

Florence: She married [inaudible 00:00:05] Scarborough.

Roz: Mary Agnes?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Guess I'm not ready yet, I'm halfway between-

Florence: Well, what's that?

Roz: That's just the tape recorder. Uh, today we are going to interview uh, Florence Honeywell Patrick. It's April 25th, 2002. Uh, hello Florence, how are you today?

Florence: I'm all right, thank you.

Roz: Um, why don't you tell me something about yourself? When were you born?

Florence: I was born Artesia.

Roz: Okay.

Florence: Florida and I was taken up beach in a horse wagon up to the light house when I was 12 days old and that's where I landed.

Roz: Okay and what was your birthdate?

Florence: Uh, January the 21st, 1909.

Roz: Okay and who were your parents, your father's name?

Florence: Clinton P. Honeywell.

Roz: Okay.

Florence: And my mother's name was Gertrude Wilson Honeywell.

Roz: Okay and uh, your father as I understood come, came here, uh, from Baltimore, Maryland.

Florence: Yes that's where he came from.

Roz: In about 1884 and he, did he work at the light house? Was he a light house keeper?

Florence: Well he wasn't at first but he was just working with the light house with the rest of them and then finally he became the light house and he was about 42 years keeper.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: And two assistants under him.

Roz: Do you remember who they were?

Florence: J.B. Butler and his six children and his wife [00:02:00] and my uncle and aunt Florence Quarterman.

Roz: And he, when did he retire? Do you remember?

Florence: My dad?

Roz: Mm-hmm.

Florence: When he was uh, well when we made him retire I guess it was-

Roz: About 1930 I think it was.

Florence: Was it?

Roz: When he retired. Um, did you have any brothers and sisters?

Florence: I have two, one sister and one brother.

Roz: And what were their names?

Florence: My sister's name is Gertrude and my brother was Clinton P. Honeywell.

Roz: Clinton P. Okay. Um, what was your, who were your grandparents?

Florence: Who was what?

Roz: Your grandparents.

Florence: They were Wilsons. Henry Wilson and Francis Wilson.

Roz: Okay do you remember anything about Henry Wilson and Francis?

Florence: A little, I mean my grandfather was a postmaster there for a long time. That's about all I know about him. My grandmother, she didn't do anything except raise flowers and things like that as I remember.

Roz: Okay and um, do you remember them a, how about on your, a, a, do you remember the Burnhams?

Florence: No, No not much about the Burnhams. Not at all.

Roz: Okay.

Florence: That was my great grandfather.

Roz: Right and he was the lighthouse keeper from 1853-1886.

Florence: Yes, Mm-hmm. He was before my dad, of course.

Roz: Yes. So lighthouse keeping ran in the family as they say, right (laughs)?

Florence: What?

Roz: Lighthouse keeping ran in the family (laughs).

Florence: I guess it did. I don't know.

Roz: Um, well let's talk about when you were a child and growing up at the lighthouse. What did the area look like, the lighthouse and the compound? How many houses were there?

Florence: Well there was three houses on there. Wait my Dad was one of them, [00:04:00] then Butler and my aunt and the other that was a living a borders and they have some more storerooms out from the, what they have been staying in the lighthouse reservation. *(This doesn't make sense, but the transcription is correct)*

Roz: Okay and um, how did you, growing up what did you do, you and your brother, and your sister to entertain yourselves when you were just little ones before you went to school? Can you remember?

Florence: Well we had some swings underneath the house that my Dad fixed up. He put three swings underneath the house and we played under there, and got in there and crawled around through the sand and made sand piles and things. And after we got a little older we played pussy wants a corner [00:04:55], which is an old thing. And then we jumped rope, of course, we was a little older then and made stilts we walked on.

Roz: Stilts?

Florence: Stilts.

Roz: Yes now what are stilts?

Florence: Broom sticks and we put little blocks around put our feet on it and hold on and walk all over the place.

Roz: Oh, how fun.

Florence: We couldn't go up steps with it you know.

Roz: Never tried to get up the steps in the light house (laughs).

Florence: Get on one step that was it, (laughs) we couldn't go another one.

Roz: (Laughs) Did you play in the lighthouse at all?

Florence: No. Except us girls, we go walk around behind the house when my dad couldn't see us. We'd crawl in the back window, get down and sew and make doll clothes.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: He didn't want us to go in and he could see us [inaudible 00:05:40] so we'd up the steps and go around and crawl through the windows.

Roz: (Laughs) did you ever get to the top of the light house at all?

Florence: Oh, yes many a times.

Roz: Oh what a marvelous sight. What did you see up there?

Florence: All over the roads and the old ponds and the things that was out there.

Roz: Not very many houses in those days were there?

Florence: No.

Roz: [00:06:00] (laughs) How about roads? Were they all sandy roads back then?

Florence: Yes, sandy roads.

Roz: And, and what was the beach like and the water? Was it crystal clear?

Florence: Oh yes, it was nice and we would go down and go swimming just about a mile away from the lighthouse.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: We walked down there [00:06:20] and get to swimming.

Roz: Mm-hmm. Did you shell at all? Did you find pretty shells on the beach?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Mm-hmm. And uh, I understand that someone in the family used to make pictures and things out of shell.

Florence: My mother.

Roz: Yes. How did she do that?

Florence: Well she get any kind of a big jars so she can make a vase something out of and she put putty on it and then get the little shells and stick them in there and then she paint all around the shells.

Roz: Oh how [inaudible 00:06:54]

Florence: She made a fire board, to put in front of the fireplace with pictures of the lighthouse on it.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: And then she's a, I don't know how many vases or sold them, little roses, big roses.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: She was so smart and I wasn't ever smart.

Roz: I understand that she used to braid palmetto, too.

Florence: Oh yeah, made hats and baskets. She used to sell them and she had a shop out of New York that she'd sell the hats to.

Roz: Really?

Florence: Everybody wore hats then, you know.

Roz: Yes that's right.

Florence: She made a man's hat, you know those, I guess what kind of hat she calls those? It's got a hard rim around them?

Roz: Fedora?

Florence: Yes, she can make that one of them for-

Roz: Oh my.

Florence: I help her braid but I never tried to sew a hat (laughs).

Roz: I bet she made fans, too.

Florence: Oh yes. I have two of those but I don't know where they are. I think my daughter must have thrown them out cause I haven't seen them in a long time.

Roz: How about, how about um, mosquito beaters? She used to make mosquito beaters?

Florence: The big [00:08:00] brushes yes.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: And we had to build a smoke in the big can with rags and put some kind of (inaudible) insect powder to keep the mosquitoes away from us best we could.

Roz: Um, can you relate some of the stories to me about how bad mosquitoes were back then?

Florence: Well they were just terrible (laughs) that's all I know.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: I've hoed weeds with my legs[00:08:31] black a little because we didn't wear long pants in those days and they were just terrible, (inaudible).

Roz: Oh. How did you ever keep them out of the house?

Florence: We didn't.

Roz: (Laughs) did you have to sleep under mosquito nets?

Florence: No.

Roz: No? You just swat it?

Florence: Yeah.

Roz: That's what the mosquito beaters were for, right? Um, how about storms, how did you contend with storms out there?

Florence: Well we never did have a storm that I know of. It was high winds we call them then.

Roz: Yes.

Florence: We get out on the beach and twirl around in the wind and have a big time (inaudible). We didn't we invited a storm you know.

Roz: You did not know it was a hurricane didn't you?

Florence: No.

Roz: (Laughs) as I understand there was a big hurricane in about 1910 that blew straight for 24 hours. So uh, uh, you were just a year old then.

Florence: Well of course I don't remember.

Roz: You didn't even know one came, did you (laughs)?

Florence: I don't remember that one at all.

Roz: No. (Laughs) Um, what the, uh where did you go to school?

Florence: Well my dad had a teacher come over and stay at our house and he fixed some school desks and put them out in the storehouse so we had our school out there, had a blackboard up [00:10:00].

Roz: Oh. And what was her name? Do you remember her name?

Florence: Virgie Richardson was one of their names.

Roz: Virgie Richardson.

Florence: And then one was a Sam Knutson who's a man. He taught for us and I can't remember this lady's name. She was one of the elder one of them.

Roz: But this was the Butler children, and how many Butler children were there?

Florence: There were six Butler children.

Roz: Okay and, and-

Florence: That's the older, two didn't go to school but the younger ones go to school.

Roz: The three of you, there were three of you and, and uh-

Florence: My uncle and aunt didn't have any children.

Roz: They didn't have any children, okay. What the, as I understand um, uh, all of you children played together and you didn't get into, go to town too often. How old were you when you made your first trip to the mainland?

Florence: I guess I was around 12 or something like that.

Roz: And tell, tell me about the trip. How did you get to the mainland?

Florence: Well we had to take a horse and a wagon and go five miles to the river where the boat was and then get on the boat and go on to Titusville.

Roz: What was your first impression when you saw Titusville?

Florence: Oh well something new and big of course.

Roz: (Laughs) did you get to go and eat any ice cream?

Florence: Yes (laughs).

Roz: (Laughs) and usually was it an all day trip when you went into town?

Florence: Well most of the day, yeah.

Roz: Did your mother get the staples like flour and sugar and that type? Do you remember the store, some of the stores that were down [00:12:00] there at all?

Florence: Only one is the Brady's, Brady's store.

Roz: Yeah Brady's store, right. It got just about anything you wanted at Brady's store?

Florence: Yes, dry things like [00:12:13], sugar and oatmeal, grits and stuff like that.

Roz: Did you have a garden?

Florence: Oh yes, my mother had a wonderful garden.

Roz: And what were some of the things that she planted?

Florence: Corn, cabbage, carrots and beet.

Roz: What did you do for refrigeration?

Florence: What did we do?

Roz: Yeah for frig.

Florence: Nothing.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: We did not have a refrigerator or light, run the motor or even light.

Roz: You didn't have lights either?

Florence: No.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: We had to use kerosene lamps.

Roz: I see that's right. There was no electricity out there, was there?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Um, well what, what did you do, did, did you fish for your meat?

Florence: No, the men get them in these throw net or cast net.

Roz: Cast net, okay.

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: How about gopher turtles?

Florence: The what?

Roz: Gopher turtles. Did you eat gopher turtles? Gopher turtles.

Florence: My mother did, I didn't.

Roz: (Laughs) hey you didn't.

Florence: My mother and uncle did. I'd eat a little bit of the turtle.

Roz: Turtle?

Florence: The little turtle, that meat was white. Those big ones you got in the ocean, their meat was dark.

Roz: And did you ever eat any alligator?

Florence: No (laughs)!

Roz: (Laughs) what are some of the animals that you used to see when you were a child out there?

Florence: Rabbits and rats and deer.

Roz: There were deer.

Florence: Horses, everybody had a horse.

Roz: Did you ever see a panther, a Florida panther?

Florence: No I don't think I ever saw [00:14:00] one but they were there.

Roz: They were there.

Florence: They had cows, I could see some cows.

Roz: How about bears?

Florence: Well there was one bear we knew because my uncle killed him, (inaudible) him up a tree and skinned him.

Roz: Oh. What, did you eat that?

Florence: Yes (laughs).

Roz: (Laughs) was it good?

Florence: I wouldn't do it now.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: We'd eat anything then I guess.

Roz: But I understand were there wild turkeys? Did you, did you have wild turkey or birds anything like that?

Florence: Have what?

Roz: Wild turkey or ducks?

Florence: Oh plenty of ducks then, no turkeys.

Roz: No turkeys out there?

Florence: There may have been but we didn't know about them.

Roz: Yes. Do you remember anything about the Canaveral Club at all?

Florence: No.

Roz: That was after you left? Um, what was some of your favorite things that your mama made for dinner or cookies? Did you have many cookies or pies, wild berry pies or anything like that?

Florence: My mother use to make huckleberry pie. We used to go out in the woods and pick the huckleberries.

Roz: Huckleberry.

Florence: She made huckleberry puddings.

Roz: Mm-hmm.

Florence: And sea grape jelly, we pick the sea grapes and had the sea grape jelly.

Roz: That's interesting and um what the, uh, what did you do for entertainment in the evenings as a family? Uh, uh, you played outside during the day, went to school and then in the evenings what was a typical evening like?

Florence: My parents went to bed so early, we didn't have any entertainment at night. Oh one game it called guess, where each would get a certain animal and everybody guess it and say out the right one they would be the one to get their animal and guess it. Things like that.

Roz: Oh. That was nice.

Florence: We just lay out in the yard and study stars at night.

Roz: Oh how interesting. I bet the skies [00:16:00] were just beautifully clear, weren't they?

Florence: Mm-hmm. We used to go out in the yard and we could talk kinda loud over the water and our voice would come back to us just as plain as what we said. We called ourselves ventriloquists.[00:16:20]

Roz: Oh.

Florence: That was funny. You can hear your voice come back to you every time you say anything.

Roz: That's interesting.

Florence: Here I think they didn't understand that and then I said well that's what happened.

Roz: Do you remember phosphorous ever being in the water at night when you uh, glowing phosphorous in the water that makes it sparkle?

Florence: No.

Roz: No? Um, what was, what was Christmas like at the lighthouse?

Florence: Well we all get up early in the morning and we had a little tree then and a few little presents that's about all.

Roz: Was the stocking the biggest thing?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: What did you used to get?

Florence: All little things in there (laughs).

Roz: What did you, what was the very favorite thing that you got in your stocking in the toe? Do you remember?

Florence: Well there is this other thing, a ruler. I had one of those rulers six inches and I had it up to this day but it's gone now. I don't k now where it is.

Roz: Oh really all right. Did you ever get oranges in your toes or tangerine?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: That's because you were good all the time, right? (Laughs)

Florence: (Laughs)

Roz: And um, um, and what was Christmas dinner like? What did you eat?

Florence: Well my mother after we were bigger we got a turkey. You had to order your turkey then they were in the stores they weren't that full like they are now. If you want a turkey you had to order it ahead and they'd keep it for you and then we'd go get it.

Roz: That was, that was a big thing to have turkey for thanksgiving I mean for Christmas wasn't it?

Florence: Mm-mm.

Roz: How about the 4th of July?

Florence: Well we all had to have a watermelon [00:18:00]. That's about all.

Roz: Yes and you had picnics out there? Did you have picnics outside on the beach?

Florence: Oh yeah a little ones a few there wasn't enough people in order to have a picnic.

Roz: (Laughs) what did you do about church? Where there any churches there?

Florence: There used to be a preacher that come from somewhere. His name was Rev. Boyd. I don't know where he come from but my Dad would have him preaching in the old storehouse. They'd all gather there and have a sermon and talking things and after you'd got through there we'd all go over to my grandmother's place in the wagon and their old kitchen. They'd all get together have more singing and services and so forth.

Roz: This is the Wilson's?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: Yes, yes, aha.

Florence: And then a few families that was near come there, you know.

Roz: Mm-hmm. And, and was this every Sunday or like once a month?

Florence: Oh once a year, two or three, he'd come up from somewhere I don't know where.

Roz: Yes. There used to be circuit preachers and they probably came from Titusville or New Smyrna[00:19:12] possibly. And um, do you remember the river boats that used to come up and down the river? Did, did, did, or the ocean liners, the steamers did they used to come by and stop by?

Florence: Yes they have one of those, stern wheels thing is.

Roz: Stern Wheels yes.

Florence: I think his name is Cohen, Mr. Cohen.

Roz: Mr. Cohen, yes. And, a, a, did the people come by and you stop by?

Florence: Yes. Come stop at Burn's dock.

Roz: Mm-hmm. And a, a, a, when did you get mail? Do you remember how you got mail?

Florence: Well I can remember the first mail, they would bring it down from Merritt Island in a boat and take it to the [00:20:00] post office wherever it was. It moved so many times and then we'd get our mail at the little post office.

Roz: Aha. Did you have to go pick it up?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Yes, yes. And did you say that uh, uh, when you were young you had, you had, a horse and wagon?

Florence: That's all we had.

Roz: Yes.

Florence: The government furnished that for us. That was our car.

Roz: Yes that's right. And then, and then you would go down to the wharf and take a boat across?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: That's right and did you take the horse and wagon on the boat?

Florence: Oh no (laughs).

Roz: (Laughs) oh so you left the horse and wagon and then how did you, how did you get from the boat dock in Titusville? After you got to Titusville, was it right downtown?

Florence: No you have to tie on the dock and then get up on it and walk in.

Roz: And you walked into town?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Oh so that was not an easy chore to go to town, was it?

Florence: No. We hardly ever went cept the men folks went [00:21:05] by themselves.

Roz: (Laughs) um, uh, I understand that you love to go, when you were older you love to go dancing at the Cape Canaveral Hotel. Tell us about that. That must have been wonderful. Where was it located?

Florence: Well there was one up at the, we call it Lansing beach that was at Canaveral and we all used to dance there and later down in the beach, and we used to all get together there and dance, have a lot of fun.

Roz: What kind of dancing did you do?

Florence: Two step, one step, Waltz, Foxtrot.

Roz: The Charleston?

Florence: Charleston. Yeah.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: Yes anything that going then.

Roz: And who provided the music?

Florence: Well they had a man who'd play some kind of music and then sometimes we'd have a graphophone or a record player.

Roz: Oh, that's interesting [00:22:00].

Florence: We had one man he call for the square dances. See Roy Worley was his name. He lived on Merritt Island. He was a good square dance caller.

Roz: Oh wonderful. And, people from the community used to come to these dances?

Florence: Yes. Some from Cocoa even would come over there.

Roz: Really?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: And they were held like on Saturday night?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: That was the big night for the dancing, hm?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: Yes. Um, I understand, um, your father Clinton Honeywell used to test flag material. Tell us about that.

Florence: About what?

Roz: How he used, how your father used to test the material for the American flags?

Florence: Oh he had to. The government put up six flags, on the whatever you call it. And he had to heist the flags every morning and take down every night.

Roz: And he was testing the-

Florence: Yes the material the thing, which one withstood the weather best. We got a picture him on TV. The first time they put me on my father is on there holding his flag up.

Roz: And, and he would do a report on which one has withstood the salt air and the winds and everything else for the companies?

Florence: They didn't tell me. I don't know what they have told him. They all looked alike to me.

Roz: Well, tell us about how you met your husband? Where did you, how did you meet him?

Florence: Meet who?

Roz: Your husband.

Florence: Well over at the Lansing beach Hotel. They had a place underneath where they had stalls to change bathing suits. We were all out swimming one time. That's before I really knew him and [00:24:00] I was holding one of those inner tubes and I started going out with one of these out tides taking out and I got scared and I turned the inner tube lose, which is the craziest thing I should have done. And he was there he saw me so he come up and got me. That's where I met him. (Laughs)

Roz: (Laughs) and when were you married?

Florence: What?

Roz: When were you married?

Florence: When I was 23, how, what year was that? I don't know, 19 something.

Roz: 1932.

Florence: 1932.

Roz: You were 23 years old.

Florence: I was 23 yes, he was 29.

Roz: Um, uh where did you live after you were married? Did you move over to the main land?

Florence: No, he was a, worked with construction companies. He moved all around the place. We didn't really, you know, have a place to stay and so there was a little house being built right next to where my mother was and she said I wish that house is yours. And so those people left and my mother bought that and that was my house.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: So we had come back to that and he'd go around and we'd come back to that house.

Roz: And this was in Titusville?

Florence: No, Cocoa.

Roz: Cocoa, oh you went all the way to Cocoa.

Florence: That house of mine has been sold and it's been remodeled and Yvonne was just telling me about it [inaudible], it's the best remodeled house that has ever been put there [00:26:00].

Roz: Really? Where was it located in Cocoa?

Florence: Out where Broadview Manor, I don't know if you know Broadview Manor, it's up past the shopping center what is it, Byrd Plaza?

Roz: Byrd Plaza. Mm-hmm.

Florence: It's about a mile up past Byrd Plaza.

Roz: And did you have any children?

Florence: I have three.

Roz: Three and what were their names?

Florence: Yvonne, VellDean and James.

Roz: And they're all still living?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: Wonderful!

Florence: My son is up in Maryland. VellDean is on Merritt Island. Yvonne is up here in Titusville.

Roz: Good. Um, what, a one thing that we were talking about earlier were the palmetto berries over on the Island, tell me about that industry? That was quite interesting that they used to do that.

Florence: Well, I used to sell them. Had them in trays or what they call it.

Roz: Dry in vat?

Florence: Let them dry out and put them in bags and sell them. There was this one time there had full of money and they would taste really good but you better not get ahold of the ones that didn't taste good. They was terrible (laughs).

Roz: Were they bitter?

Florence: They weren't good at all but they sold all.

Roz: They sold them for medicinal-

Florence: Medicine.

Roz: Medicine yes, was quite a big industry there. Um, what were, um, what were some of the remedies that you used to, that your mother used to use when you were a child? Who was the local doctor that used to doctor you?

Florence: There's no doctor. We didn't have any doctors, no hospitals, no nothing, no drugstores.

Roz: So what, so how did she take care of you when you became ill? Uh, what are some of the home remedies?

Florence: Wasn't any.

Roz: You just got sick [00:28:00].

Florence: My grandmother, my mother had a big place on her foot, bleeding. My grandmother saw it and she grab a bunch of old spider webs and put on it and that's about it.

Roz: And that would coagulate the blood.

Florence: My brother he's stuck a horseshoe crab tail in his foot and my uncle took a razor blade and cut down on it and pushed it out and then filled in the hole full of iodine. We don't have any, remedies. I know doctors used to tell her when we got a little older that my tonsils had to come out and my mother wouldn't have them taken out. She'd make me sit around the house with my mouth full of salt and I got my tonsil to date.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: They haven't been taken out, that must have been alright.

Roz: That must have healed them, right?

Florence: But I think about it now, there were no doctors, no nothing, no hospitals. I don't see why people really need them.

Roz: Well you probably were healthier back then.

Florence: I know my, one of my aunts she had a, she raised her hogs and she got in the pen with them and one of the old ones had tusk, he stuck his tusk in her leg and she didn't take care of it or treat it or anything. It went into cancer so she has had to have her leg cut off right up here. And my mother and her sister and one of my uncles took care of her day and night, day and night, day and night until she passed away.

Roz: Oh my.

Florence: There's no hospital to take her to, no place. No nursing homes, nobody knows what it was to live. I don't see how we got along.

Roz: Yes. No electricity.

Florence: No electricity, no running water and no nothing.

Roz: Did you have a well?

Florence: Well, we pumped water from the ground [00:30:00].

Roz: Yes pumped water from the ground.

Florence: There is sort of the, what do you call this uh-

Roz: Cistern.

Florence: No.

Roz: A water, a, a windmills.

Florence: Wind, yes.

Roz: Windmills, yes, yes.

Florence: Then some of the water was what we called red water. If you washed your clothes in it, it would turn terrible. The next pipe we put down, it had white water, you can brush and wash your clothes in that. And if you'd boil that red water, it had the red sediment in it and then it was alright.

Roz: It was iron. It was full of iron probably.

Florence: It tasted awful how would [inaudible 00:30:41] I mean well water, whatever you call it.

Roz: Yes. Do you, do you remember a, when we, when you were younger do you remember um, a, having any cold winters, any cold, cold weather at all?

Florence: Oh yes, it was finely cold.

Roz: What did you do in the cold? When the wind blowing out there on the Cape and when it got cold, how did you keep warm?

Florence: We didn't.

Roz: Did you just load up the feather bed with lots of blankets?

Florence: I remember one night I was so cold I didn't want to go to bed. I just sit on the edge of the bed. I didn't want to go to bed.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: We had some fireplaces where you put the fire. It was warm til the fire went out and it would get cold.

Roz: Yes.

Florence: We didn't have any way to heat it.

Roz: Did you have the citrus trees out at the cape? Did you get any oranges from Dummit's grove at all?

Florence: Well down, down, my grandmothers had plenty of oranges.

Roz: At the Wilson's they have plenty of oranges. And they used to-

Florence: All kinds of fruits he had. Yeah.

Roz: Yes they used to bring them up to you?

Florence: What?

Roz: Uh, that's where you used to get them, your oranges?

Florence: Oh yes.

Roz: You had plenty of fresh fruit then too [00:32:00].

Florence: Oh yes. All kinds. She had more sugar apples and all different peaches.

Roz: Oh peaches?

Florence: Peaches, yes they have some flat, flat peaches. I don't ever see them.

Roz: Flat peaches.

Florence: They are flat. When you see peaches, it's puffy.

Roz: Yes. Uh, do you remember, were there any pineapples being grown out there when you were a little girl? Can you remember the pineapples?

Florence: The one down toward Palm Beach, there was a pineapple patch but it finally went out.

Roz: Oh yes. Did you, how, how much did you travel around when you were a teenager? Did you go, did you go a, a, a like a down to Cocoa or up to, over to Sanford or anything like that at all?

Florence: No, no.

Roz: Not at all.

Florence: No.

Roz: So you just stayed local?

Florence: I stayed right there at round the lighthouse and around my grandmother's place.

Roz: Now when you got older did you go to high school in Titusville?

Florence: No, we went to Cocoa.

Roz: You went to Cocoa.

Florence: They have a bridge there and we went by the bus.

Roz: And who was the bus driver? Do you remember her name?

Florence: My cousin Catherine Burns.

Roz: Catherine Burns. Okay and what was the bus like that she took (laughs)?

Florence: Well just like a little, I don't know had little seats in it and then like -

Roz: Little wooden bus?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Is it little wooden bus? Do you remember, do you remember Ethel Battle and Carl Battle at all?

Florence: Battle?

Roz: Battle, they used to drive a school bus at-

Florence: In Titusville?

Roz: Yes. Mm-hmm.

Florence: What was their name now?

Roz: Ethel Battle and Carl Battle they used to have a little school bus.

Florence: Yes. I think we had a picture of that and some of the pictures that Yvonne's got she should have anyway, it might be gone.

Roz: Yes. Can you, do you remember what it was like [00:34:00] to get the family all together for a gathering uh, uh, uh, did you have a lot of relatives come?

Florence: We didn't have a lot of relatives.

Roz: You didn't have a lot of relatives? Okay.

Florence: Mm-hmm. Once in a while a few of us to get together and have cake and baked beans and things.

Roz: Uh, uh, do you remember, um, anything about uh, some of the people who used to live in the community that later on down the line, you mentioned the Butlers, what ever happened to these people? Do you remember what happened to them?

Florence: No I don't. The Butlers moved away to a house on the Banana River and from then on I don't know where they went.

Roz: Okay. Uh, I understand you had a very special young lady who was your friend uh, who, whose, uh, last name was Key. Uh, tell us a little bit about her and what her relationship was to a very famous person?

Florence: Virginia Key?

Roz: Mm-hmm.

Florence: I stayed with them at their house part of my school years.

Roz: Mm-hmm. And who was she a relative of?

Florence: Francis Scott Key. I think that's what Yvonne said. Francis Scott Key.

Roz: Francis Scott Key and um, and uh, you still were friends with her well after you were grown, weren't you?

Florence: Oh yes. I was at her wedding when she got married.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: I was her best lady, I guess.

Roz: Oh and where did she get married?

Florence: Right there in Cocoa in her house.

Roz: At Cocoa and that's where she-

Florence: In her mother's house rather.

Roz: And that's where they lived in Cocoa?

Florence: Well they lived in Cocoa but they had an apartment.

Roz: Mm-hmm. What was the, what was your first car that you could remember [00:36:00] riding in? Your first, very first car can you remember what it was like?

Florence: I guess it was an old Ford car or one of the Chevrolets. I don't really remember.

Roz: What [inaudible 00:36:17].

Florence: No, we had no roll up windows, it's had- (Laughs).

Roz: Did it have a rumble seat in the back? (Laughs)

Florence: Oh lordy, the one that was in the back seat stood the dickens, whew!

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: And my daddy didn't want a car that had windows in it.

Roz: Oh really, he didn't want one?

Florence: He finally got one.

Roz: (Laughs) Oh Goodness. What was it uh, what was it like during the war years? Um, um, when the wa, when the war broke out, what was that like around here? Did a lot of the young boys go away to war?

Florence: I guess so, there wasn't many boys there.

Roz: And-

Florence: I guess they went, I remember, the main thing is we had this old flour and turns the bread brown. We couldn't get used to brown bread we are always used to white flour, you know.

Roz: Okay.

Florence: But now I like the brown bread.

Roz: And that's what you used to get during the war years?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: Yes. Did-

Florence: That's all I can remember we get that old ugly flour, you know.

Roz: The things were scarce back then, weren't they? Can you think of any funny stories about the family or some of the funny things that happened over at the lighthouse when you were a little girl? How, for instance did your mama make you dresses, your clothes? Did you have to make your clothes?

Florence: Yes, she sewed.

Roz: Yeah, and that because there weren't any places to buy those dress, right?

Florence: No. They used to order from Montgomery's or Sears, little piece of cloth and she'd cut it out and make us something, even our underclothes, she'd make.

Roz: Really?

Florence: Yes.

Roz: Isn't that something. What was your favorite dress? Do you remember what [00:38:00] your favorite dress looks like?

Florence: Well I had, kinda white with a pink on it and a lace around it. I've got a picture of me standing on the lighthouse steps with that on.

Roz: Oh how pretty.

Florence: I was about 11 years old I guess.

Roz: (Laughs) did you have any pets over there?

Florence: Cats and we had a dog one time.

Roz: What was the dog's name?

Florence: Ben.

Roz: Ben?

Florence: Mm-hmm. One night the, my mother had gone to the lighthouse this is all the time. My sister and I was staying in our grandmother's house, we heard that little dog holler outside so we went out and he was howling under the porch and there was rattle snake under there so we went down to my uncle's house. We need to come up and see if we could it well we couldn't hear that snake anymore. The next day he came out from under the house and he was going off then, my sister got that gun and she went, "Bang! Got him."

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: We made the little dog come in the room with us to stay that night.

Roz: (Laughs) Oh, Bless your heart um, uh, you had talked about one of the likes that you used to watch the big sea turtles come in, tell us about the sea turtles that used to come in?

Florence: Well you had to go to the beach at night and if you saw one coming in and you'd be still and wouldn't let him see you. If he saw you he'd turn around and go back, but you let him get out of the water he wouldn't go back, he'd just keep going up. We used to sit on his back and ride him.

Roz: Did you ever watch them lay their eggs?

Florence: Yes. He digs, he digs a hole and put his eggs in the back feet and then he covers them up and pats them down and turn around [00:40:00] and go right back to water.

Roz: Did you ever watch the eggs hatch with all the little ones come out?

Florence: No.

Roz: No.

Florence: My mother used to take one or two of the eggs to cook, she liked them a little bit, but not much. The white of the turtle egg won't turn white and the yellow turns yellow, but it's mushy. Us kids wouldn't touch them but my mother she like a little bit so she'd get one or two. She find a turtle's nest she had a wire and shed poke down in the ground and when she knew she hit the nest, she dig down and get one or two of the eggs. If you touched them now they'd put you in jail.

Roz: That's right. Do you remember, do you remember any wild flowers that used to grow on the beach at all? Do you remember along the dune lines some of the flowers, passion flowers or uh-

Florence: Some of these red, yellow what do they call them?

Roz: Oh well, lantana, galardia? No? They look like a big daisy?

Florence: They are like a daisy or something like that.

Roz: Yes, galardia.

Florence: There are a lot of little wild flowers I don't know the name of them.

Roz: Do you ever remember any morning glory? Do you have morning glories grown in along the vine?

Florence: Oh yes, they are kind of purple.

Roz: They are kind of purple they used to grow wild all over the beach didn't they?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: It's hard to believe that they used to do that and passion flowers used to grow in certain areas along the beach also. Uh, were there a lot of dunes out at the lighthouse? Did the, did the, wind blow dune lines or [00:42:00] big piles of sand on the beach?

Florence: Yes that's what you call them sand hills, I think.

Roz: Sand hills, yes

Florence: Yes, we used to go out there and pull up the sea oats, and eat the little tender bottom. If you go touch one of them now they will put you in jail. We used to pull them up and eat them, it was real tender.

Roz: Yes, isn't that interesting and there were a lot of them too.

Florence: Oh yes.

Roz: They were all over the place.

Florence: But I think most of them have been pulled out though.

Roz: (Laughs) were the, was the beach real wide then out there?

Florence: Well at times when it was low tide.

Roz: And it was pretty wide wasn't it? And, and what was the sand like? Was the sand white or was it gritty?

Florence: White.

Roz: It was really pretty, yes.

Florence: Mm-hmm. White.

Roz: That's what I understand it was real white and real pretty. Do you remember when you were a little girl any uh, any of the shipwrecks they had on the beach?

Florence: They didn't really have shipwrecks. We had one we never did even see the little boat, there was a man come off of it, up at Canaveral beach and they come in out through the woods down to the lighthouse and I don't remember how many were there, quite a few men. We put them, my dad put them in the storehouse overnight. Then my mother the next morning she cooked oatmeal to feed all that bunch of people.

Roz: Oh yes.

Florence: And then they went on back to their boat we never did see either and I don't really don't know what happened to it. They had a big cat, a big white cat and had a yellow tail and some yellow round his head. He gave them, one of them gave it to my sister and the boat's name was Albert Sopha, so we named the cat Albert Sopha.

Roz: Oh.

Florence: And we kept him and then finally we had to move over to go to school and we didn't wanna take the cat because the other cats would fight with him. So we let our Aunt have him [00:44:01]. We even have some pictures of him. He was a pretty cat.

Roz: That was like having another little playmate, wasn't it?

Florence: Yes (laughs).

Roz: How did the dog and cat get along though?

Florence: Well, we didn't have the cat and the dog was already gone.

Roz: Oh okay. So you didn't have them at the same time that worked out pretty good.

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Um, so is there anything else that you can think, um, that the, about the good old days, the bad old days or the in between days that you would like to tell me about? Uh, when you were a child or when you were a teenager? Um, uh, you didn't do much courting out there because there was nobody to court, was there?

Florence: (Laughs)

Roz: (Laughs) what happened to the Cape Canaveral Hotel, the dance hall? Do you remember what happened to it? Did it burn down?

Florence: After we left I don't know what happened.

Roz: Yes. Do, do you remember where Desoto Beach was?

Florence: Desoto?

Roz: Yes, Desoto Beach?

Florence: I've heard of it but I don't know as to where it was.

Roz: Okay. Uh, who used to live in Artesia?

Florence: No I didn't live there.

Roz: Do you know any other families that used to live in Artesia? Do you remember any of them?

Florence: My uncle's sister lived there.

Roz: What was their name? Do you remember?

Florence: Wyatt Chandler.

Roz: Chandler?

Florence: Her name is Bernice.

Roz: Bernice Chandler?

Florence: They call her Birdie.

Roz: Birdie.

Florence: And she had two children, Rolina and Wilkinson.

Roz: Wilkinsons. Yes, they were an old family, pioneering family. Do you remember a place called Happy Creek?

Florence: No (laughs).

Roz: No. um, do you met, do you know Mr. Jandreau [00:45:50]?

Florence: Oh yes.

Roz: What did he use to do?

Florence: I don't really know.

Roz: He was a fisherman.

Florence: Oh was he a fisherman?

Roz: Yes [inaudible 00:45:57] there.

Florence: I went to school with his children.

Roz: You did [00:46:00]? Oh. Aha.

Florence: Let's see was a, what was her name? She's dead now anyway. I can't seem to remember her name.

Roz: Are you going to go to the big uh, reunion this coming weekend at Cape Canaveral Light?

Florence: I really don't know.

Roz: That's wonderful that all the descendants of the families who lived out there and of course you're probably the only surviving person who has lived at the lighthouse.

Florence: I am the only one.

Roz: You're the only one left and I think that's a legacy in itself to be here to talk about the lighthouse and the- What, oh, oh I know what I want to ask you, what did your house look like? How big was your house?

Florence: Well it was a two story house and had two big porches and three rows of steps one on this side, one there and one in the back.

Roz: How many bedrooms did it have?

Florence: Well it had two upstairs and our guestroom. One is there when [inaudible 00:47:19] house there then we made a living room out of one of our guestrooms. I would say two bedrooms, I guess.

Roz: Mm-hmm.

Florence: When somebody wants to use that other room that was theirs for a bedroom instead of a living room.

Roz: Okay and what did the inside of the lighthouse look like?

Florence: Inside?

Roz: Yes, the inside of the lighthouse.

Florence: Well the downstairs part had a closet. People was supposed to live in there, you know.

Roz: In the lighthouse itself?

Florence: Yes inside they had closets in some of the rooms down at the bottom part of the lighthouse.

Roz: And I understand the steps are very steep.

Florence: Yes and nobody ever lived in them. They have [00:48:00] the houses to live in so why would they wanna go in.

Roz: To live in the lighthouse, that's right. (Laughs) That's right. After a while did, were you able to go over to the main land for your provisions and everything on a regular basis?

Florence: Oh yeah, after a while I guess, they got the bridges and they had cars later on so we could go over wherever we wanted to.

Roz: Did you ever want to return to live at the lighthouse?

Florence: No (laughs) because it's wasn't very nice not having electricity and anything. No running water, we had to pump all our water, pump as many a gallons trying to wash clothes.

Roz: Oh right, how did your mother ever do laundry for three children, pumped a lot of water. What did you use for soap?

Florence: The old bar soap, Octagon.

Roz: Octagon. I bet she had a clothesline, right?

Florence: Oh, sure.

Roz: (laughs) what are your, what are some of the chores that you used to do, that you used to do? Did you ever, did you ever uh, help your Dad with the chores at the lighthouse? Did your brother?

Florence: No, nobody- Because all they did was carry kerosene up to the top in a five gallon can either one of the ones that was going on duty.

Roz: Did anybody come out and work with your father, another man?

Florence: No, he only had those two.

Roz: Mr. Butler and-

Florence: Quarterman.

Roz: And Quarterman.

Florence: They just took shifts, four hour shifts.

Roz: Did you um, did you use to play games with the lighthouse flashing at night?

Florence: Mm-hmm. (Shakes head no).

Roz: Do you remember? Uh, uh, I read an article one time that uh, that, that said [00:50:00] that uh, it was sort of a, um, uh, it was sort of a rhythm that went with the light house with the beam going around and it puts you to sleep at night.

Florence: I don't know.

Roz: Did you ever remember doing that?

Florence: No.

Roz: No.

Florence: It does make a noise if you open the top. It could put you to sleep if you just sit there and listen at it there is this buzzing , regular.

Roz: Regular buzzing.

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: Well is there anything else that you would like to talk about today that you can think of, any funny old stories?

Florence: Well I don't know if this is funny. My brother and I decided we wanted to go out after one of the storms you know. All of the low places would fill up with water, so we were going to walk over to my grandmother's place. So we started out on foot, we went through savannahs up to our waist in water, two or three of them before we got to my grandmother's place. And we stayed over there with them till we dried off and we went out on the county road and got to the beach and walked up the beach to another road going into the lighthouse. We went through more water on through our waist and I stepped on a turtle, so it bit me. (Laughs)

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: We made it up before dark.

Roz: My goodness. Did you ever come upon any alligators out there in the savannahs or anything?

Florence: No. I've seen a little I don't know where it ever come from. A little alligator the yellow one a little and he was out, outside of our fence. I don't know here he come from well I didn't see it anymore.

Roz: Isn't that interesting ha. Did you ever see any wild hogs out there? Were there any wild hogs?

Florence: Well there was pigs I don't know whether they was wild. They used to go right by, file in a line [00:52:00] and my uncle build a pen and he knew this old pig was going to have babies so he put her in a pen. Coaxed her in there and so she had her babies. After she got old enough he let her go, kept the babies in there. So he had his little pigs to eat, fix, cook. We had named it fire cracker one of them. And I remember the school teacher wouldn't eat any of it cause she say we'd be eating firecracker.

Roz: (Laughs) What would, what would, uh, did you have regular school books when the school marm came?

Florence: Oh yes.

Roz: Now did she stay at the lighthouse?

Florence: She stayed with us.

Roz: She stayed with you. She boarded with you.

Florence: Yes.

Roz: That is what they used to do. Okay. And what was, can you remember the names of some of books that you used to use for your reading, writing and arithmetic?

Florence: There were schools books but I know what they were then but I don't know.

Roz: The McGuffy's? McGuffy Readers did you use to use? McGuffy Readers?

Florence: I don't remember the names of the books. They were school books that they gave us. Whatever they were I don't remember.

Roz: Did you, do you remember some of the childhood songs that you used to sing?

Florence: We didn't use to sing songs that I know of.

Roz: At school?

Florence: That's the reason I couldn't sing. I never tried to sing.

Roz: (Laughs) you didn't sing.

Florence: I remember singing gather by the river.

Roz: Oh yes that is a hymn, we shall gather at the river.

Florence: But I never tried to sing, I wouldn't try. To this day I can't try, I can't sing because I wouldn't try to sing.

Roz: Did you ever have any music instrument, musical instrument at the lighthouse? Guitars or anything like that?

Florence: No, we had an old graphophone [00:54:00].

Roz: An old graphophone. What was some of the music? Do you remember any of the spindles that you used to play on, any of the old timers? Do you remember any of their names?

Florence: No. I remember some of the old, let's see, Casey Jones was one of them. He kissed his wife at the station door and when he turned around, train turned the bend. They knew by the sound of the whistle that the man at the throttle is Casey Jones. I remember part of that.

Roz: (Laughs) oh that's wonderful, yes. Did you ever ride on the train? No? When the train used to come in to Titusville, did you ever hop in the train to ride the train?

Florence: I don't know when they had the train.

Roz: Okay. Well is there anything else you'd like to tell me about anything? What do you think you would like to have the people remember most about the lighthouse that's still standing after all these years?

Florence: Well, I don't know. Nothing I know it could do cept stay there.

Roz: And keep shining its light.

Florence: That shining light it used to shine 18 miles out in the ocean.

Roz: 18 miles.

Florence: To keep the boats off the shoals. So I don't know what to do now to keep them off. I guess they got instruments.

Roz: Yes.

Florence: The name of the ship that used to bring the fuel in the lighthouse, his name is Cyprus.

Roz: Cyprus.

Florence: Used to come after it would blow its big whistle. When wed hear that whistle we take off for the beach. My dad would put his uniform on, his [00:55:47] his cap, take off down to the beach and the Cyprus would anchor out there and put the fuel in a little boat and bring it as close as they could to the shore and throw the [00:56:00] [inaudible] boxes, 5 gallon cans. They throw it up, then they bring it further and put it way up on the beach, they bring as much as they're supposed to. And then we'd take the horse and wagon and haul it to the lighthouse.

Roz: Oh so that's how you got the fuel. So you helped your Dad do that huh?

Florence: Mm-hmm.

Roz: And all the children help do that?

Florence: Well no, the men folks did that. That was too heavy for us at that time.

Roz: Okay. And then but did you take-

Florence: Then they have a house up there. In fact the house is still there, except the tops out of it. They use to put the oil in at the lighthouses. It's now at the bottom.

Roz: Yes. The Oil house.

Florence: They say they was gona repair it, put the top, but they haven't done it.

Roz: Yes, maybe they will one of these days.

Florence: I don't know.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: Us kids made us a smoke house out of those boxes you know, to smoke us some fish, so we put the little wire across the, inside and had those boxes all up there and have these leaves and things and smoke it, we was gona have us some smoked fish. Well, we went up to the house and we turned around and our smoke house was on fire.

Roz: (Laughs)

Florence: So we went down there and saved our old smoked fish (laughs). That taught us a lesson not to use wood to make a smoke house.

Roz: (Laughs) well we thank you for visiting with us today and for telling us some very interesting stories about an era that is gone by and probably will never be again and for sharing your memories of living at the lighthouse and your family and some of the goings on in the era of when [00:58:00] you were a young lady.

Florence: Yvonne might remember, make me think of some things she used to say, "how about this." You ought to call her in here and see if she thinks of anything. When you got time.

Roz: Oh sure why don't we? Okay.

Florence: See if there is anything I-

Roz: Okay.

Roz Foster: Change that you can see in this century from the time that you were a child, like ah, rockets going off and the computers and all that type of thing, okay.

Florence: Well,

Roz Foster: I'll [inaudible 00:00:15].

speaker 3: Oh, okay.

Roz Foster: And the cars, did you tell 'em about the touring car that grandma, grandpa use to..

Florence: Yeah, the little ole Ford and Chevrolets was the first cars he had.

Roz Foster: What is the biggest change ah, in this century that you think ah, happened in this area or in the United States? What, what was the biggest change? How 'bout the rockets? What do you think about that?

Florence: Well there were missiles and things goin' up. That was about the biggest things, I think. And the change in the cars and everything, made 'em so much better than they first out, you know. And computers and all this stuff that they got. They've done away with Gregg's Shorthand. That's the kind I took, shorthand, Gregg's I don't what kinda, they don't even use shorthand now. They used to really have to have that to be a ah, secretary.

Roz Foster: All right. And um, what are ah, oh, what do you, that do you think about the missile program out there?

Florence: Well, I think it's wonderful, course I don't understand that much about it. I haven't been able to read much. I can't see very good to read anything anymore.

Roz Foster: Uh-huh.

Florence: I just read headlines and so, I can't keep up with things like I used to, you know.

Roz Foster: MmHmm. Um, what um, ah, we were talkin' earlier about some of the inconveniences that you used to have out at the lighthouse and one of them [00:02:00] of course was the lack of electricity ah, the mosquitoes ate you alive and then of course we had outdoor plumbing, so to speak.

Florence: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What was that like?

Florence: Well it was terrible. We didn't have any running water, no electricity, nothin' like that.

Roz Foster: Okay, and ah, ah, as I understand, did you have a one-holer or a a two-holer?

Florence: Two-holer (Laughing)

Roz Foster: Ha-ha-ha-ha!

Florence: And I used the Sears & Roebuck, Sears & Roebuck catalog and newspapers for toilet paper. We didn't even know such a thing as the toilet paper was about.

Roz Foster: Isn't that somethin'. Mm-mmm. And um, what were, what were ah, what were some of the, what happened to your grandma's house? I understand it caught on fire. What happened to it?

Florence: Well, it ah, there was an old kitchen part. They had this old terra cotta pipe and it went up and turned down like that. I don't see how it hadn't caught on fire before. One of her daughters was out in the yard and they pointed up there and the thing was just beginnin' to blaze up so they have to have a ladder up and my sister and brother got that ladder and I pumped water and he went up there to throw it up there and got the fire, fire out or the whole place woulda been burned up, 'cause all the houses were so close, if that big kitchen. They had the kitchen way, away from, well not way, away but just out away from the rest of the houses, you know. That used to be the way they did that, have the kitchen out, and I don't see how in the world it went all those years without ever gettin' caught on fire with that pipe like it was. 'cause the smoke and stuff [00:04:00] would go up there and turn down.

Roz Foster: Hmm.

Florence: That's the first time it's ever been on fire all those years, I guess.

Roz Foster: (Laughing) Good grief. What do you remember most about your grandmother and grandfather?

Florence: About what?

Roz Foster: Wilsons, what do you remember most about the Wilsons? What kind of people were they? What, what did ah, what did ah, what did they like to do?

Florence: Well, they didn't do nuthin' [00:04:25] my grandfather was a postmaster, but my grandmother, I never seen her, she was so old and she never do much of anything, wash some dishes and then sit in a chair.

Roz Foster: She was bein' a grandma.

Florence: She was so, she couldn't see, her eyes, so she didn't really do anything. In her younger days, well she raised all kinds of flowers and things.

Roz Foster: Ohhhh.

Florence: 'Course they were still growin' there and she couldn't do anything much 'cause her eyes had gone bad.

Roz Foster: MmHm.

Florence: So she'd just sit in the chair most of the time, like me, like me. I sit in the chair most of the time.

Roz Foster: And Henry Wilson was the postmaster. Did he have the, the ah post, where was the post office, at his house?

Florence: Just one of the little rooms had a little place where they put the letter in. They move it so many times, I don't know how in the world, they kept up with it.

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Florence: Move it here and somebody deliver it. Move it somewhere else and somebody else would be runnin', then they'd move some

Roz Foster: Do you remember anything about a peat camp?

Florence: A what?

Roz Foster: A peat camp.

Florence: No.

Roz Foster: We have a photograph of a peat camp and I was wondering what this is. It says daddy's peat camp.

Florence: I don't know. What was it supposed to be?

Roz Foster: I don't know. It's here in Florida somewhere. Ah, that would be interesting.

Florence: I don't know about that.

Roz Foster: Okay, um, what was the ah, what was your reaction [00:06:00] the first, the first time, you lived in Cocoa, when you were, when you were a young lady, right. After you got married, you moved to Cocoa or did you move to Cocoa before you got married?

Florence: We moved to Cocoa before.

Roz Foster: Before you got married?

Florence: MmHm.

Roz Foster: Okay and how old, how old when you moved to Cocoa, about 22?

Florence: Well then I got married at 23.

Roz Foster: So it was, okay so it was before you were 23 years old. And ah, ah, do you remember the bridge that, that came over from, from Merritt Island, back then at Harrison Street?

Florence: The old wooden bridge.

Roz Foster: The old wooden bridge in Cocoa.

Florence: It got so bad that the school bus would stop on a place where it was bad and let us get out of the bus and walk past that and then she'd go across and pick us up again.

Roz Foster: (Laughing). That was bad wasn't it.

Florence: (Chuckles)

Roz Foster: What, what, what was downtown Cocoa like back then, pretty thriving?

Florence: Well, yeah, you could drive in it.

Roz Foster: You could drive in it. Did it have paved streets?

Florence: Yes.

Roz Foster: Did it? Oh, that was pretty modern.

Florence: They had automobiles then you know and they had to have roads they could go on.

Roz Foster: Yeah, yep. Do you remember when you were a little girl, when you came to Titusville, did they have paved roads in Titusville when you were little girl?

Florence: Have what?

Roz Foster: Paved roads in Titusville.

Florence: Yeah. Yeah, they had cars and things and Titusville too.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Do, do you remember Mr. Brady at all?

Florence: I never seen eem.

Roz Foster: No, at the grocery store. Ah, do you remember Denham's?

Florence: What?

Roz Foster: Do you remember Denham's?

Florence: Denham's, yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Florence: That was a dry goods store.

Roz Foster: A dry goods store. Yeah, yeah, used to go there and get dry goods. Ah, and ah, do you remember ah, ah, Pritchard's Hardware?

Florence: Who?

Roz Foster: Pritchard's Hardware Store.

Florence: Pritchard, yes.

Roz Foster: Yeah, yeah [00:08:00] Capt. Pritchard.

Florence: What is that one's in Cocoa?

Roz Foster: Travis.

Florence: Travis!

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Florence: Travis uh-huh (chucking).

Roz Foster: yeah, and the boats used to come up there, didn't they. Do you remember ever going to the Brevard Hotel, down in Cocoa?

Florence: Oh, yeah, I worked there after I got grown [00:08:17].

Roz Foster: Oh, you did!

Florence: I worked there for about eight years.

Roz Foster: Ohhh

Florence: As a switchboard operator.

Roz Foster: As a switchboard operator.

Florence: But they don't have switchboards now.

Roz Foster: No, well what was working like a switchboard operator like? How did, how did you do that? What was ah, ah, you actually talked to the people, right?

Florence: Yeah, but out of the Brevard Hotel, I called it a dead switchboard, but I liked the switchboard up at the Dixie Motel, they were busy. Kept you goin' pullin' cords. You'd have to be careful you'd pull the wrong one out.

Roz Foster: (Laughs)

Florence: I remember I was there workin' one day and my son happened to be there and I kept putting calls in and he looked over the top to see what in the world I was doing.

Roz Foster: (Laughter)

Florence: I liked that, it was busy you know. But down there at the, of course I had the desk too so I didn't have to sit right by the switchboard down at the Brevard Hotel.

Roz Foster: What was the Brevard Hotel like in those days? Describe it.

Florence: Well, it was a big ol' building, it had four stories and had the old antique furniture in it, had a great big porch in the front and back.

Roz Foster: Did it have a lot of people come and stay there?

Florence: Quite a few, yes.

Roz Foster: Especially in the winter time?

Florence: No, it's any time they'd come and go.

Roz Foster: Okay. And was there a street in front of the hotel that you walked up and down? Ah, ah, the street, ah, the street.

Florence: Yeah, there was a street but what in the world was that [00:10:00] name. Might have been Brevard Avenue. I just went down that road, I don't remember what it was.

Roz Foster: Yeah, and ah, ah, and ah, what was, what was one of the really nice places that you, that you could go ah, eat dinner at down there? Do you remember Hubbs Inn at all?

Florence: Oh, yeah. that was, I'd say that was a wonderful place.

Roz Foster: Yeah, did you ever go there?

Florence: Yeah, I went up there.

Roz Foster: Tell us, tell us, can you describe it, where it was on the river?

Florence: It was on the river. It looked like an old run-down place to me.
(Laughing)

Roz Foster: I remember you used to be able to see through, the water through the cracks in the floor. But the food was delicious.

Florence: They served good food.

Roz Foster: Yes, it was. That was really a great place wasn't it?

Florence: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Ah, do you remember Myrt Tharpe, do you remember Myrt's Soda Fountain?

Florence: That restaurant?

Roz Foster: Yes.

Florence: Yeah.

Roz Foster: You remember that? They used to have

Florence: I remember the name, now I don't remember much about the restaurant, 'cause I never went to it that I know of.

Roz Foster: Do you remember Chastine's Restaurant?

Florence: Yes.

Roz Foster: It was over on the other corner.

Florence: I don't remember going to that either.

Roz Foster: Five-twenty, yeah. Ah, um, what, what, what, what were, what were some of the places that you used to go shopping in, in ah, Cocoa that aren't there anymore? Do you remember the stores? Do you remember the five and dime, downtown?

Florence: On the corner, Rubin's. The name of the [00:11:31] Rubin's wasn't that the name of that big, that had dresses, clothes, Rubin Brothers.

Roz Foster: Rubin Brothers.

Florence: I think that's what it was.

Roz Foster: What ah, do you remember Niesner's five and dime?

Florence: Yeah.

Roz Foster: That's down there where Thread Needle Street is. Ah, do you remember anybody, anybody ah who used to live in that area that was really ah, really quite prominent in the [00:12:00] neighborhood?

Florence: No.

Roz Foster: No. Do you remember anybody who used to come on a regular basis to the Brevard Hotel?

Florence: Well, some people would come for certain things, I don't really remember what it was, they'd do and then they'd go out playing golf. And you know so many people, I couldn't remember all the names.

Roz Foster: Yeah, yeah. I didn't know if anybody of importance or anything ah, that you could remember that ah, was well known that came in there on a regular basis or anything.

Okay. Well we thank you very much and I think you've done told us a very nice story today.

Florence: Oh. You're not gonna put me on TV now are ya?

Roz Foster: (Laughing) Well, we don't know. We might just do that. (Laughing)

Florence: I hadn't even seen myself on the last one yet.

Roz Foster: Well, this is great and ah, we really appreciate it, yeah. We have taped them. Well thank you so very much.

Florence4: Oh.