

Interviewer's tape no.: 4[(1+2)-1]Q

NAFOH Accession no.: 991.1

Interviewer: John Bannon

Address: 25 Wildwood Blvd. Portland, Me. 04110

Interviewee: Capt. Erland Quinn

Address: Sea St., Camden, Me.

Place of interview: Capt. Quinn's home address Date: July 11, 1975

Other people present:

Equipment used: Uher 4000 Report-L

Tape: Brand: Ampex 331 Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 3 3/4

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): all (Side 2): all

Brief description of contents: Biographical data on Erland Quinn. Description of Butter Island resort, and the Harriman brothers who ran the resort. Extensive information about Eagle Island. Mention of Hardie family from Bear Island.

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	011		BEGIN SIDE 1, Erland Quinn interview #1.
	049		I choose to call <u>Mr. Quinn</u> "Captain". Captain born February 23, 1901. Born in Penobscot Maine, back to Eagle Island at age of two weeks. Lived on Eagle Island until moving to Camden in December 1941. Father's name: <u>John H. Quinn</u> , Mother's name: <u>Harriet Littlefield</u> . Father from Eagle Island, mother from Penobscot, Maine. Mother worked at Quinn boarding house, run by <u>Erland Quinn's</u> father, as a table girl. Mother previously ran a knitting machine and went to Medway, Mass to work in hat factory in the 1890's--1894 or 1895. Father's occupations: farmer, fisherman, boatbuilder, operator of boarding house.
	138		Brief description of development of Butter Island resort, run by <u>Harriman brothers</u> ; why the Butter Island resort failed; routes of Easter steamship Company in the Eagle Island area. Over-advertisement by Butter Island resort promoters--early departures by disappointed vacationers. Eagle Island absorbed exodus from Butter Island. Father dies May, 22 1917 when Captain would have graduated from eighth grade.
	242		<u>Harriman brothers</u> first came to Butter Island circa 1900. A brief character sketch of <u>George and Emery Harriman</u> . Some history of Butter Island previous to coming of <u>Harrimans</u> . Present wife was born in Eagle Island Lighthouse. Wife's name before marriage was <u>Edith Ball</u> . Captain was married at age 27; first wife's name before marriage was <u>Beulah Allen</u> --reasons for their separ-
	379		

*Butter Is.
Medway, Mass.
Eagle Is.
Penobscot County*

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	482		<p>ation. Usual age for marriage in those days was approx. 24-25; this did not change. Island produced mostly unmarried individuals due to lack of partners and interrelatedness of inhabitants (this is Eagle Island being talked about). Wife's occupations was as a trained nurse. Captain had 4 children who were raised on island until the oldest entered high school at Camden. Captain cannot remember time when there were not summer people on Eagle Island--the <u>Quinn</u> boarding house was where father and mother met. Most summerpeople from Worcester and Brookline, Mass., others from Philadelphia or New York. People from Worcester knew each other, related through marriage. <u>Richard Hammond</u>, owner of Hammond Reed Organ Co., came to Eagle Island, lived in a Hodgden Portable House (or cottage). Summer houses were built in 1906 (two cottages). <u>Jack Bradley</u>, who manufactured Pullman Railroad cars, was also on Eagle Island in the summer. The regular group of summerpeople became close-knit, came year after year, disliked other summerpeople who were "strangers", no differences in personality based on home locality in the "regular group".</p> <p>[Voices of wife and friend in other room]</p> <p>Summer people first came to Butter Island as far as <u>Captain</u> knows, although people did come to Deer Isle and Islesboro at about the same time. <u>Captain</u> says there were no boarding facilities on Hog Island. [car passes]</p>
	568		<p>On Eagle Island, when <u>Captain</u> was young, there were 8 families: <u>Quinn</u>, <u>Raynes</u>, <u>Brown</u>, <u>Carver</u>, were the only family names beside that of the lighthouse keeper, which would periodically change. All the other family names were derived from marriages to <u>Quinn</u> girls. People made livings on Eagle Island by farming and fishing until <u>John Quinn</u> entered the boarding house business. Mostly the farming was subsistence farming, growing potatoes and vegetables. Fishing was done in the fall, the fish split and dried, eaten all winter. When weather became cool a hog was butchered, everyone had a cow. Most people were both farmers and fisherman of necessity. In the winter came scallop fishing--scallop fishing is described. A day's catch of scallops might be 10-15 bushels in the shell.</p> <p>[Captain rustles a book cover.]</p> <p><u>John Quinn</u> hired island people as carpenters on the boarding house buildings, and island people occasionally sold handicrafts to summerpeople. Otherwise the boarding house had little impact on island economy.</p> <p>[voices from kitchen]</p>
	556		

*Hog Is.
Islesboro
Deer Isle
New York
Philadelphia
Brookline, Mass.
Worcester, Mass.
Eagle Is.
Camden*

997 1

997 2

9910005

Interviewer's tape #

NAFOH Accession #

Catalog pg. # 3

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684			<p>Eagle Islanders caught herring in 5 fish weirs. When a man did not on the land to which the weir was attached, he paid the land owner a few dollars for the privilege of fishing there. Transportation consisted primarily of walking when on the island--Eagle Island dimensions given.</p>
000			<p>END SIDE 1, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW #1 BEGIN SIDE 2, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW #1</p>
109			<p>Water transportation originally by row and sail, 16 ft. boats, these boats described. These boats were built on the island. A story of the loss of two relatives at sea.</p> <p>The boats of summer people described--yachts; when summer prople began to think them to expensive to keep, the yachts were disposed of and local people would carry the summerpeople around the islands. Summerpeople began to become fewer in number circa 1930 when the automobile became universally popular, and at the same time the bay steamers were forced to stop running for lack of business. The boarding house also began to fail at this time--the departure of the summerpeople from the boarding house described.</p> <p><u>Captain's</u> occupations in youth: scallop and trawl fishing. Trawl fishing was done in family groups, fishing trips lasting as much as a week. Fish were split and dried in the Fall, after it was too cold for flies, so that the fish did not need to be heavily preserved with salt. Islanders clammed and shot coot; a hog would be killed for bacon and ham, and for pork and pork by-products used in baked beans (an island staple). Every farm had hens, and roosters were eaten on special occasions. Some farm products were sold on the mainland. These products were mostly sold for money, but occasionally were traded for items such as cereals, flour, sugar, spices, and chocolate bars. Trading took place in Deer Isle or Camden (the latter mostly after the advent of power boats perhaps once in two weeks. One person would generally fetch the groceries of everyone on the island. [<u>car passes</u>]</p>
224			<p><u>John Quinn</u> owned one of the first motorboats, which went 6 or 7 mph. Motorboats received enthusiastically, although how engines worked was little understood. If an engine malfunctioned it would have to be towed to Camden. <u>Captain's</u> half-brother built the first motor boat to appear on Eagle Island around 1904-1906. Captain describes the significance of boat houses at Eagle Island residences. [<u>refers to long photo of Eagle Island boarding house</u>]</p>

*Eagle Is.
 Deer Isle
 Camden*

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	362		<p>There were great festivities at Eagle Island Boarding House on Fourth of July involving summerpeople and people from the surrounding mainland.</p> <p>Boarding house was called "the Hotel"; it contained 8 bedrooms, laundry, dining room. (Summerpeople's houses were generally called "cottages".) There was also an additional rooming house not in that picture. At one time the Hotel was feeding 60 guests. The Hotel was built by <u>Captain's</u> great grandfather as a Quinn homestead, but converted to Hotel when the Butter Island resort became fairly large. During a season the Hotel would house from 28 to 40 people, these numbers including occupants of private cottages. In the early days (<u>Captain's</u> youth it was generally the case that visitors would stay the entire season, but this has since changed (no clear date).</p>
	439		<p>A contractor named <u>Ben Smith</u> built two of the summerpeople's cottages--none of the cottages; otherwise the builders would need to be boarded on the island.</p> <p>When an islander built a house, he built it himself with the help of his neighbors.--<u>Captain</u> helped build a house as a boy, was "thrilled to do it." Materials for the houses were obtained in Deer Isle or Camden. The average island house contained 3 bedrooms, kitchen, dining room-living room. Families were generally large--grandfather and great grandfather of <u>Captain</u> both had family of 13. There was a great deal of sickness, and many children died of "consumption" or tuberculosis. Families became smaller, perhaps in connection with an increase in education. If families lost children new births rather than adoption (generally) would make up for the loss.</p>
	527		<p>[tape shows signs of damage here]</p>
	612		<p>The <u>Hardie</u> family from Bear Island (now owned by <u>Buckminster Fuller</u>) boarded children on Eagle Island school.</p>
	666		<p>END OF SIDE 2, (Sides 1 & 2), END <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW # 1</p>

of tape

*Bear Is.
Eagle Is.
Butter Is.
Deer Isle
Camden*

9910008

Interviewer's tape no.: 5 [(1+2)-2]Q

NAFOH Accession no.: 991.2

Interviewer: John Bannon

Address: 25 Wildwood Blvd, Portland, Me. 04110

Interviewee: Erland Quinn

Address: Sea Street, Camden, Maine

Place of interview: Quinn residence

Date: July 15, 1975

Other people present: None

Equipment used: UHER 4000 REPORT - L

Tape: Brand: Ampex 331 Size reel: 5 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 3 3/4

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): all (Side 2): all

Brief description of contents: Stories about Dr. Collins of Pickering's Island. Mention of Bradbury's Island and weir fishing at Beach Island. Various articles concerning Eagle Island. Descriptions of Butter Island resort and reasons for its decline. Mr. Quinn's role in tearing down Casino on Butter Island.

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Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	010		<p>BEGIN SIDE 1, <u>ERLAND QUINN INTERVIEW #2</u></p> <p>Stories about <u>Dr. Collins</u> of Pickering's Island--reluctant female guests, "a regular jail." The house of <u>Dr. Collins</u> apparently no longer exists. There was an osprey's nest on the chimney of this house. Island people often want to Pickering's Island to pick berries. All the islands in the area were once settled, had farms. Blue heron used to nest on Bradbury's Island, but do not now. Both Pickering's and Bradbury's Islands were once pulped, contained dense woods. <u>John Quinn</u> pasture sheep on Bradbury's island, having obtained the permission of the owner of the island. Sheep were desirable for keeping down bushes. <u>John Quinn</u> owned half of Beach Island, along with <u>Uncle Fred CARVER</u>, who also owned Hog and Pond Islands, up until about 1910. In the 1920's Beach Island was bought by a man from Boston; <u>Rupert Howard</u> was caretaker there. There were fish weirs on Beach Island, owned by the man from Boston, but islanders were hired to man them. <u>Captain's</u> father died before two weirs were completed on Eagle Island, and <u>Captain</u> had to quit school just before his eighth grade graduation to complete the weirs; he finished school the following term. A day's catch in the weirs could vary from 0 to 100 bushels, the catch stored alive in a "keep pound" until a number large enough to require a sardine carrier to pick them up. The sardine carriers</p>

*Boston
 Pond Is.
 Hog Is.
 Bradbury's Is.
 Pickering's Is.
 Beach Is.*

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
<p>Thomaston Eagle Is. Butter Is. Eastport Stonington Southwest Harbor Castine Lubec</p>			<p>were from Stonington and Southwest Harbor, also Castine and Brookline, even Lubec and Eastport.</p> <p><u>Uncle Edwin Howard</u> was caretaker on Butter Island. <u>Captain</u>, and <u>Uncle Edwin's</u> sons would go to Butter Island on the weekends, hunting duck, coot, merganser. (We look at a series of pictures from Butter Island). [<u>Captain refers to photo on Butter Island wharf</u>] Summerpeople dressed more expensively than the islanders, wore different colors of clothing than island people wore. Summer people usually gave away clothing when they left in the summer--they simply didn't want the clothes any longer, and could afford to buy more. Summerpeople brought large amounts of luggage, large trunks. <u>Captain</u> speaks of lugging the trunks up the stairs of the <u>Hotel</u> on Eagle Island. The only hired help the summerpeople would bring would be chauffeur, who was treated "almost like one of the family." Chauffeurs would bring their families and their children would play with island children, also children of summerpeople--one child of a summerperson chose to live in Maine year-round at Thomaston.</p> <p>Summerpeople used to put on dances in the (Eagle) Island hall, and the Sewing Circle would sell hand-made items to the summerpeople at a summer fair. One old lady made braided rugs. The proceeds of the fair went to paying for the Building of the new schoolhouse on Eagle Island, as did money raised by ice cream socials.</p> <p>For entertainment the islanders mostly played games and cards, and during the winter families would often travel to another home on the island for card games.</p> <p>There was little local musical talent--a Victrola mostly supplied the music and was carried from house to house. Live music consisted of fiddling. The summerpeople played golf and tennis for entertainment, also bridge and other card games. Eagle Island had its own tennis court, as did Butter Island. <u>Captain</u> relates how the tennis courts were set up. Island people were too busy during the summer to entertain, but occasionally summerpeople would invite islanders to their cottages to play cards--there was not much mingling, however. There was quite a bit of drinking on the island on the part of the summerpeople, who brought liquor with them in often large quantities. There was not much drinking by native islanders because they could not afford liquor. Summer people would sometimes offer</p>

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			<p>islanders drinks, but the two groups seldom mixed in this way. The location of afternoon cocktails for the summerpeople would circulate daily from cottage to cottage. [dogs bark]</p> <p>END SIDE 1, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW #2</p> <p>Begin side 2, <u>Erland Quinn</u> Interview #2</p> <p>[dogs bark]</p> <p>Captain tells about the <u>Harrimans</u>, "swimmingpool" on Butter Island, which was actually a duck pond, and a 9-hole golf course which was basically a pasture. Eagle Island had a conventional golf course which was used by the native islanders on Sundays. Occasionally the summerpeople would host golf tournaments in which the islanders participated. In Spring and Fall, when the summerpeople were not present, golf was the main attraction for islanders on Eagle, and people from North Haven would sometimes come to play. There were seldom visitors to Eagle Island who were not summerpeople, and those that came were generally from Deer Isle or Hog Island--the longest distance such visitors would travel would be about 4 miles.</p> <p>Steamers to Eagle Island departed from Rockland, but were discontinued after Butter Island failed. [Captain strikes bed where mike is placed.]</p> <p><u>Captain</u> assisted in tearing down Butter Island "Casino" in 1923 or 24 when <u>Mrs. Emery Harriman</u> remarried after husband's death and new husband wished to dispose of property. <u>Ed Howard</u> bought the Casino. Description of CASINO interior. How water was supplied to the Casino. A "hot air" engine, invented by <u>Emery Harriman</u>, was used to pump water uphill. [refers to photo]</p> <p>END SIDE 2, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW #2</p> <p>CONTINUED ON TAPE 6 [(3)-2, (3)-1]QR</p>

Rockland
Deer Is.
North Haven
Butter Is.
Eagle Is.

9910012

Interviewer's tape no.: 6 [(3)-2, (3)-1] NAFOH Accession no.: 991.3

Interviewer: John Bannon

Address: 25 Wildwood Blvd, Portland, Me 04330

Interviewee: Erland Quinn

Address: Sea St., Camden, Maine

Place of interview: Quinn Residence Date: July 15, 1975

Other people present: No one

Equipment used: UHER 4000 REPORT -L

Tape: Brand: Ampex 331 Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 3 3/4

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): all (Side 2): none

Brief description of contents: Description of incident during tearing down of Casino, where oxygen almost depleted in room.

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010			BEGIN SIDE 1, ERLAND QUINN INTERVIEW #2
152			Description of an incident while tearing down the Casino, where tight seal of the rooms caused a fire to exhaust oxygen in one room. END SIDE 1, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW# 2 ENDS

Interviewer's tape no.: 10 [(1+2)-3]Q NAFOH Accession no.: 991.4
 Interviewer: John Bannon Address: 25 Wildwood Blvd, Portland, Me.
 Interviewee: Erland Quinn Address: Sea St., Camden, Me.
 Place of interview: Quinn residence Date: July 22, 1975
 Other people present: Bob and Helene Quinn, a granddaughter of Mr. Quinn.
 Equipment used: UHER 4000 REPORT - L
 Tape: Brand: Scotch 211 Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 3 3/4
 Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of tape used: (Side 1): all (Side 2): 3/4

Brief description of contents: Stories concerning "Uncle Fred" Carver; and Earl Brown. Hunting of mink on islands surrounding Eagle Island. The pasturing of sheep on Bradbury's island. A group of Mormons on Bear Island who awaited the end of the world. Grazing sheep on Great Spruce Head Island; dealing with sickness on the islands; plans to Harvest ice on Butter Island; first cars on Eagle Island; description of early powerboats; water activities of summerpeople; newspapers on Eagle Island.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			<p>[Erland smooths couch]</p> <p>Stories and factual information about <u>Uncle Fred Carver</u>: occupations, physical characteristics, cooperation with the <u>Quinn family</u>, his personality.</p> <p>[Bob and Helene Quinn arrive]</p> <p>Description of the raising of a sunken boat.</p> <p>[car passes]</p> <p><u>Earl Brown</u> brings a crow home for his wife <u>Laura</u> to cook. How his brother <u>Bonney</u> skinned mice and kept their skins.</p> <p>Description of hunting of mink in the islands.</p> <p>[worm crawls up interviewer's shoulder]</p> <p>Description of Bradbury's Island--wild pastureland and woods; flocks of sheep grazed there--owned by <u>John H. Quinn</u>.</p> <p>[truck passes]</p>

Bradbury's Is.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			<p>Bear Island--early inhabitants , a group of Mormons who went there to await the end of the world, and their dissolution when the world "carried on". Purchase of the island by the <u>Fullers</u> and <u>Kings</u> in 1905.</p> <p>Great Spruce Head Island--<u>John Quinn</u> grazed sheep there before it was purchased by <u>Porters</u>. Tells of removing sheep in boats.</p> <p>Most people in those days died young, often as children. Description of how the sick were cared for on the island, mention of home remedies.</p> <p>END OF SIDE 1, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW#3</p> <p>BEGIN SIDE 2, <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW #3</p> <p>Butter Island--sold to <u>Harrimans</u> by <u>Al Eals</u> (spelling uncertain) <u>Eals'</u> plan to harvest ice at Butter Island; description of local ice industry.</p> <p>[<u>car passes</u>]</p> <p>Description of first car(s) on Eagle Island.</p> <p>Description of first power boats: naphtha engines, speed of early power boats, description of naphtha, distrust of power boats, accidents with emissions of carbon monoxide.</p> <p>Island people used to provide water transportation for summer people. Water activities of summer-people.</p> <p>Newspapers on Eagle Island.</p> <p>END SIDE 2, END <u>ERLAND QUINN</u> INTERVIEW #3</p>

*Eagle Is.
Butter Is.
Great Spruce Head Is.
Bear Is.*