeth-one in particular he showed me that was one of the largest things I've ever seen, it was approximately 4 inches long overall and at the top it was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at least-it must have been a tremendous shark. Sharks apparently lose their teeth very easily, they could bit into anything and a tooth would come out and they could grow it right back, but they do have a tendency to loose teeth and of course quite possibly many of them could have died there. How many other types of water life or animal life I don't know but I do know the bone structures and petrified bones that he has is quite a collection. It is possibly one of the big collections. The only thing I could compare it with is that when I visited some of the phosphate operations quite a few years back, they showed me tusks from huge elephants and going back to quite away, digging several hundred feet below the land level, because they had to go down a long way to get the phosphates they wanted and they were finding some of these relics at the 200 to 300 foot level below ground level and I might add all this was in Florida.

At one time there were prehistoric elephants in Florida. Going back to the mammoths, they were destroyed mostly during the ice age and then for no reason known to us they disappeared. Today your oil and everything else comes from millions upon millions of life going back millions upon millions of years. If you wanted to see some of the relics of Florida, these are not necessarily of Gulfport, you would find 5 or 6 phosphate mines just south of Gulfport, they range quite a distance and they have trophies there. I've seen them on their walls and they are just unbelievable.

19 About the Presbyterian church, you were not actually a member but this is the first Presbyterian church where would it have been located-it was on the corner of 27th Avenue and 52th Street-its still there today and it has been completely rebuilt-as a matter of fact when the first church was torn down the second one was built and I believe they even went into a third section but I don't know whether it was built on or not, but that is not the original Presbyterian church as it was built in 1950. Who was the minister. Rev. Ruff, a very marvelous person, he built the congregation from possibly 100 senior citizens to 1,000 consisting of course of younger people-it became one of the main central places of Gulfport-what part did yo and your friends play in building the addition. We didn't do any of the physical work of construction of any kind, but we just built the membership. I thought you raised funds for the building, etc. Yes, we did. I suppose in many ways by bringing in new members and the names of some of the people, Mr. Wenderly (?) of 27th Avenue at that time he was a neighbor of mine when we lived on 27th Avenue and 52nd Street-that was built by an old retired coast guard and light house man. Did members of the congregation help to build the church. No, but let me say they helped in this way, they didn't do the actual construction but we did the painting and we raised funds for the pews, etc.-yes, we raised funds through donations and many other things. How did he raise his congregation from 100 to approximately 1,000, what did he do. He brought in younger people-he had

these Friday early evening get-togethers. The mothers would bring hot dogs, buns, etc. We had more or less of a cookout and this brought the children. It became the only place in Gulfport that was fun and games so to speak. We had a wonderful time and we took our work quite seriously-the Sunday school teachers formed a group and each two weeks we would meet at one of the members homes and I think that is the first time I ever baked a cake in my life. I made the remark when I should have kept my mouth shut, I said when we have it at my place I'll bake a cake and I never previously baked a cake in my life, but I did come up with a chocolate cake, it turned out very well because I have a natural tendency to cooking. You said they had all kinds of social activity. We had many things-we would go on picnics to little lakes and places of that nature-everyone would furnish a car and carry as many as we could and we would try to go in a train-we would have the Sunday outing after church. It was possibly one of the largest group assemblies that Gulfport ever experienced because one man had the personality to bring people together but like all things, something always happens-the senior members of the church thought that he was giving too much towards fun and games, in other words they wanted something more serious, much more stiff-necked than that, so they made it very difficult on Reverend Ruff. Mr. Wunderlie and myself, we went to Lakeland where they had the head of the Presbyterian church and we spoke in defense of the problems we had-we outlined the problems that we were having but we recognized that we all had to profit by the same church that we were all going to the same heaven but it turned out that everybody wanted to go to heaven but the older people wanted to go to heaven but not with the younger folks. So did the older people finally go to another church. No, they remained and the congregation fell off by possibly 600. My mother went there until the last Sunday of her life, that is, every Sunday I would take her to her church, she was very faithful to her church-we always had ministers who would make it extremely interesting and not boring. Did the church own property that they they rented-No, we made provisions financially that everything we had was paid for and we never took on an obligation that we were not positive. Did they have rental property of any kind in the city of Gulfport. No, there was nothing of that nature. It was only what the church used, the church paid for. My father donated a ship's bell from an old sailing ship. I think there was only 3 ships that carried a bell and they all went down in the ice or the high seas-the last ship the bell was taken off and my father retained it. I brought the bell down from Ludington, Michigan on one of my trips and he donated the bell to the church-later when the situation changed, the bell was donated with my permission to the boy scouts and girl scouts camp. I understand they sold it, ie., the camp located out Seminole way and they are going to get another piece of property somewhat like it, but the arrangement was that it was to be a loan-if the scout organizations would break up, I was to get the bell back, but as far back as I know, I checked back a year ago and the bell was still being tolled at all meetings of the children.

end of side #2

Stanley Palmer - Interviewed by H. Ross 7-27-83 Side #1 of 2nd tape

We were discussing the bell that the boy scouts had-its a very large bell. In size. No ma'am-I would say in size, it was 24 inches at the base possibly 20 inches high, but ships bells at that time were cast in special alloy metals were added so when the gong struck it made a beautiful ringing sound-the sound once you heard it, you'd never forget it-its like a locomotive, it made sounds that were never duplicated by the diesels. It probably weighed 75 pounds-it was a large bell but for their purpose that was used especially in heavy fog and weather where vision would be very limited-it had other purposes-if they launched a boat from the schooner or whichever ship was carrying the bell and if the boat was gone any distances or any length of time and if the fog rolled in, the only way they would find their way back to the mother ship was the ringing of that bell so that gong constantly ringing they would use that on the sound detection system so it served many purposes. Do you know anything about Osgood Point here in Gulfport. I can only remember when the beaches were being filled, that's all filled in. Do you remember when they filled in Bayway and the Indian mounds, that was on Cabbage Key. Of course there were a number of Indian mounds and some were found and some remained undetected. But I had heard that this was an extremely large one and was also a burial ground. That was a very sacred place to

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Bell?

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the Indians, their burial grounds but that's only one phase of Indian history. But you're not familiar with the one on Cabbage Key. No, frankly, I just never had the time although I had the inclination. When we first came down here, what is now the beach area was nothing but mangrove spots out there-the only entrance or exit to the gulf would have been at the tip of the beach going south-at that time there was a rapid current, when the tide changed it was either coming in or going out, it was possibly a hundred years or so to the next island which is mangrove and all of your islands were just mangrove and then when they began to fill, that all changed-thats all filled areas out there I think we neglected to mention too when we were talking about the dredging of Boca Ciega bay that was done primarily because of the flooding here. Principally we had all of the routes of all of the states congregate on the gulf. We had 2 to 3,000 people down there on a Sunday afternoon, it was not uncommon. They bought potlucks, they brought their own table sections, everybody brought something, some brought beans, some brought cole slaw and potato salad. There were possibly five or six states would have their own groups. The New York people would join the New York group, the Michigan people the Michigan group, etc. At that time they didn't have the roofed pavilions they have now. At that time your coleseum or casino-around the casino area, that was the section they filled in-they used a dredge and they were there possibly 3 months dredging 24 hours a day and all of that sand was pumped in through a huge hose-they were going down 6 to 8 feet and that was where they were uncovering sharks teeth and also bones of sea life and animal life, etc.-that's where my son used to spend his summer, waiting for the water to drain so that he could wade through there in the sand. Did they also fill in where Town Shores is located-Town Shores is a land fill, there was no point out there that was all filled in-going west from that area of Gulfport beach that was all mangrove and that was all filled in but where Town Shores is today, that was all beach or under water. At that time the popular attractions were all right on the beach, a row of different kinds of businesses. I forget the name of the street there but right on the beach beyond that was a large pier. Do you remember the businesses there when you came. There was, when I first came, there was a tavern without a liquor license, they used to, there was always a group frequenting the place in the morning, another group in the afternoon and another group in the evening. Was there any boat building going on at that time. No, I can't say, we still built boats southwest of that section of Gulfport-there is a boat building place there, I forget what they built, but I've seen it several times and I believe they are still building boats.

In the 1940's and 50's we used to call them the barefoot fishermen-they were shrimpers, they would go out for the mullet, they were rugged people-I think there were 4 families and they were very clannish-if you offended one of them you offended 100. They stuck together like glue. I remember one man in particular who was supposed to be 6 foot 6, one of the hugest men I've ever seen-they never wore shoes, winter or summer-occasionally they would wear a shirt but reluctantly-they usually wore tattered shorts, the work they were doing, they were in the water so much that their clothes were not to plentiful-you see they would go from rags to riches when the mullet were running and the blue crabs were running, etc. it was riches, but they would spend as fast as they earned six months of the year it was pretty rough and six months of the year it was pretty good for them. I was amazed how good their credit was because they were honest, they would run into debt for hundreds of dollars, into a thousand or two-they lived well, they ate well, they drank well. Their money came when the fish came and then of course they were the most generous, it flowed like water, they were not very conservative people but they always figured the fish would never go away, there would always be mullet, there would always be crab, there would always be other things out there. You started to tell about one man who was 6 foot 6-he used to visit some of the places that I would stop at, taverns, bars, there would be 4 or 5 of them in a group, still barefoot I was told, I never had the courage to say this but I was told the bottoms of their feet were calloused  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch-they were walking on callouses that were so tough that they had no feeling, in other words any one of them could step on a burning cigaret and grind it out with the heel of his foot. I know I couldn't do it. I wonder if later they had problems with their feet, they were in salt water all the time. I would say just the opposite, there might be things in salt water that we don't know, sometimes its inclined to be a preservative. Did you notice any particular disease or sickness they seemed to

be susceptible to. No, I can't say that I've heard of any disease-they lived to ripe old ages, in the 80's and 90's and they were still very active-there were four families and they were very clannish and as I said before if you offended one you offended them all, they were very strange people yet they were friendly and likable. Would you say although they were clannish and stuck together they also mixed in with the rest of the people. If someone wanted to mix in with them and they had no objections then you saw the other side of them, but if for any reason they didn't like you or if you showed any contempt or aloofness, then you'd be walking into another situation-but I was very careful. You must have met quite a few of them because Mr. Bodie, Conrad Bodie had that first tavern, a wooden structure on 22nd Avenue-you could throw a pail of water against the wall and not a drop of it would hit the floor, they were cracks all over, everybody was breaking in to the place but he was a famous man with peanuts-he had peanut shells up to your knees, but I remember before the peanut period when 3 or 4 of these fishermen came in, they never sat down, they always stood and drop a cigaret and put the heel of their foot on it-they never gave you any trouble. They were a part of Florida, I always felt that we invaded their country, we were the intruders, not them. I suppose you could say the same thing about the American Indians. We were the ones who took their territory. Were most of them large men. They were rugged-they didn't have to be too large to be rugged. They were extremely muscular-I've seen mullet catches where there would have countless tons of mullet and tens of thousand would just flow over the boats and thats where people would gather when the mullet were running and these fishermen would bring them in they would break their necks literally speaking-it was a tough tedious job. When they get hold of those nets in the water they'd jump in the water-would they pull the nets all the way to the beach or did they pull the nets onto the boats. No, you see, the net goes out by boat in a straight line and the boat circles up to 600 feet maybe longer depending upon the length of the net, then they form a circle, then the boat comes back to shore maybe 100 yards from where they left, then the fishermen get ahold of the line and the nets then they begin to pull on the lines and the nets that carried the buoys and then on the lower lines that carried the sinkers-now those are your two main lines, they didn't reach the net itself because they didn't want to tear it up any more than necessary but those nets would be 6 feet deep and when they would bring them in, sometimes they would bring them in within the center part of the net which would be 25 yards to 50 yards off shore, then you saw what was happening-there was a solid mass of mullet-they continue to pull the nets and as fast as the smelt would get on the beach, there were others who would throw them in boxes and thats where the sightseers would gather. Would they take the fish out of the nets on the shore line with a shovel or by hand-sometimes they'd use pitchforks to bring them out-then they were taken to a wholesaler-there were several wholesalers, now the quicker they got them to the processor the more money they got for the fish-they might end up with 25 or 30 ton load of mullet and within an hour they would be in the processor's hands being processed and scaled. They didn't have refrigeration of that nature-the processor had all kinds of help in scaling the fish-they could scale 5 of those mullet a minute. There were some places on the beach where they used to do the scaling on the beach but it was also done at the processors places in St. Pete. We had a processor here in Gulfport where in the space of 30 minutes they would be in the hands of the processor from the gulf. They were scaled, gutted-there is something in a mullet that I forget now, either the heart or the liver which is a delicacy, probably the roe-as soon as the processor would have them they would dress them out and sort of split them and now they were ready for broiling or smoking-now mullet is very edible no matter how you prepare it, but its especially a gourmet's delight when it is properly smoked.

No, we had a smokehouse down here in Gulfport-and the fishermen would come in with their catch of 2 or 3 tons, it was right out on the pier, about halfway, I think you could find some photographs of the Gulfport pier, the place I'm speaking of now that was the bait house, that was also a smoke house, that was also a fish house-they would smoke possibly one or two tons and they used hickory wood to give it the right flavor and its not a fast process, it took several hours, it takes half a day to properly smoke mullet. The smoke house would sell those in large quantities to hospitals, restaurants and places like that but the individual could go down there and buy as many as you wanted to-they were very inexpensive-I think they were 15¢ a pound, you could buy a whole strip mullet for 20¢-today

you couldn't get a forkful for less than a dollar. To get back to Conrad Bodie, that was a tavern for men only. No, it wasn't restricted, it was a family affair, in other words, you could take your wife in there and it was pretty safe as long as Conrad was in there you were perfectly safe. It was more or less a showplace for all the people of Gulfport-you said because it was called a peanut bar and shells all over the floor-the novelty, the fact that you were sitting there while the peanuts were roasting and you'd say how much longer Conrad, how much longer. He'd replay, oh about another half hour, you just couldn't wait and when that first batch of hot roasted peanuts would come out and you were ready and they were so hot that they'd offend your fingers if you picked them up to crack them but your appetite for hot roasted peanuts would take precedence. People came from all over. Word of mouth is a strange thing-of course the further you'd go away from a point, the more exaggerated the story becomes but of course we had people eating peanuts in Conrad Bodie's that had gone back to Australia, France or Germany and they would tell their friends that there's a place here that people eat peanuts and throw their shells on the floor and it went that way for a year and a half and that became so popular and then peanuts began to fall off and he couldn't get them from his usual sources so Conrad would get in his car and took a truck and go up to Georgia but he was going all the way to Alabama and peanuts were getting harder to get and more expensive and a lot of times he'd come back with just a half a load because that was all he could get-this was all free, he was buying peanuts just to satisfy his customers. So finally it reached a point where the peanuts were not available so at that time he built another tavern on the corner of 22nd Avenue and 49th Street, that was made of concrete block and they tore down the old wooden place and that destroyed the novelty and it no longer had the same drawing power. That became a gas station didn't it. They built that huge gas station on the corner, so the Bodie Tavern came on 49th Avenue just a short distance from 22nd Avenue and today its a very popular place.

Occasionally we have free meals but it was quite common at that time that Friday evening most of the taverns they would serve hot mullet or fried chicken or something like that, but the people that came were not the customers as much as it was that it was people who seldom ever came to the place-they would bring the whole family if there was going to be free food. You and Mr. Bodie were close friends. Yes, we were especially close friends because we could speak a common language, he understood me and I understood him. I respected him for what he was and he respected me for what I was and I think we had a meeting of the minds to that degree-I knew when I was in there and outsiders came in and I got involved, I knew Conrad would be beside me and I knew that the two of us could take on any ten people.

You told me that there was a creek that ran from 22nd Avenue. I had a two story home on 22nd Avenue possibly 5 or 6 blocks from 49th Street, its on the right hand- there was a creek running under the pavement and I think it went past his property leading into the Boca Ciega bay but Conrad and other friends of his would go frogging and I've enjoyed some of the frogs-they were the largest frogs I've ever seen. Didn't you say you went with him also and speared the frogs-yes, I had little experience but I dislike being around anything that crawls and that thing was loaded with snakes and scorpion. You went barefoot. He was part of the group I was speaking about-he was associated with them so long that he adopted some of their customs-that creek was winding around possibly a mile. What did they do, wade through the water to find these creatures. Yes, they carried a long spear, 3 prong spear, but they would use spotlights and that would blind the frogs and it was like shooting fish in a barrel-I would say some of those frogs weighed a pound and a half, because all they used the hind legs and I know when you weighed them so I can't say with positive conviction they weighed as much as a half a pound a saddle-these were only for their personal friends. There is a name for that and I can't think of it, in some states it is outlawed, hasn't it. Spearing frogs at night. I don't particularly know of any situation like that because I had no reason to-I never inquired, I never asked. I know in some areas its against the law -its quite possible but I don't think there's a closed season for bull frogs but if you ever heard them at night you'd never forget the sound. But why were they so plentiful here. Because of the vegetation, because of the food supply, because of the lack of predators. Normally for every living thing there's something out there just waiting for it, but there are a few things that would hurt them, except for man himself with a frog spear. Fox, mink and such animals as that would eat anything. Do you

remember any other experiences with Mr. Bodie. I wouldn't say yes to that because I was traveling, I was covering so many states and sometimes I'd only be home for 2 or 3 weeks out of a year and there were times I would be home for 3 months. You said you were here also when the first bank was built in Gulfport. I was here when they laid the foundation for the first bank. Where is it located. The same place where it is today-that would be on 49th Street and 22nd Avenue, between 22nd and 21st-its name is the Royal Trust. Now it used to be another name but today its the Royal Trust. That bank was built, I would say, in the early 50's. Before that we did all of our banking at the Union Trust in St. Pete-that was on 9th and Central downtown. Our groceries and supplies (lot of bird noise here) Doc Webb-he liked my father very much and Doc Webb was a strange person-every day he would make a tour of his competitors and he would look at their specials and he would go back to his place and he would knock 10% off their special prices-at that time there were few places where you could buy hard liquor-when the competitor would buy 12 cases of Johnny Walker or 12 cases of Jack Daniels, Doc Webb would buy a carload of course and sell them at a reduced <sup>A</sup>ridiculously low price and outsell them. You said that there were no super-markets in Gulfport-we had some form of supermarket, the names escapes me now. Publix and Winn-Dixie were unheard of at that time. There were no supermarkets at that time; there were meat markets and grocery stores.

You mentioned Haley's Meat Market. Now Haleys was a specialist , they were here when I came here in '33. My parents said that if you wanted good meat, that's the place to get it. He imported meat, the finest. He was known all over the area for the finest meat. There was a time when people couldn't buy things like that without going to Haleys. Now, we didn't buy meat at Webbs, we went to Haleys for meats. Of course you know what happened when the dark people began to expand out their area and began to take on more and more, eventually that ruined his business. Where was his store located. His store was located on the south side of 49th Street. Its still there, a beautiful modern place today but at that time it was a wooden structure-its the last place in the world you'd pick for a shopping mart, especially in the meat business but he specializes in meats although he carried many other staple items but today the business has fallen off tremendously.

I don't know if you remember or not but it has to do with the depression which did extend into the 40's. Gulfport even though World War II brought prosperity to big cities, Gulfport still struggled, do you know where they cashed the scrip, or who got money for the scrip that city employes were paid in. Scrip doesn't mean that you're broke, you remember at one time we had what we called wooden nickel-the man in Congress that put that act through, his name was Wooden. Not necessarily-I'm not an authority on our monetary problems but I know the city of Gulfport has remained independent from the city of St. Pete and we are proud of it; now when I address my correspondence it is Gulfport, Florida and not St. Pete. I know that they were in financial difficulty at that time and I wonder if money was backed by the city or county. No, the money was backed by the people-they could have acquired money through bonds, etc., but we had so many things to put it in-when I was first down here, they had septic pools. Your toilet leavings flowed into a septic tank that carried a chemical that reacted and discouraged any solids and then you had drain pipes where septic tanks would drain into a sewer pipe-I remember we had one over on 27th Avenue, occasionally it would block and we would have to dig down and find out what went wrong. It was a pipe that carried the refuse, then you took half of clay shells, you'd lay that over your metal pipe and then you'd put your sod back over it. Now you never sunk those too deep but deep enough to give a flow from your septic tank so that it would flow out into the ground. Would it flow into the street. No, it would go into your back yard. They had professionals who would come by and pump out your septic tank. We had no underground sewage system at all-the first time they began to install the sewage system, they had to tear up the streets to get into your home. I have a pipe out here, everything from the toilet goes through the pipe that goes under that oak tree out there but occasionally the oak tree looking for water, the branches, the roots would get into the openings and plug it-that meant they would have to come out and run a rotorooter. I had 2 or 3 experiences where I would call private companies to come out with a rotorooter and I would find myself in a heap of trouble. The city owns the tank out there that flows into the main sewer system.

end of tape titled 1-B - side #1

Did it have the brass candle holders on each side. I don't know. The motor made steam. I'm trying to locate his son now-he's also a doctor. I called last week-there is a Dr. Roush in the phone book. Evidently his office was just over the line of Gulfport. Yes, it was in St. Petersburg. Yes, it was over the line because I had heard he was one of the first doctors. Do you recall his nurse-I met her this week-I've forgotten her name-she's a volunteer down at the Museum of Science-Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg. You by any chance know Dr. Williams who was a psychiatrist at Bay Palms, did you. No, I didn't-we lived in Gulfport too. He lived on 11th Avenue, South-do you think your brother died as a result of his not getting to the hospital. No he was too seriously ill. During World War I, most ladies were called Ladies in Grey, Grey Ladies. Did you roll bandages and knit. Did you do this at home or did you go to a central location. No, I always had to be home. Did they give you the material to roll these bandages and you took them home. Yes and we used to sew pads for the cancer society and they were cheese cloths. They were protective pads you put on the beds when they were confined to the bed. In the 1920's when you first came to Gulfport to live permanently, they didn't have any drug stores did they. Yes they had

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Side No. 4

I forgotten what did I ask you-do you live in Gulfport. Yes, I do. You were saying you remember the first librarian. I didn't know if she was the first but she was the first I knew. I didn't have much time to go down-I would send my little daughter and she was told to send me something that she knew what I would like-and she would always send me something good and I enjoyed her. Did you ever have any quilting bees. My mother ( ? ). Did you have any days that they counted on every year, like the 4th of July for a big celebration-what were the big holidays. Well, of course there was Christmas and Thanksgiving naturally, Easter. Did they ever have any kind of an Easter parade. Well, yes they did, when my children were big enough to be they used to have it down Williams Park and they'd have a band shell and parade across, but Gulfport itself didn't have any. No I don't think so. No kind of a feast day or cookout or picnic. Oh yes, Labor Day and 4th of July. They usually would have a fish fry. Where would they have it there. Down at the waterfront at the Legion Hall on 49th Street. We had fireworks at night. Do you have any suggestions or anything that you would like to mention or say to the people of Gulfport. No, I can't right now. There's nothing in regards to the city that you might like to say. No, I can't think. Thank you very much.

This is Helen Ross, Mrs. Davis is partially blind and quite deaf, so I did repeat many of the questions. She is also a very cheerful lady completely devoted to her family and her church and I hope this came through in the interview.

Today is 6-1-83 and I am now talking to Stanley Nels Palmer, 2824 51st St. South in Gulfport, telephone #321-8547. I was born 5-23-09 in Charlevoix, Michigan. When I was 6 years old my father took command of the North Manitou Island Coastguard Station which at that time was known as the United States Life Saving Station, and we moved to the island and established our residence there. We were 14 miles from the mainland of Michigan-our closest port was Leland, Michigan. We obtained our food and other necessities from the mainland although the island itself was extremely productive in growing vegetables, fruits and many other things. In 1920 my father was transferred to what was at that time and still is U. S. Life Saving Station in Ludington, Michigan and the Palmer family established their residence there. I went to school there until my 28th birthday in Ludington. My father retired in approximately 1936. My mother and father found that Gulfport was an ideal place to live and many of the members of other coast guard stations and lighthouse stations that my father knew in earlier years established their homes in the Gulfport area so it has become in one sense a colony of people who knew each other from Michigan and many previous years back. Now the details of our experiences in Gulfport which

I understand is our principal concern are maintained in my diaries and in contents of records and diaries that my father maintained and that would include the people who established residence in Gulfport who had been born and raised in Gulfport- and to whom we were close personal friends including the Steinwhiners (?) who lived directly across the street of my parents home. Mrs. Steinwhiner is in her 90th year when I first met her-she was born in and raised in the Gulfport area. She has descendants who could probably have invaluable records of historical memories of her experiences when this part of Florida was practically undeveloped in nearly every sense. There are other things I have been told about but I'm not experienced but I've been told about the very famous 1906 (?) hurricane, how bad it was and many others of the building of the first railroad-Gulfport at that time was called Disston, the man Mr. Disston was very instrumental in developing Gulfport in the early beginnings and I assume there were others who were equally as important or certainly important enough to be memorialized in their contributions to this part of Pinellas County. There are a great many more things I could add concerning our experience since when I first came to Gulfport which was in 1943. My parents had built their home at the present address in 1941 and the home has been maintained throughout their lifetime and is being maintained by myself and Mrs. Palmer for the rest of our lifetime, I hope.

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There are other things I have been told about the very famous 1906 hurricane, how bad it was and many others, the building of the first railroad-Gulfport at that time was called Disston, the man Mr. Disston was very instrumental in developing Gulfport in the early beginnings and I assume there were others who were equally as important or certainly important enough to be memorialized in their contributions to this part of Pinellas county. There are a great many more things I could add concerning our experience since when I first came to Gulfport which was in 1943. My parents had built their home at the present address in 1941 and the home has been maintained throughout their lifetime and is being maintained by myself and Mrs. Palmer for the rest of our lifetime, I hope. There are other incidental details that might be interesting which I have assured Ross that I would attempt to record and deliver to her for whatever value they may have in this project which I think is going to be a wonderful thing for the Gulfport area. There are many things I could add but I would prefer enough time to put them together in proper sequence, have them analyzed and any part that may have some useful purpose can be a matter of the choice of the Gulfport Historical group. I appreciate very much this opportunity of discussing what I know of Gulfport and I hope I will have from time to time as it comes to my attention from records and files and other material that I have maintained throughout these past few years. It has been a real pleasure to discuss this matter with Mrs. Ross and I hope we'll have an opportunity to meet again and go further into more detail.

Could I ask you one question-do you recall why the railroad went to St. Petersburg instead of to Gulfport. As I recall the history and I'm sure you can find records of this, there was more traffic into the downtown area of St. Petersburg. There were more hotels being built in downtown St. Petersburg-it began to build more rapidly than Gulfport and consequently the traffic in rail supplies, raw materials, in foods, etc. lessened in the Gulfport area but continued to grow more in the St. Petersburg area. I do not recall the year that the Disston railroad was discontinued. The trolley car rails came later and they were the main source of traffic to those who did not have other transportation when I was here during the early 40's and into the 50's. The trolley cars gave way to the automobiles as more people developed this area and established residences in this area. At that time it was a wonderful experience to ride the Pinellas county trolley arrangements although it was slow, tedious and sometimes it seemed it would take forever just to go just a short distance but this is something we could comment on at another opportunity.

You will make a tape for me. I will, I will be glad to record as much as I can. Now you will find many people who still remember Gulfport and St. Petersburg and Pinellas county many years before I ever heard of it. You did mention Mrs. Steinwinter. I just want to make sure we get on with what we were talking about. Mrs. Steinwinter is one of the original families in the Gulfport area and they established their home here way back in the mid-80's. I knew her in 1941 and at that time she was 90 years old and if she was born here, it is just a matter of subtracting 90 from 41 and it would give you some idea. She could have told us how long it took her to go to Tampa. I remember her telling us because she was a very dear friend of my parents and her daughter was a very dear friend of my parents as well, and we spent many hours listening to the stories of Mrs. Steinwinter would tell of making the trip from Gulfport to the Tampa area, which was more or less a horse and wagon ordeal, the wagon being used to take certain supplies over and of course to bring back other supplies from the Tampa area.

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At that time it was necessary being no bridges and any other connections between the St. Petersburg side and the Tampa side, it was necessary to go entirely around the gulf area by land. They would go up Tampa Bay and if the bridge was still standing they would get across. Which bridge was that. The bridge they would have to cross was Little Rivers and so forth down-there was no communication of any kind to let you know that a bridge was no longer there-it was there yesterday but the storm or high winds would take them out. It was strictly a matter of horse and wagon or horse and buggy, or by sailboat. I could recall many other stories that Mrs. Steinwinter told me of experiences concerning Gulfport that I shall remember as long as I live-the storm, the hurricane of 1906, it was devastating-if we were to have had Gulfport as it is today and were to encounter such a storm that was incurred in 1906, there wouldn't be much of Gulfport to talk about. The waters gushed and rushed well over 22nd Avenue way beyond 22nd Avenue-at that streets were not laid out or numbered to describe how far the high tides and winds go inland but they did go a long long way. Do you think all the palmetto groves here and the root system was what actually preserved the land. I believe the mangrove and the growths we had at that time had a considerable effect on retaining the moisture in the land.

What is today Tyrone triangle at the time I was here and for a number of years to follow, Tyrone Boulevard was the place we avoided because of the ruts, broken concrete, tar, it was very very detrimental to drivers trucks to go that road-they had an S turn where the railroad crosses and many cars failed to make that turn and of course they would end up on the railroad tracks and the ditches-that was all at that time, the Tyrone Triangle was mangrove, where Sears Roebuck and Arbys and other stores exist today in the 1940-50 and 60's were mangrove. There were very few ways one could get to Gandy (?) Bay Pine hospital. We'd go with Pinellas Park to the main street but the main street north, the sand ruled (?) that was the main street-it ran north and south thru the Pinellas Park area-at that time Pinellas Park had a very limited number of businesses. It had a large number of house trailers, people that could not afford something more elaborate would bring their trailers down and live in it-the homes followed later. This did not take place until into the 1960's when Pinellas Park began to develop and as the new roads were cut there it became of course an open invitation for new shopping centers and new condominiums and tall buildings and other buildings that began to develop but when looking at photographs of the 50's and 60's would show that there was little there but mangrove, snakes, no one would think of walking off the main road at all.

Pinellas  
Bay  
Was Bay Pines hospital there. Bay Pines was there when I arrived in '43 it was the most beautiful structure I've ever seen-my father spent the last 2 years of his life at Bay Pines-he died at Bay Pines in 1957. Now I thought that was strictly for the Army. No, that was for those who served in military services during wartime and certainly my father went thru World War I, but of course he was retired at the

time of World War II. He had the highest privileges. Now, my husband's uncle was in the submarine service during the war in 1912 but he had to go all the way over to McDill Air Force base in order to be treated as an outpatient. Well, I don't believe McDill was there at that time. This was in the 1960's. I thought you were speaking of an earlier time. In 1960 he couldn't go to Bay Pines-well, that is quite possible-I didn't know they had a hospital at McDill. I guess they called it an infirmary there. They had military doctors and nurses. I did a considerable amount of work at McDill Air Force base when the jets were first introduced. The training of the pilots, a lot of it was done at McDill-at that time it was really in a sad state of deterioration. The buildings were wooden structures-the barracks were wooden structures. I believe that there are many families that I can remember who are so much better acquainted with the history of Gulfport than I myself. I would like to make one reference, Mr. Conrad Beaudy is a very dear friend and I believe he's still alive-he is completely blind, but Conrad was a builder of what used to be called the blinker-he was the one who in the 50's started bringing in peanuts for a peanut roaster and he would serve free peanuts to customers who cracked the shells and wonder what to do with the shells and he suggested why not just throw them on the floor and over a period of not too much time there were several inches of peanut shells on the floor but all visitors who came into this area heard about the house of peanut shells and that is possibly one of the most memorable memories that I ever had. Do you know where it was located. Yes ma'am-at the corner of 22nd Avenue and 49th Street which now on the right hand side is a large gas station. Now, Conrad Beaudy's peanut shell bar-he only served beer and wine was a small building that was just 150 feet from the corner of 49th Street. Yes, it was more like a tavern.

It was one of the very few taverns they had in this area-the first tavern that could sell hard liquor was located on Boca Ciega bay in Gulfport-at that time the liquor license allocations were based on population that required a certain population before a liquor license could be granted.

the end