

Interviewer's tape no.: OW.1A

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Interviewer: Hugh French

Address: 16 Water St., Eastport, Me. 04631

Interviewee: Oscar Whalen

Address: Key St., Eastport, Me., 04631

Place of interview: Oscar Whalen's Date: May 31, 1980

home, Key St., Eastport, Me.
Other people present: "Izzy" Feltenstien briefly comes in.

Equipment used: Channel Master Cassette Model PC6765A

Tape: Brand: -- Size reel: 7" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 3 3/4 ips

Cassette: Brand: Concertape ~~XXX~~/C-60/~~XXX~~

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Brief description of contents: Place names of Eastport, Le Baron Cooke, Caleb Huston, U.S. Treat, Dougal Anderson, fire of 1886 at Eastport, Passamaquoddy Hotel, Peavey Library; Eastport waterfront, 1900-1920; descriptions, conditions, its life, canadian element. History of sardine industry at Eastport, 1898-1930's. SeaCoast Canning Co., and Maine ~~sardine~~ Sardine Cooperative.

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| | 023 | | <u>[Beginning of Side One]</u> |
| | | | <u>[Introductory Remarks]</u> |
| | | 0031 | I've heard of place in Eastport called |
| | | | Majorville. It was part of western end of Key |
| | | | street, now called Ray St; it included lands |
| | | | west of Broadway [avenue] which is also west |
| | | | of Chapel St., formerly known as Accommodation |
| | | | St. Majorville is west of Chapel St. along |
| | | | Key St. It is section [of Key St.?] from Broadway |
| | | | towards the County Road. It was not just along |
| | | | Key St., but areas north and south of street; |
| | | | was a block that extended towards County Road. |
| | | | Majorville comes from some major who lived |
| | | | in that area. I can't recall name now. I never |
| | | | heard of a Major Mr Newcomb. Mr Heard of a |
| | | | <u>Colonel Everett E. MrNewcomb.</u> |

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Eastport
Majorville

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| | | | <p>[in response to my question asking of a <u>where</u> major <u>Newcomb</u> or a <u>Newcomb</u> living <u>by</u> <u>Bart Scott</u> lives. <u>short</u> (Bart lives lives in house at end of small lane lane, on right side; the lane begins on southern side of Key St., just east of Brighton Avenue]</p> <p>Yes, I used to live there with my aunt, <u>Mrs. Anna L. Newcomb</u>. He <u>He</u> [<u>Col. Everett Newcomb</u>?] had to be major before colonel. <u>Col. Edward E. Newcomb</u> lived where <u>Bart Scott</u> lives now. He was adjunct general of State of Maine, commander of volunteer regiment of the State of Maine about the time of the Civil War, no, Spanish-American War.</p> <p>Records show was <u>John Shackford</u>, one of early settlers of Eastport. He had about 4-5 sons. Shack Shackford Head and Shackford Street [<u>both in Eastport</u>] were named for the family. You live in the old Shackford home [<u>southwest corner of Water and Shackford St.</u>]. I've lost it that, if Majorville was named for a <u>Shackford</u>.</p> <p><u>LeBaron Cooke</u> [<u>born in Eastport in 1883, died in Boston, in 1939; he was a writer and poet, and lived most of his life in Boston, coming back to Eastport in his early and middle years, summers</u>]. was about 1920-25. He came here summers and spent some time. Most of his time, he lived in Boston. This was about 1915-1920. He wrote poems that appeared in the <u>Eastport Sentinel</u> [<u>weekly newspaper</u>]</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Majorville</i> <i>Eastport</i> <i>Boston</i></p> |

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| | | | <p>of Eastport, ran from 1818 to 1953-54]. He didn't mean any anything to me, a face that went by. I didn't have any personal friendship with him. He was great pal of Cecil Greenlaw Greenlaw [a photographer of Eastport, I believe from the 1920's to 1950's or so. He was a very fine photographer. I I don't know when he died. His wife, Sally, still lives in Eastport.] and Will Beale [a writer from Eastport of this century; likely died in the 1950's or so, maybe 1960 early 1960's. Among other books he wrote, Ex Who Eat Up My People, Frontier of the Deep, and for children: Binky, and Seapiece. Most can be found in Eastport libraries], both of Eastport.</p> |
| | 233 | 0116 | <p>_____ many Cook families here. Whether he was one of them, I don't know. No [I don't know if he was born in Eastport?]</p> <p>[Isadore "Izzy" Feltenstein of Eastport comes in and leaves Oscar's mail with him.]</p> <p>I've heard of a Caleb Huston. [a shipbuilder of Eastport who died about 1884 or so. He built many fine vessels. His shipyard was at Huston's Cove on the eastern side side of Moose Island and separating partly South End End from the rest of Eastport] He was a shipbuilder at in Huston's Cove, by what we called Sodom Bridge, was South End Bridge [filled in in the 1930's or early 1940's was on Middle St., between South and Battery</p> |

Sodom
South End
Eastport
HUSTON'S Cove
Moose Island

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| | | | <p><u>Sts. X Huston's Cove is on the east side of the bridge.]</u> He lived in house <u>William E. Buck</u> long lived lived in, later occupied occupied by <u>Sidney Farris</u>[?sp] who built house next to it. Last I knew, the house was was occupied by <u>Pameter</u>[?sp], who sold to ^{Jimmy}<u>Lowe</u>[?sp] who works at the <u>Bayview</u> garage <u>on Washington St., Eastport</u> just west of the Post Office].</p> <p><u>Caleb</u> built ships in <u>Shackford's Cove</u> [earlier name for <u>Huston's Cove</u>] by South End bridge, right right off the Jacobson ^{Argenta} <u>Jacobson</u> factory [now the <u>Argenta</u> factory on Sea St. at the mouth of the cove on the north side] He had daughter, <u>Hannah Huston</u>, Martin ^{briefly.} [Tape recorder turned turned off Telephone rang.] <u>Hannah Huston Martin</u> lived where <u>Hal Beckett</u> lived for years, on corner [northeast] corner of Key Key and Green streets, now occupied by <u>David Turner</u> as a residence.</p> <p>As I recall ^{a Huston,} him was big powerful man, weighed 250. This was <u>Caleb</u> or his son. Did he have son [Yes, <u>George Huston</u>]. This wasn't <u>George</u>. I recall this was <u>Caleb</u>.</p> <p>My father, mother told me of the <u>Hustons</u>, how they built vessels in the dock; <u>Huston's Cove</u> they called it, after <u>Caleb Huston</u> or his father.</p> <p>I recall <u>Hannah Huston Martin</u>, for she lived right across street from home. That's likely was ^{Eastport} <u>Huston's Cove</u> ^{South End} <u>Shackford's Cove</u></p> |

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| | 329 | | <p>where I saw her father. I don't recall any of <u>Huston's</u> relatives still alive in Eastport. I may have been confused with <u>George[Huston]</u> the son. <u>[mistaking him for Caleb?]</u> All depend on the dates. I do recall a <u>Huston</u>, a shipbuilder, big, all muscle, prizefighter. I either mixed athis up with <u>George</u>, or that was <u>Caleb</u>. They were shipbuilders in Huston's Cove. Was way they pulled vessels up I recall as a kid, on the south bank <u>[of the cove]</u>. They had ungodly big house. <u>[corner of KeyKey and Green Sts. or one <u>William E. Buck</u> lived in?]</u></p> <p>I couldn't tell you about ship they built, the <u>GrayFeather</u>.</p> <p>Have you looked in <u>[William Kilby's]</u> History of Eastport <u>[and Passamaquoddy, 1888?]</u> <u>[Yes I have, but not much there]</u> <u>[I ask if <u>Oscar</u> knows anyone or their parents living in Eastport who may have been associated with the Hustons]</u> Hal <u>Beckett</u> lived in house he bought from <u>Hannah Huston Martin</u>, Mrs. <u>Charles E. Martin</u>.</p> <p>I've only heard of a <u>U.S. Treat</u> in connection with <u>Treat's Island</u> <u>[an island lying between Eastport, Moose Island to the north and Lubec, Maine to the south]</u></p> <p>I recall <u>Dougal Anderson</u>: tall, thin, fragile looking, sort of humpbacked, with little pointed moustache. He always wore</p> |
| 0222 | | | <p style="text-align: right;"> <u>Huston's Co</u> <u>Eastport</u> <u>Passamaquoddy</u> </p> |

Treat's Island
Lubec Moose Island

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| | | | <p>was soft hat, and was steel rimmed glasses, spectacles they called them. Good fellow, very quiet, was spoken. I've never heard story of Dougal painting on South End bridge; sophisticated lady was from Boston perhaps came and looked at his work; and she said he should go to the art school in Boston, for he was talented; to which <u>Dougal</u> replied, he couldn't for he taught at the school for two years.</p> <p>432</p> <p>Fire of 1886 at Eastport started in fish plant where Jacobson plant [<u>the Argenta REE (?sp) plant</u>] now is [<u>on the the southern end of Sea St.</u>]. I don't know whether fish they were smoking caught fire or not. My father said it [<u>the fire</u>] was swept up the whole length [<u>of Water St.</u>] and stopped at <u>Johnny RPike's</u> house where <u>John Grady</u> lives now [<u>northwest corner of Adams and Water Sts.</u>]. Swept whole length through there. They had inadequate fire fighting equipment. When it [<u>the fire</u>] stuck factories was soaked with fish oil, there was no stopping it. They tried tried to keep it on the water side, so it wouldn't spread up this way way [<u>to the west of Water St.</u> where most of the residence of the central part of town are.]</p> <p>My mother said how near this house they came up and filled the yards with goods from houses near Water St. She said it was devilish for</p> <p style="text-align: right;">South End Boston</p> |

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| | | | <p>other people xxxx stole them [the goods] You'd bring your favorite xxxxmahogany table from Water St. house ^{up} in her yard here. She'd notice that it would be gone pretty quick. Just disappear. Some devils xxxx had seen it and walked off with it. Everyone else running to watch fire, getting their stuff together.</p> <p>They Rixx stopped fire at Adams street where are fewer houses and they could handle it [the fire.] On Water St., where [buildings] close together--those factories--they couldn't stop it, xxx spread too fast from one to the other.</p> <p>In Public Library [in Eastport] is picture of Passamaquoddy House, big hotel. [Hotel stood on site of the present Peavey Library, burned in the Fire of 1886. Northwest corner of ^{Key} kay and Water Sts.] After hotel burned down, the steamship company that owned it wouldn't rebuild it because the railroad was coming in and ruining their patronage. In old days, farmers had to drive in with their horses, and put up at Passamaquoddy House, and take the boat--river boat take them to Calais, Maine; xxx steamer--larger boat would take them to St. John. [New Brunswick], or Portland or Boston, or New York. That was their [hotel's] business. When boats returned, they'd go in there [hotel] and get word up to their relatives in Perry, or Pembroke [both of Maine] to get them.</p> |

Perry Boston Eastport
Pembroke New York City Calais
Portland St John NB

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| | | 0335 | <p>Have to hang about there because no telephone, til they came. When railroad came, wiped out all this; so they wouldn't rebuild the Passamaquoddy Passamaquoddy [the land?] House; They gave it ^{to} group of citizens. Peavey built the library [Peavey Memorial Library]. He said we'd give you the library ^{if} you find the lot. They got lot from steamship company _____ lot.</p> <p>I never heard story of ^{older} woman knitting by window in house across ^{Key} street ^{from} present library [then the ^{site of} Passamaquoddy Hotel. House would be southwest corner corner of ^{Key} Key and Water Sts through the fire of 1886 which which burned the nearby Passamaquoddy Hotel. [house I think was once called the Kelly house, was once a boarding house as well I believe] I didn't know the Kellys lived in the house. As far back as I recall it was Shields [who lived in the house house] Catherine [?sp] Shields owned owned house about 1900. I don't know who owned it before that, perhaps Kellys.</p> <p>Biggest change of waterfront between earliest I can recall and now, was waterfront was continuous string of wharves, and passageways leading leading from wharf to wharf. You didn't have to come up to Water Water St. You could start where Jacobson ^{wharf} or Clark wharf is [southern end of Sea St. Clark had a large sardine sardine factory there.</p> |

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| | | | <p>I believe Jacobson is now the Argenta Argenta (?sp) plant] and walk on alleyways or right of ways to get from from wharf to wharf, up to where go down to breakwater now. You can't see any of them [now]. They were behind the Wilbor Theater [on east side of Water St., near Boynton St., now in the process of being taken down], back of the Pike and Kilby Store, the Atwood Store, those stores there [running south from Theater on east side of Water St.], the ^{down back of what was} the Cherry store, the Jack Frost store [both gone], way down back down to the the Hefferon store [?sp] store [I'm not sure where this was, but perhaps perhaps near Bank Square where Sea, Water and Dana Sts. meet, for the stores Oscar mentions up to now have been in their order south of the Wilbor theater.] ^{Went} Across there, was the Mabee wharf, down to the Milliken wharf, ^{went on} to the Paine wharf, the ^{what's now the} can company [American Can Company plant on north end of Sea St., now the Mearl used and owned by the Mearl Mearl Corp.] or the Mearl Corp. Corp., then came to steamship wharf [was on Sea St., just south of can plant], then came to sardine factories. They were all together, continuous. As time went, cos to keep up wharves, they'd they'd drop away. If not enough patronage, they let them ^{bring} her down.</p> <p>Old railroad wharf [on Sea St.] kept up for</p> |

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| | | 0413 | <p>years, one of the last ones [wharves left standing].</p> <p>The business activity [then] was very active. Everything came by boat, that was method of transportation transportation. Everyone had own small sailboat. Indians always came down in canoe. You'd look down the dock, there'd be there'd be 15-20 canoes. Never seen now. There'd be 5-10 5-10 sailboats moored alongside one another. Every thing was by boats. Fellow would take your breath away, and say he rowed over from Campobello Island [New Brunswick] this morning; row over in dory or dinghy do his shopping shopping or something.</p> <p>Then Eastport was the banking center. No bank at Deer, Campobello, or Grand Manan Islands [New Brunswick]. This Eastport was end of railroad for that period. Everything came in here, by railroad the heavy stuff; and they [Canadian islanders] in their boats come over by boat and pick it up, and take it-- even came down from Connor Brothers [in Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick, a fish packing company. Blacks Harbour was and still is a company town due to Connors Brothers.] to buy a car; come down from Lepreau [New Brunswick] and that section.</p> <p>It was hand labor [then] Eastport was a [major?] depot for the area, the islands. I worked when in high school, summers in the local bank: the Frontier National Bank where the Merrill [asp] Trust Bank is now now [corner of Dana</p> |

Deer Is. NB Eastport
 Blacks Harbour NB Grand Manan Lepreau NB
 Campobello Is NB

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| | | | <p><u>and Water Sts.]</u> They had more more Canadian money there than American, had more canadian customers than american. Fellows from Lepreau, Deer Island, Grand Manan, St. George[all in New Brunswick] <u>all there with requests.</u></p> <p>Half the people in Eastport were canadian, they came over here. About 1922, I noticed federal law was being passed, which increased difficulty in becoming American citizen. Prominent <u>John R. Holmes</u>, owner and ^{of} manager of the E. A. Holmes Packing Co.[in Eastport], which later was became the Holmes Packing Co. of <u>Mose Pike</u>[<u>Mose Pike</u> ran the Holmes Packing Co. sardine factory near <u>the Eastport breakwater until last year or so,</u> when he sold out to Zapata, a Texas based conglomerate] He and I and a third fellow, rounded went about, and rounded 100 canadian born born citizens of Eastport, who had never been naturalized, to get them naturalized. Likely could have picked up out 200, but 100 enough. Jack would take them over by carload, and other member of committee he who I forget would also. The clerk ran out of applications. More applicati he had in that month--I noticed the legal forms that came in, ^{on} say, the first of July, 1922 the naturalization requirements were to be awful increased to become American citizen.</p> <p><u>Until</u> then, only had to show in court with some</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Grand Manan NB Eastport St George NB Lepreau NB Texas 1 Deer Is. NB</p> |

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| | | | <p>witnesses who swore you were good man and would make good citizen. They'd ask you a few questions: Ever read the Constitution?, you were to say yes; Who's president? <u>Abe Lincoln</u>; Who's your congressman, vice-president, governor? You know all there is to know about American government, stick up your hand, you forgo allegiance to the King, Queen or whoever you were--canadian-- and become American citizen.</p> <p>We got 100 living here that never bothered because of red tape or didn't know how to do it [<u>become naturalized American Citizen.</u>] MThis was likely in July, 1924-25 or so.</p> |
| | | 0514 | <p>[End of Side One] [Beginning of Side Two]</p> |
| | | 0030 | <p>Discount on canadian money then after war [<u>World War one I think</u>] made hard for canadians to do business in U.S. [<u>Canadian</u>] money dropped to cents below 80 percent ^{of} the ^{an} American dollar 5 percent of ^{XXX}</p> <p>A Canadian Dominion of Canada Canada government bond could be xxxxxxx bought for \$800. My uncle uncle bought 25 of them, held them say ten years, <i>and he recalled</i> they paid him \$1050 for each. In meantime, they paid him him 5 percent interest. This perhaps was turning point; then started small banks at Deer Island Island or Wilson's Beach [<u>on Campobello Island</u>], or Grand Manan Island.</p> <p>When they [<u>canadians</u>] came to ^{here} [<u>to Eastport?</u>] xxxxxx they'd sell their fish to the factories [<u>at Eastport</u>].</p> <p><i>Eastport "Deer Island Wilsons Beach Campobello Is" Grand Mo</i></p> |

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| | | | <p>Then, mostly canadian fish brought to American factories. Had 11 sardine factories[at Eastport]. They'd[the canadians] expected to get their check, xxxxcash it at the bank, spend <u>stuff</u>, load it on boat. They never xxxxdeclared it[to Canadian customs]. They took it xxxxhome.</p> <p>Big discount[on xxxxcanadian money] was xxxxbig break.[in canadian trade with Eastport]. Forced canadians to xxxxtrade more at home, and they started their own banks. About then, the auto became such xxxxso that they could truck in things, by cars; rather than xxxxxxxhave to have xxxx it come xxxx on the railroad, go out here[at the Eastport railroad station between the xxxxxxx western ends of xxxxKey and Washington Sts.]and pick it up, take it to boat. If Grand Manan fellow bought seine, he 'd buy in Boston, have it sent to Eastport. They'd[Eastport railroad station?] notify him. xxxxHe'd go to Frontier National bank[now the <u>Merrill Trust bank</u>]; in Eastport] and get bill xx of sale or bill of lading for railroad to get his seine. He'd pay at bank 6-700 dollars for seine and get bill of sale which he'd take to railroad and ask them for his seine; put xxxxit[seine] on horse drawn truck, take it to his boat and take it back and put xx it on his weir. This was profitable business for xxxxlocal banks[s?], and was basis for getting seine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Eastport Grand Manan Boston</i></p> |

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| | | | <p>The Linen Thread Company sold 9 of 10 of these seines of marlin or different nets. Fish were plentiful but cheap.</p> <p>SeaCoast Packing Co. bought factories here to get control of them. <u>[The SeaCoast Packing, earlier known as the Continental Packing & Co. was initially one of two sardine combines, the other the Standard Sardine Co. I believe. The SeaCoast began in 1899, the same year the Standard did. In 1900, the SeaCoast Packing gained control of the Standard, and ran until 1903. At this time, the SeaCoast Canning Co. bought many of the SeaCoast Packing Co.'s factories, with many of the remainder sold back to the original owners before 1899. The SeaCoast Canning ran 6 factories in Eastport until I believe 1923 when their stock was transferred to largely Lubeec, Maine interests. X The above is as near correct as I know at this time] Fellow, R.J. McKillick[?; I think his last name was Killick] came and bought the Holmes, Clark, McCullough, Capen plants, put them in the SeaCoast Canning Co. initially the Continental Standard, no, the first was the SeaCoast Packing Co. <u>[initially the Continental]</u>. For awhile it went along, but had financial troubles, reorganized, became the SeaCoast Canning Co. They controlled 7-8 factories here and one in Robbinston, Maine.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Eastport Robbinston</i></p> |

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| 738 | | | <p>All the many fish in St. Andrews Bay [the upper part of Passamaquoddy Bay, with St. Andrews, New Brunswick nearby] were taken to Robbinston. Seacoast Canning was big dominated sardine plants.</p> <p>The old owners took money, waited 4-5 years, and started up again, competing with SeaCoast Canning Co. Once, the seaCoast controlled all the factories in Eastport. But as I said, like cutting a tree down, the sprouts start about up about. They bought all the factories, either because law prohibited that they [the SeaCoast] couldn't prohibit people from going into business, or that they [the new factories] were restricted for 5 years before they did [begin again]. They all went back in business, some smoked or cured herring, but all eventually went back into sardine</p> <p>I never heard of SeaCoast buying factories, then not running them, just to keep them out of business. Dominant factor in SeaCoast was Dudley Food brokerage firm in New York City. They were the nationwide distributors of sardines. The name was like <u>H. J. Dudley</u>, I've lost name. They were the fellows that financed. They had say <u>McCullough</u> [person ^{they} that bought Eastport sardine factory from] here <u>as from</u> man. They'd try successful managers to operate it [their sardine factories]. They [Dudley and? SeaCoast] were</p> |
| | | 0125 | <p>Eastport New York City St Andrews Bay St Andrew NB Passamaquoddy</p> |

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| | | | <p>accountants, knew little of fish: when fish were good or bad, when to pack or not. They had to rely on local fellows.</p> <p>They tried bad things, like a can with its cover scored.[?] Idea was to punch it with nail and open it up. After they got can packed, you'd print them and they'd leak.or air would get at the Tin not uniform enough, so when they cut them at [the can's covers] all around, some would punch holes [holes]. They lost a awful SeaCoast lost awful cost them thousands hundreds of thousands of dollar with mistakes like that.</p> <p>They had retort is system. They'd take fish, put them in cans, and drop them in steel retorts, put steam pressure on them [the packed cans] of about 300 degrees. The cans exploded unable to stand [the pressure] or water got in them. They los hundreds of thousands in that, besides the cost of costly [retorts], the size of that safe, [Oscar points to safe in room. I didn't note size, and XXXXXXXXXXXX I would guess about 3 1/2 feet high and 2 1/2 feet wide] with steam pipes going out. They'd put in 1000 cans, put on pressure, they'd [cans] swell up, seams [of cans] couldn't stand pressure.</p> <p>By time they got it regulated--put instead of 1000 pounds, 300 plus pounds and cooked fish with out popping them [the can packed cans] open</p> |

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| | 824 | | <p>and nearly round--they lost hundreds of thousands [of dollars]. They didn't have practical men.</p> <p>Once they bought say 1000 tons of low grade coal from MrMinto[in <u>New Brunswick?</u>], one of the Canadian coal mines. Hard in factories to get steam high as they wantwanted burnburning this coalcoal; like trying to get high pressure steam 1000 tons of out of mud. <u>Soft coal</u> delived to Eastport was got cheap, say three dollars[<u>per ton?</u>] High grade Pennsylvania coal might cost them 8 dollars[<u>per ton?</u>] Great buy[<u>was soft coal</u>], but not any good to them.</p> <p>Market collapsed after end of War[<u>World War One I think</u>]. MrMany made mistake of holding sardine cans. It cost them say \$2.50. They refused to sell them at \$2.25, they'd wait until it[<u>the market price</u>] got backback; held them 2-3 years paying interest on them. They had to sell them cheap for were old sardines, soaksoaked them in oil. They bankrupted 4-5 packers. That's what drove them out</p> <p>SeaCoast was going to operate factories [<u>that they bought</u>] efficiently. They[<u>former sardine factory owners</u>] kept agreement[<u>with SeaCoast</u>] not to pack fish forin competition for about five yearsyears, when they went back in business. SeaCoast was goodgood at bookkeeping, financing, sales, but littleknew little of packing sardinessardines the actual sardines. That was there weakness. People coming</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Pennsylvania Minto NB Eastport</i></p> |

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| 0208 | | | <p>in here now--the Japan Japanese--on the contrary, will know of science of fish in addition to knowing how to sell and distribute it. [I'm not sure who Oscar refers to. There have been rumors of Japanese exporting sea urchin roe from the Eastport area. A Texas based firm, Azapata Zapata(?sp) recently bought and is now operating the Holmes Packing Co. of Eastport, (pack packed sardines)]</p> <p>Fellow here knew how to pack, but didn't know how to sell sell it to the West. That was great weakness of the independent plant. He might be hard headed businessman: pay his discount, buy oil cheap by cash by big amounts. But he wouldn't know how to sell after he got them packed.</p> <p><u>Carl Holmes</u> lives on Washington St. [Eastport] opposite the Mabee house [not sure where this house is on Washington St., but I believe it is a bit west of the Post Office, but before the Washington Street Baptist Church, on the south side of the street.] that I've forgotten ^{I've forgotten} who lives in now. who lives in now.</p> <p><u>Holmes</u> had a factory by present breakwater--<u>Tom Holmes</u>--and he sold land and wharf factory was on to I'm not sure who. He sold later to <u>Andrew Clark</u> [He ran a large factory in Eastport for quite some time.] Before this, he may sold it to the SeaCoast SeaCoast. They bought his factory, his wharf and his _____, but not his right of way. You know where go to breakwater, <u>leaves</u> Water Street [There is a short road between Water St. and Eastport, Texas]</p> |

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| | | | <p><u>the breakwater. I think Oscar means that Holmes kept control of the right of way from Water St. to the factory.] They were held up.</u></p> <p>This had nothing to do with operating the factory, they could bring fish in by water; but if he raised the question, you're going across my land, <u>pointing to</u> your <u>solder</u> people, and <u>[Sardine cans until about 1900 or so were still made by hand using solder]</u> such. Found that they didn't have any right to cross his--they hadn't bought a right of way_____. They had some settlement, had a lawsuit over it. They had to pay him for him to make make an adjustment.</p> <p>All the factories had their machines--Max Am was a Connecticut company that made can making making machine. They <u>[the sardine factories?]</u> rented from the Max Am people, and they sent their man up to keep machines operating. It was a case of we renting machine and agree to keep it operating. Were only two: one the Sanitary Can and the other, Max Am. They brought up and installed can making and closing machines. Previously they hand soldered the cover on on. <u>[this stopped from about 1904 to about 1910 I think]</u> This had machine that clapped clapped on on <u>[Oscar imitates sound. I think he meant clapped cover on can].</u> automatically put solder about it, and pressed it on. The SeaCoast likely brought machines in <u>[first Connecticut]</u></p> |

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| | 929 | 0328 | <p><u>into sardine factories</u>]. But they weren't the sole ones. The best can was ^{was} worked out earlier by <u>Stubby Holmes</u>: <u>Loring E. Holmes</u> of Robbinston, who had sardine factory, called the Holmes Company in Robbinston[<u>Maine</u>]. He had successful first can was in the was washer before other factories.</p> <p>One of the great things, the manager of the SeaCoast about 1925-30 was <u>H. Ernest Nicholas</u>. He was in California and was saw the endless conveyor belts, brought the fruit fruit along, with women on either side standing, picking out bad fruit, or rocks, <u>SD</u> it went to canneries.</p> <p>He brought this back, had it patented. We worked out; the conveyor belt was used by all the factories. This was big step forward. I as an attorney attorney went about collecting from local factories he had it patented--Lubec factories, along the coast, a fee for the right to use his patented-- [<u>conveyor belt</u>]. It's nothing but series of conveyor belts. Fish come here, they dump broken broken fish in one below it. Down below cans run on belt; with automatic trip that stops them so can always have fish and cans in front of you.</p> <p>Earlier fellows pushed tables the size of that desk desk [<u>about 3 ft. high, 4 ft. long and 3 ft. wide</u>]. Oscar refers to desk in the room] covered with flakes; was a rack. Think of muscular fellow pushing the great wheels, pushing them</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Robbinston California Lubec</i></p> |

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| | | | <p>about floor, working hard; all fish <u>[fish would be on flakes which would be on racks on this "table like" hand pushed cart.]</u>. He'd grab rack and give it to xyou who were packing fish. You'd pick fish off rack.</p> <p>Now they've _____ carrier belt system, for it concentrated thethe--instead of fish abeing all about and dropping on floor--. They [<u>the Sea-Coast</u>] iddid make many innovations. These men [<u>local factorys operators</u>] mostly hadn't been to California and seen new ideas. But some of their [<u>the Seacoast's</u>] ininnovations were disasterous. Soft coal they used was like asand. They needed high voltage coal thatthat had much heat units in it, not lot of dirt or sulfur. <u>If?</u> they were better they'd buy carload of oil. Other fellows would get together--a three of them would buy carload, they'd buybuy it acheap, they knew how to buy it. They [<u>the SeaCoast local owners not the SeaCoast</u>] were better on purchasing <u>than</u> selling.</p> <p>After the [<u>first world?</u>] war and the depression the sardine men got together and formed the Maine Cooperative Sardine Company. The main idea idea was that all local factories would sell their pack onl to this Cooperative. The weakness was in the selling, the distribution. [<u>reason for cooperative</u>]. They [<u>factories</u>] were all given a quota, for they didn't want them to pack a million. If half a California</p> |

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| | | | <p>and packed their 35, 40, or 50 thousand. [The legal beginning of the sardine packing season used to start I think on April 15th]. They got worried. When <u>Andrew</u> in August gets to pack his 100,000 they said, what's to happen. The market's about plugged now, we have so many xxxsardines packed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One fellow</p> <p>They had a meeting. [^]Called me the undertaker. [I?] went down and they were there debating it. xxxxxx Finally, someone made motion, that if <u>Andrew</u> wouldn't pack--I think he had another 2 25 thousand [xxxxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx or 50 thousand cases coming to him--xxxx one hundred cans to the case-- that he hadn't packed--they'd pay him I think 25 thousand We drew up the agreement. He [<u>Andrew Clark</u>] got the check off for not packing it [<u>his remaining portion of his quota he'd hadn't as yet packed</u>] It didn't produce overflowing the market with xxxxsardines. So they all would get it [<u>a good price for their sardines?</u>]</p> <p>They were always arguing. The main thing was that everyone wanted a larger xxxx quota; always fighting. Finally the federal government ^{tr} came down and said, what are you doing; you've got a trust, a monopoly here, cut that out. xxxxxx We'll [<u>the federal government</u>] give you a warning, you wind the thing [<u>cooperative</u>] up, or next year you start</p> |

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| | 1020 | | <p>this co-op: controlling prices and xxxxsuch--.</p> <p>They'd [<u>the cooperative?</u>] xxxx say to the fishermen ten dollars a hoghead. In old days, a fellow could shop, fish _____. If you had order for 10,000x cases from broker in Missouri, or Arizona, and you wanted the fish, you were willing to pay 15 or 20 or 30 [<u>dollars</u>] for them [<u>a hoghead</u>], to complete your xxxx order. In monopoly, [<u>they'd say</u>] ten dollars is the price for fish. Fishermen couldn't get anymore than ten [<u>dollars</u>]. They [<u>the fishermen</u>] kicked, they'd didn't want co-op. The brokers didn't want it [<u>the cooperative</u>].</p> <p>In old days, brokers [<u>would say</u>] how much your ix prices? 2.75. [<u>They'd</u>] call up another, [<u>and say</u>] I can get from MacNichol x 2.75 where Blanchard would say I'll give you 2.70. He'd call up x Holmes, [<u>and say</u>] I can get them for 2.75 from MacNichol, 2.70 from Blanchard, how about 2.65. Alright if you take _____--.</p> <p>In this thing [<u>cooperative</u>] they had one fellow, ^{Lon} <u>Flanagan</u> [<u>?sp</u>], the manager of the Maine cooperative. He was good salesman, and he'd [<u>say</u>] the price is three and a half [<u>dollars</u>] TheyEM couldn't buy them anywheres welse, [<u>for</u>] was a monopoly. They cleaned up for--it lasted about 2-3 years. Then government got wise to it. It was effecting the fishermen, ^{controlling} ix price of the</p> |

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| 1044 | 0525 | | <p>fishermen. Same as xxxxxxandxxxxxx with the oil. I don't know if they bought their main supply of oil and controlled the price of oil for the ^{the} different ^N factories --that is I don't recall if they [<u>the cooperative</u>] bought a carload of oil and then ^{distributed} it it to the factories all at the same price or not. They had it controlled tightly. They were the only people you could sell them [<u>to</u>]--they all agreed to sell them to no one else. You couldn't buy any sardines [<u>except from cooperative.</u>]</p> <p>[<u>End of Side Two</u>]</p> |

1373029

A(10/31/79)

NORTHEAST ARCHIVES OF FOLKLORE AND ORAL HISTORY
South Stevens Hall
University of Maine
Orono, Maine 04469

In consideration of the work the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History is doing to collect and preserve material of value for the study of ways of life past and present in the New England-Maritimes area, I would like to deposit with them for their use the items represented by the accession number given below.

This tape or tapes and the accompanying transcript are the result of one or more recorded, voluntary interviews with me. Any reader should bear in mind that he is reading a transcript of my spoken, not my written word and that the tape, not the transcript, is the primary document.

It is understood that the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History will, at the discretion of the Director, allow qualified scholars to listen to the tapes and read the transcript and use them in connection with their research or for other educational purposes of a university. It is further understood no copies of the tapes or transcript will be made and nothing may be used from them in any published form without the written permission of the Director.

Signed: *Harry M. Mullen*

Date: *June 25, 1980*

Understood and Agreed to:

Interviewer: *Hugh French* Date: *Aug. 15, 1980*

Director: _____ Date: _____

for interviews OW.2

Accession number: _____

Interviewer's tape no.: OW.2A

NAFOH Accession no.:

1373030

Interviewer: Hugh T. French

Address: 16 Water St., Eastport, Maine 04631

Interviewee: Oscar Whalen

Address: Key St. Eastport, Maine

Place of interview: Oscar's home
on Key St., Eastport, Me.

Date: June 25, 1980

Other people present: Oscar's secretary and Mr. Hal Beckett briefly.

Equipment used: Channel Master Cassette Model PC6765A

Tape: Brand: -- Scotch Size reel: 7" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 3 3/4 ips

Cassette: Brand: ~~xxxxx~~ Concertage G-30/C-60/G-120

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

Brief description of contents: ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Most all on Eastport: sardine factory nicknames, place names, history of sardine industry, Eastport art school, stories, Sea Coast Canning Com., Maine ~~Saxin~~ Sardine Cooperative, Eastport waterfront about 1900-1920: conditions and its life, freezing herring, prediction on Moose Island.

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| | 006 | | [Beginning of Side One] |
| | | | [Introductory Remarks] |
| | | 0018 | [Typing noise in background is that of Oscar's Secretary] |
| | | 0028 | The factory with nickname the "Burnham" was in North End of Eastport. I couldn't say if it was by [SeaCoast factories] numbers 4 and 5. [located on W Sea Street at about x the foot of the east x end of S Shackford St. I believe the factories burned about 1920 or so.] I never heard of a factory with the nickname of "Puffin' Pig," or "Squealing Pig", "The Shovel", or "The Forty Seven". |
| | | | The McCullough factory was by where Deer Island[summer] ferry landing is.[in the x cove where the Cannery Restaurant is now. Near east |

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Eastport

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| | 133 | | <p>end of the Wilson St.] <u>John McCullough</u> was one of leading characters there. The factory was not near where Holmes Packing now is [now a division of Port Clyde packing company, and controlled by the Texas based firm, <u>Zapata</u>. Located a bit north of the Eastport breakwater.] <u>Eben Holmes</u> started that [the Holmes Packing factory just mentioned, I think] a few days ago, about 199 1900, the Holmes factory.</p> <p>I don't recall the McCullough factory as much as talking about it. Martin and McCullough factory was by ferry landing.</p> <p>I never heard of factory the nickname of "The Old Lady's Home" or "The moonface". I don't recall any nicknames of factories factories. I know knew them as Clark factory [this had the nickname of "the Shovel"], the Blanchard factory, Holmes factory, [Sea Coast factory] No. 4 and 5, the Capen factory the Morris Holmes factory,. I did never worked in [sardine] factory and hence didn't know the nickname workers may have given to factory.</p> <p>I never heard of ^{in the winter} spreading the herring on the fields, wharves, or Bank Square [where Dana, Water, and Sea Sts. intersect], freezing them for the frozen herring trade, and shipping them ^{to} the Gloucester boats Boston, or Gloucester boats would come for it for bait. [the frozen herring trade was active in Eastport from about 1860 or so to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Boston Gloucester Port Clyde Texas Eastport</p> |

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| | | | <p><u>to about the 1890's.]</u></p> <p>I never heard of factory workers or weirmen being paid out of groceries of factory owners stores <u>[in Eastport]</u>. Only heard of this over in Connors' Brothers factory in Blacks Harbour. <u>[New Brunswick]</u>. They had big store. Workers free ^{all} to get groceries, supplies at store, at end of week they were xlucky if they were even. Capen <u>[factory]</u> in North End End, Eastport; the Sea Coast <u>[Canning or Packing Co.]</u>, Blanchard <u>[factory]</u> <u>[all in Eastport]</u> didn't have any stores.</p> <p><u>That</u> This was alright in Canada. In Black's Harbour, they used to call them Connors' slaves for they could get at general store all groceries _____, they <u>[the store]</u> gave them credit each week for what they earned ^{earned} working in ⁱⁿ factory ^{in factory}</p> <p>They <u>[Connors]</u> still run in Black's Harbour a <u>wonderful</u> store, the outstanding insitution in store <u>[?]</u> besides factory.</p> <p><u>[Eastport factories]</u> did rent them <u>[workers]</u> houses and take <u>[rent]</u> out of xt their pay. Most factories had little shacks. The SeaCoast had 2-3 locations: one by railroad xt track at Southern <u>End</u> <u>[near the northeast corner of Huston's Cove along railroad tracks I believe]</u>, and one in North End. Called one <u>[group of shacks]</u> Bingville <u>[this was a row of camps owned by SeaCoast running south from about the eastern end, west side of</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">North End Blacks Harbour Huston's Cove Bingville (Eastport)</p> |

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| 202 | 0117 | <p>south side of Customs Street in South End]. I don't know what they called other crowd[<u>of shacks</u>]. They had nicknames for those two groups [were three groups of camps owned by SeaCoast] I don't know how name, "Bingville" came about.</p> <p>I don't recall Blanchard's factory having houses or camps and renting them out[<u>to workers</u>]. [Blanchard's factory was located on east end of WaxWarren St., it burned about 1928]. Only factory I would associate camps with was SeaCoast.</p> <p>I recall people from Campobello or &Deer Island [New Brunswick] froften rowing to here to shop. I had old man, <u>Thaddeus</u>[?sp] <u>Calder</u>, of Campobello who'd row across to see me about his brother's estate, and row back. He was 65-70 thyears old then. I don't know of any fellow rowing over from Campobello or Deer Islands who work in factories[<u>here</u>], but I wouldn't know. Hughie Chaffee[<u>of Eastport</u>], who lived on Deer Island, might know from <u>over there</u>, someone ^{from there} rowed over.</p> <p>Were never shacks or attents on the wharves [<u>here</u>].</p> <p>I never heard of myth or superstition that Eastport is to burn four times and it has already burned 3 times. I never heard of dream[<u>I called it superstition</u>] that underneath Moose Island[<u>on which Eastport is located</u>] was like catacombs.</p> <p>I never heard of prediction made that Moose Island</p> | |

South End
Campobello Is
Deer Is

Bingville
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| | 300 | | <p>was to cave in. [I mention perhaps in the 1910's or 1920's] I never heard of some Eastporters xxx moving off Moose Island the weekend that the island was predicted to cave in.</p> <p>I saw in my office out here x on file, a map of Majorville. It spoke of land of <u>Shackford</u>, as if it referred to a <u>Major Shackford</u>. It was west of Broadway [street in Eastport] with lots there all divided up. [<u>Oscar</u> asks if I'd like to see it. I say I would at the end of the interview]</p> <p>The Eastport Art xxxx School was located in ^{Boynton} present City Hall [southwest corner of xxxx and <u>High Sts.</u>], the old Boynton High School. It [the school] was by <u>George Pearce</u> [?sp] <u>Ennis</u>. There is [<u>Oscar</u> points to a painting on the wall of the room] his prized painting, for which he got \$1000 prize in Grand Central xxxxxxx Art School, New York city. [<u>Eastport</u> xxxx Art School] was just summer school. <u>Ennis</u> come here first of June, quit first of October, go back to his Grand Central Art School in New York--the school x was in Grand Central Station.</p> <p>Eastport art school lasted about w seven years, about 1915 to 1922. Mostly local boys [went to the Eastport art school]; like <u>Hollis Hamilton</u>, one of the leading--<u>Jack Frost</u>. <u>Peggy Kelly</u> [?sp] a local girl. I've forgot them now,</p> |

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| | | 0223 | <p>[they were?] younger group, about ten years years [?younger than Oscar]. They had nice group of about twenty. Either they had talent and he [Ennis I presume] helped develop it, or he helped improved them.</p> <p>I recall them about the [Moose] island. They'd wander about. They'd stop, have an easel, and be drawing a church, or the old Grand Army Hall [now American Legion Hall on Green Street], or the harbor or at Smith Corner [corner of High and Clark Sts.] <u>looking up the St. Croix River.</u> I don't recall a lithographer lithographer, Stow <u>Stow Wengenroth.</u> [He was a student and later a teacher at the Eastport Art School.]. I recall Ennis and his wife for they lived in this house, renting from rooms from my aunt who lived here. I knew and talked with them I have painting upstairs that <u>he (Ennis)</u> and the wife painted. That is photograph of his [Ennis'] prize prize winning one. [refers to earlier mentioned <u>painting--I don't believe a photograph</u> on the wall of the room interview at takes place in]</p> <p><u>Ennis</u> chose chose Eastport for his summer school effor for one of his friends came here. You mentioned him last interview with me. [Perhaps the painter <u>Harley Perkins</u>, a friend friend of <u>LeBaron Cooke</u> who was from Eastport] He [Ennis] liked the things to paint [in Eastport]: islands, water combination, old houses, shaded streets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Moose Island Eastport</i></p> |

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| | 404 | | <p>He thought it cool [weather likely] here. [The friend of <u>Ennis'</u>] was not <u>Dougal Anderson</u> or <u>Robert "Bob" xxxCraig</u> who was much later. I don't recall the friend's name.</p> <p>[microphone moved]</p> <p>Woodland [Maine] eats more pistachio [?sp] ice cream than any xxxxxxx other community in Washington County for it was settled by Italians. That's <u>Marie Jones'</u> story [Marie Jones of Eastport told me this. She heard it from <u>Oscar.</u>] ²⁰⁰ Italians came here and dug up street ^{laid the mains} on contract basis for Philadelphia man who started water works here. When through, they moved to Woodland where they built the mill. They were xxx group of workers who were brought in by some wise leaders to be xxxx their industrial slaves until they [the workers] xxxx learned earned enough money to move out or xxxxxxx English. [This was] about 1892, I don't recall too clearly.</p> <p>For period of years, xxxx mayors of Eastport were SeaCoast men. [SeaCoast Packing Co. was a near monopoly in the sardine industry at Eastport from about 1899 to 1903. The SeaCoast Canning Co. bought several of xxxx these plants and in 1903 and ran until about 1924 I believe] xxxx Eldridge [?sp] was their paymaster. <u>Ned Firth</u> was head machinist I'd have to xxx stop and think who mayors were. They controlled Eastport--actively in politics--from about 1915, perhaps xxx back in 1910, to xx about 1924.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Philadelphia & Woodland Eastport Washington Co</p> |

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| | 492 | | <p>After 1924, <u>Roscoe Emery</u> came in [as mayor?] and controlled it for about 10-15 years. Seacoast would have people like <u>Mr. Leavitt</u>[?sp] who was the agent of steamship company. His great business was transporting by xxx steamship cases of sardines to Boston and Portland. They xxx controlled him because he's _____ . Always on city council would be SeaCoast's representatives; their foremen and such.</p> <p>They were very active and largely controlled Eastport by electing the x manager, for instance, of their saw mill who might be an alderman. They'd have 2-3 alderman, they called them [aldermen] then control the city council that way.</p> <p>Eastport xxx from about 1900 to about 1924 or a bit earlier was not a company town, it was too split up. Blanchard xxxxxx crowd [had sardine factory] would be opposed to Clark crowd who would be opposed to xxxxxx MacNichols xxxxxx who would be xxxxxx opposed to xxx the Blanchards; Blanchards and Holmes xxx would play together against Clark or MacNichols. They had their alliances, friends. They were clannish. By no means did xxx the SeaCoast dominate the town. Other factories had their clans. They [the xxx factory workers?] were more loyal to their factory than they are today.</p> <p>SeaCoast did employ the largest number of workers, but other factories depended on hand labor</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Boston Portland Eastport</p> |

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| | | | <p>too. Were alot of independents, as you mentioned; had McCullough crowd, four Holmes factories: Morris, Tom, and Eben Holmes and so forth. THEX They weren't SeaCoast. Eastport wasn't company town up at North End. <u>Charlie Capen</u> ran factory up there. He wasn't controlled by SeaCoast. No, Eastport wasn't a company town.</p> |
| | 520 | 0412 | <p>[End of Side One] [Beginning of Side Two]</p> |
| | | 0096 | <p>[U.H.?] <u>Dudley</u>[?sp] was New York wholesale grocer. Finally afafter thirty years he went bank[rupt?]-[I mentioned that I thought <u>Dudley</u> was the biggest backbacker of the SeaCoast.] <u>Hi, Hal.</u>[<u>Hal Beckett</u>, of Eastport, a partly retired real estate broker walks into the room. <u>Hal</u> is about 85 or so.] HalxxxHix [Where necessary, catalog now breaks into dialogue by <u>Hal</u> and <u>Oscar</u>, designating each by their first name] amxxxxxxx <u>Hal</u>: Hi. <u>Oscar</u>: There's [referring to <u>Hal</u>] an old <u>Sentinel</u> that will tell you the story. <u>Hal</u>: Let me give you back your map. xxxxxxx[Noise comes from movement of map.] <u>Oscar</u>: Map of the old-- [Tape recorder turned off while <u>Hal</u> and <u>Oscar</u> conduct business]</p> |

Eastport
North End

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| | | 0124 | <p>Oscar:</p> <p>They [<u>SeaCoast XxxxxxxCo?</u>] sold out to Lubec, Maine group. <u>Hal Beckett</u> will back me on that. The SeaCoast sold out to a group x that gtook over and controlled the SeaCoast Canning Co.; [the group] was Lubec crowd of <u>Bob RxxxxPeacock</u>, <u>Lester Crane</u>, and the <u>Pikes</u>. Was same corporation, but stock passed from <u>Dudley</u> to this group. <u>Jes.</u> <u>Pike</u>[part of Lubec group.]</p> <p>About 1923-24, SeaCoast still would have had about seven factories. Lubecers had the money.</p> <p>The local [<u>Eastport</u>] fellows were individualx, and didn't want any more sardine factories. [The stock of the Seacoast was I believe transferred to Lubec crowd from <u>Dudley</u> in 19240, but perhaps 1933] <u>Hal</u>, didn't [<u>Lubec</u>] crowd take over [<u>seacoast</u>] after Maine Cooperative Sardine xxxx broke up. Recall <u>Lon RxxxFlanagan</u>[sp] down here, he had the Maine Cooperative Sardine [Hal: Yes, <u>over on High St.</u>] <u>selling</u>; the government xxxx made them stop their monopoly. Afterwards, the New York Dudley crowd--<u>Henry Nicholas</u> disappeared to California [<u>Nicholas</u> was a main figure in the SeaCoast, but I don't know what his position was] and the Lubec crowd of <u>Bob Peacock</u>, <u>Ches Pike</u> xxxx stepped in and xxx bought the New York interest and tried to run it [<u>the SeaCoast</u>].</p> <p><u>Hal</u>: That's about the time, 1918 <u>or so</u> California Lubec New York City Eastport</p> |

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| | | | <p>[<u>Oscar</u>: Yes, about then, but a little later, about 1820.][I think <u>Oscar</u> means 1920] <u>Hal</u>: When I went into service, <u>Nicholas</u> was living in the <u>Dorothy Waide</u> house [<u>Dorothy Waide</u> is now dead. She lived in the XXXX <u>Aaron Hayden</u> house which stands on the northwest corner of <u>Kilby</u> and <u>Boynton</u> Sts. in <u>Eastport</u>] [<u>Oscar</u>: Yes] <u>Hal</u>: When I came back from service, they'd [<u>the Nicholases</u>] had moved to California.</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: <u>John</u> and <u>Ester</u>?sp. <u>Nicholas</u>?]. [<u>Hal</u>: Yes, <u>John</u>, XXXX <u>Nicholas</u>, <u>Ester</u>.] <u>Oscar</u>: Yes.</p> <p>SeaCoast not owned by local people but by New York crowd, <u>Dudley</u>, the wholesale broker. But when they broke out, the Eastport crowd not interested in buying [<u>the SeaCoast</u>] for they had their own sardine factory. They weren't interested in taking on 4 or 5 more factories. <u>Blanchard</u> or XXXX <u>Andrew Clark</u>, <u>Jack Holmes</u>, <u>Eben</u> [<u>Holmes</u>] didn't want more factories. Old <u>Morris Holmes</u> didn't want more factories, he had enough. [<u>These are all Eastport factory</u> XXXXXX <u>owners</u>.] They didn't have the money either then.</p> <p>I don't know why why they didn't have the money then and <u>Lubec</u> did. Except that <u>Lubec</u> people--<u>Pike</u> and <u>Peacocks</u> had much money,--and local crowd didn't have the money or didn't care to put it in. <u>Andrew Clark</u> may have had the money, but he didn't want any more factories. <u>Andrew</u> would turn out more</p> |

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| | | | <p>sardines the month of August than all the rest together. Recall when they paid him xxxtwenty-five [thousand] Hal? I was at the meeting, _____ I was <u>wanted as their</u> legal advisor, when they voted to give Andrew _____ the <u>MacNichol</u> boys, twenty five thousand dollars if he wouldn't pack the rest of his xxxsardines. They were afraid he would flood the market which was low and Andrew hadn't packed his xxxxxxxquota. [Hal laughs]. He had about 100,000. [cases of sardines likely]</p> <p>Either <u>John</u> or <u>Dave MacNichol</u> made motion <u>yo</u> give xxxxhim [<u>Andrew Clark</u>] 25 thousand if he wouldn't pack any more fish. <u>Andrew</u> says, give me the money quick.</p> <p>[Hal: <u>Andrew</u> xxxxdied nearly bankrupt, didn't he?] <u>Oscar</u>: Yes. We settled his estate. He didn't have any <u>thing</u>. He had enough money to pay his bills, [Hal: _____] but he didn't have any money to--. <u>George Lee</u> told me that that xxx family [<u>Clark</u> family] spent 300,000 dollars in two years. [Hal: I wouldn't doubt it]. That xxxx<u>Erma</u> [?] could spend; all the boys, <u>Henry</u> and <u>Alva</u> [?] and <u>Thom</u>.] <u>Oscar</u>: Yes. Somebody would go and buy a piano and everyone of them had to have a [Hal: <u>Yes</u>] xxxpiano. <u>^</u> If <u>Henry</u> had one, everyone else had to have one.</p> <p>The<u>Oscar</u>: The Maine Sardine Cooperative began about 1922-24, maybe a bit later. Cooperative was</p> |

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| | | 0205 | <p>corporation. All sardine factories agreed to sell their pack to Maine Cooperative. It was financed ^{Flanagan & [?sp]} Lon ^[?sp] and I went once to Bar Harbor and borrowed a million and a half from Bar Harbor bank to buy ssardines from the different factories packers. They'd [the Cooperative] turn about about, and you couldn't buy sardines from anyone else. [Hal: Didn't they _____ the fertilizer out at the Carrying Place Place?] [the carrying place is a low narrow strip of land between Redoubt Hill and and Quoddy Village on Moose Island where Eastport is] Oscar: Yes.</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Reason government broke them up was for that you couldn't buy sardines from anyone else. They had monopoly. They put price high; everyone made nice profit ^{for} They held held price up, was no cut-throat --they used to [have cut throat competition?]. <u>George Hayes</u> said he once went to meeting as secretary of sardine packers packers of Eastport. They all got together and ^{said} the the trouble was that we were cutting each other's throat. We'd all agree to sell them at 2.75 a case [of of sardines]. <u>George</u> knew one fellow that left the meeting, after they all agreed agreed not to sell for less than 2.75, and went to the Western Union and ^{said} George <u>George Cushing</u>, wire all my brokers that I'll sell for for 2.50. [Hal: <u>Y</u> they were very cooperative.] <u>Oscar</u>: Yes. They wouldn't cooperate, they'd fight each other.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moose Island Bar Harbor Eastport Redoubt Hill Quoddy Village</p> |

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| | | | <p><u>Oscar</u>: The cooperative lasted 3-4 years. I went with <u>Lon</u>[?sp] <u>Flanagan</u>[?sp] down to Yarmouth factory to talk with three factories. Stevens were they? [Hal: Stevens. <u>Was fellow that was manager.</u>] in South Portland. SeaCoast built new factory at Portland or South Portland and were going to contract down there. Beautiful factory. They didn't run it more than 2-3 years.</p> <p><u>Hal</u>: _____ .Peacock [of Lubec, Me. had _____] [Oscar: Yes] likely] ran factory down there which is abandoned now. <u>John Toft</u> ran it. [Oscar: <u>Johnnie Toft</u> ran it. [There is a paper on the sardine in industry in Maine by <u>Toft</u>, I believe <u>John Toft</u> (no date of publication) in the Special Collections at Folger Library Library at UMO.] <u>Hal</u>: Stevens ran place at <u>Some</u> river [Oscar: Royal river] <u>Hal</u>: Royal River. [Oscar: Royal River Packing Company.] <u>Hal</u>: Right. That Stevens run it.</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Royal River Packing Company in Yarmouth Maine was one of those [factories] we called on down there. [Hal: that ran it there. <u>That young Stevens</u> [once] worked for <u>Stubby Holmes</u> was when <u>Stubby</u> got burned out up there [in Eastport?]. Several Holmes people ran sardine factories in Eastport.] Then Stevens Stevens went up there and was with Royal River. He must now be dead.</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Right.</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: After [Maine Sardine] cooperative was broken up by government for being a monopoly, Eastport South Portland Yarmouth Lubec Portland</p> |

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| | | | <p>they[<u>the factory members</u>] went back to being independent packers. Times were hard. They all fanfought each other, cut prices on each other, and wasbankrupted 2-3 of them. <u>M.C. Holmes</u> wascaved in for couldn't stand competition from others. [<u>M.C. Holmes was sardine packer in Eastport once</u>]</p> <p><u>Hal</u>: I wassold 3 factories in Eastport: <u>Burpee Wilson's</u>[<u>B.H. WWilson in South End</u>], <u>Wass's</u>[<u>was a bit north of present Eastport breakwater</u>], and <u>Peacock's</u> at North End in the one[<u>standing building</u>] there now. [<u>Oscar</u>: Was Peacock the Capen factory at North End?] <u>Hal</u>: Capen burned and this[<u>Peacock factory</u>] was new one.</p> <p>[<u>Oscar</u>: Burned; and this was new one they rebuilt. I recall when she burned.] <u>Hal</u>: They sold to the was<u>Mearl</u> then. [<u>the Mearl Corporation is a large fish processing concern in Eastport</u>] Factory was largelylargely burned, but warehouse still there. Mearl bought this, and right afterward they had big fire in it, <u>Storage</u> that is [<u>the warehouse?</u>]</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: That's by breakwater in Eastport.</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Maine Cooperative was simply selling agent of all factories <u>factories</u> still had their [<u>independent</u>] wasownership--and that was their its success, as a monopoly. Cooperative is sold <u>Stubby Holmes</u> issardines, and must have sold Royal River [<u>sardines</u>]. I went down with Flanagan[?sp] to call on those factories.</p> |

Eastport
North End
South End

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| | | 0305 | <p><u>Hal</u>: <u>Flannagan had no office</u> <u>Flannagan</u> live in <u>Bill Hinkley</u> house on Washington St., East- prot? <u>[Oscar: Yes.]</u> while he was <u>here</u>. <u>Ethel</u> <u>Curtin</u> worked for him. <u>[Oscar: Yes.]</u></p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Some factories forced out of business due to competition, for all were selling for themselves. They'd offer a bit lower price: Your offer I'd 2.75 and <u>I</u> offer 2.65, to move my stuff. Was quite a proposition to keep financing. <u>[a factory?]</u></p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: <u>[Seacoast Canning factories]</u> four and five burned <u>[Hal: Same time]</u> about 1922 1920-22? <u>[Hal: I have fire books there [his office on Water St. I think] that have every factory that burned in Eastport.]</u> <u>Oscar</u>: standing <u>by</u> your old home <u>[north east corner of Green and Key (also known as Ray) Sts</u> xxxxxx <u>Hal</u> lived here for a long time at any rate] watching her <u>[factory number 4 and 5] burn.</u></p> <p><u>[Hal: Right]</u> xxxx <u>Oscar</u>: I didn't want to get closer for too hot. Railroad <u>Hal</u>: Railroad <u>[wharf I think he means. It stood on Sea St., a little south of factory four and five] burned while I lived in that house. Then steamboat wharf burned. [it stood just north of factory four and five]</u></p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Yes. <u>[Hal: Blanchard's burned. [it stood at foot of Warren St. (east end)]]</u></p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Reason factories didn't rebuild, was that the Seacoast had enough factories left to produce them <u>[sardines?]</u>; for they were always get- Eastport</p> |

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| | 727 | | <p>ting machinery that replaced manual labor and that made larger pack which kept price down. They had 20-30 canmakers that made a few cans by hand hand. Soon they got machines that made 4-5 times <u>as many cans?</u> and cheaper. All this stuff <u>machines?</u> produced larger volume. Each factory turned out larger volume of sardines and they competed with each other. Thus, eventually the poorly financed people dropped out.</p> <p><u>Hal</u>: I got picture of Grady factory in back of my office <u>factory stood stood on the shore about at corner of Washington St. and Water Sts.] with the help <u>Oscar</u>: must have been 200 people] of nearly 300. <u>Oscar</u>: 300?, I would say 200 anyway.]</u></p> <p><u>Hal</u>: I don't know, but big crowd. <u>Oscar</u>: Ungodly <u>big crowd</u>. and wearing black heavy hats.]</p> <p><u>Hal</u>: Yes. <u>Oscar</u>: Stove pipe hats that they called them. Think of working in sardine factory with <u>like present hard</u> safety safety hats always worn about factories.</p> <p><u>Hal</u>: <u>Oscar</u> if your busy. <u>Oscar</u>: Not busy, <u>Hugh</u> taking some of my time just.]</p> <p><u>Oscar</u>: Reason so very few sardine factories in Eastport now <u>as compared to earlier times</u> is that modern machinery can turn out the work of-- They had sealing machines that turned out 2100 <u>they</u> <u>cans?</u> an hour; now <u>can</u> turn out 100 every 5 minutes. The same way <u>with other machinery?</u></p> |

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| | | | Every thing done by machinery. |
| | | 0348 | [Hal and Oscar discuss their business. Tape record turned off for about 5-10 minutes] |
| | | 0351 | <p>Oscar: Tom Holmes, where present breakwater is, sold that [his factory] to the SeaCoast. They bought his factory, wharf, and _____ storehouse shed, but they didn't buy his right of way. They didn't think of it. xxxxxxx Got by him</p> <p>Tom held them up; like charged them additional for selling an additional right of way to get [to?] t land. Otherwise, <u>he'd</u> say, you can row ito it, you can get your boats into the wharf. [I mentioned also that some have said that Tom used to say through his nose, "sixty thousand dollars for a little bunch of rust[his factory]"]</p> <p>Oscar: They xxxxxx biggest differences--thinking of myself in the business district center by S.L. xxxx Wadsworth and Son on Water St.--on Water Street from the earliest I can recall and today, are that then were continuous wharves: from railroad wharf on lower end of Water [he means Sea [street running xxxx northerly, continuous to the Blanchard factory [Back ground noise is Oscar's secretary typing]</p> <p>You could walk from wharf to wharf, w they had passageways,. I don't think any of the wharves left The last one--as you went down to the Wadsworth store [it fell into the sea in gale in 1976. I think it was the last of the old wharves on the street]</p> |

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| | <p>800</p> | <p>0429</p> | <p>there was gap--that was passageway. You'd cross it, walk up there <u>heading north</u>, in back of Pike and Kilby Store, walk _____ by raix _____ under the Acme <u>Acme Theater. Was last called the Wilbor Theater. Now being torn down</u> theater, you'd go along to the New York wharf they called it where--across this wharf, across to Grady factory, across Grady factory to xxxxx Holmes factory, kept going to number seven <u>I believe number three</u> another SeaCoast factory, kept going up to Blanchard's <u>factory</u>.</p> <p>Then was horse drawn vehicles, low ix jiggers or trucks we called them, to carry heavy sardines. They had to have ways to get off a wharf up on the road <u>Water Street</u>. If it was steep, they'd have to go around it: they'd thus take passageway one way or the other <u>north or south</u> and go up gradually. This was particularly ix true in back of your mother's, <u>Mrs. Winifred French's newspaper building, the Quoddy Tides building near Eastport breakwater</u> where was a right of way on the south side that went down in--I saw map of it xxxxxxx the other day--and right of way went to Grady factory. When got to the Grady factory, could go up over hill where Bradish <u>James Insurance Co.</u> now is <u>on east side of Water St., corner of Washington and Water Sts.</u> or could keep on going. I don't know if anything left in there in back of those buildings <u>on Eastport</u></p> |

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| | | | <p>east side of Water St. by Washington St.] or does it drop right off now now? [I answer it drops pretty much right off now] You could go over the Wax Wadsworth wharf, the Hume Wharf came first, the Wadsworth wharf [was next heading south?], kept going [south] across Union wharf, get to the Millik wharf about where Vance Healy Healy is [Vance runs a machine shop at Bank Square on the east side. Bank Square is where Sea Sea, Water and Dana Sts. join] Then went across the Paine wharf -- the the Paine wharf was torn down and they build the can plant plant there [on north end of Sea St.] Can plant building now used by the Mearl Corp.], went across there and Wax went to the International line or the Eastern steamship ferry line, [on Sea St.] went across open space to the two big sardine factories put together: four [number SeaCoast number] four and five factories [on Sea Street]. SeaCoast number three [factory] was up in in back of your mother's factory [he means the Quoddy Tides newspaper newspaper building].</p> <p>Oscar: I don't know who owned factory four and and five before SeaCoast. Rx [pause] Frank Neal [?sp] was much later [Frank I think think ran a fish market or some such thing on about same site as four and five].</p> <p>[End of Side Two]</p> |
| | 836 | 0499 | |