

**Transcript of an oral history interview in the collection of the
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922**

Roz: Okay, ah, only the memories of the now vanished communities with the names of Shiloh, Clifton, Allenhurst, Haulover, Wilson, Heath and Happy Creek remain with us today. Located on North Merritt Island in that spit of land known as the Canaveral Peninsula, adventure seeking pioneers and homesteaders once lived over 100 years ago. As recently as 1962, there were approximately 17 towns, settlements and hamlets scattered across North Merritt Island in Canaveral comprised of a reported 400 people, mostly farmers. Between the Indian and Banana Rivers, among the moss covered oak trees and overgrown graveyards can be found remains of crumbling foundations and coquina driveways and shrubs gone wild from neglect.

In the 1960s, the government purchased over 87,000 of these acres including 40 miles of beachfront to make way for NASA's Kennedy Space center and the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Along with the displacement of the homesteaders, many descendants of the original pioneering families, houses, businesses, fish camps and restaurants were bulldozed. The land was used for space support facilities, left as safety buffer zones and some for nature conservation. Although the locations of these ghost towns are within government land boundaries, some roads are open to public travel and lead to prime hunting and fishing areas of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Today we're going to have an insight of what life was like growing up in these areas that were known as Shiloh, Clifton, and Allenhurst. Our guest today, Mrs. Frances Threkeld Braden Sharek [00:02:00] will share with us what it was like growing up in the communities of Clifton, Allenhurst and Shiloh, the people places and events that would make up the fabric of these communities that have been lost in time. The time period we'll be discussing will be approximately 1927 through the 1940s. Then I guess when we start off say I'm not going to be on the mic so introduce yourself as she should introduce herself.

Frances: Hm, okay.

Roz: Can you hear me at all on that?

Speaker 3: Yes, but you're off mic. It's ... This would not be used for an edit.

Frances: Um-hm.

Roz: Okay, okay.

Speaker 3: This narration would be done later. We would do the narration of you for the entire ...

Roz: Yes but I mean can you hear me talking to her?

Speaker 3: Oh, yes, um-hm.

Roz: Okay, that's what I wanted to (Laughing) ... Okay.

Speaker 3: When, when um ...

Frances: Now? I'm Frances Threkeld Braden Sharek and I was born in Titusville. Now really I originated in Kentucky because I was born two months after my parents came down here. So I'll start with my parents. They originally came to the Shiloh area long before I was born when just my brother was there. They and the Ramers drove across the Rockies and ended up in Jacksonville and in coming from Jacksonville to the Shiloh area, it took one full day to drive in a model T because they kept having blowouts because of the coquina rock roads. So they ... also my brother and Dennis Ramer was in the separate cars but I think every time they stopped, they probably had a fight because they were boys and they were that age but that was when my family came [00:04:00] the first time.

But then we went back ... they went back to Kentucky where they lived in the area where so many of these people from Shiloh have come from, the Livingston County area and near the Ohio River. I'm sure the river kept coming up so much over there, they practically were starving in Kentucky so they came down here and by this time, there was a railroad that came ... a passenger train and they came to Titusville in 1925, by train and two months or four months later, I was born. Over on Canaveral Street across from where the Carlisle families lived for years. But we lived there; mother probably just had a doctor here. I don't know because we didn't have hospitals or anything in Titusville.

I laughingly tell everybody when I was born in Titusville, there were 400 people. Then when I graduated, there were 4,000 and of course now, there's 40,000. So anyhow, when I was two years old, that was when my dad bought a citrus grove. Evidently just starting out because the pictures I've seen, they were just waist high trees and we moved to Clifton. Now a lot of people don't know where Clifton is because it is between Allenhurst and Shiloh and didn't even go by that name very much. I don't think it was an official town but that's what it was called anyhow. Dad bought a 10 acre orange grove and this orange grove was in between the Mosquito Lagoon and the Indian River.

Now Allenhurst was a mile and a half south of us and Shiloh was four miles north of us. So this is where we moved into a house [00:06:00] that had just ... it been built too long I don't think. There wasn't even a kitchen on it because at that time they were building their kitchens separate. Because people cooked in the kitchen and they had fires so often (Chuckling). Ah, later, they built a kitchen on to the back and put a big screen porch across which is where we lived. If you didn't live on a screened porch, you didn't live in Florida because the mosquitoes were so bad, you could put your hand up by the screen and you would end up with a handprint from this mosquitoes that came to them.

So anyhow at this time, I was just two years old and the only way of making a living at that time was you either fished or you had an orange grove. But orange groves were also prone to freeze and so the men needed something more than that to live on. So dad bid on a rural mail route from Allenhurst to Oak Hill and we later found the paperwork on this. He got the job from the government. See, the government didn't hire mail carriers. They let these jobs out on bids and dad got it for \$700 a year. He had an old model A that he drove all of those years that he delivered the mail. He would work the grove over morning and when mother had to work in the packing house, I trailed around behind him when he was using the tractor.

Then we would get into the old model A and go to Allenhurst where the mail, that's where Haulover Canal is also and that's where he would start picking up the mail to go to the railroad station in Oak Hill. Because up until that time, they had had more [00:08:00] boats that delivered down the rivers and so anyhow, I usually went with dad until I started to school because ah it was fun. The people in the little stores, they gave me candy. It's the only time I ever got candy. Anyhow the next stop going up was Shiloh and that is where one of the Taylors of the Taylor family who owned so much of the groves up there, they ran a little general store and had the post office in it. Then we went on to Oak Hill and that's where there as a little post office up there and the mail was taken over and put on the train to go out and dad picked up the mailbags and packages off of the train and sorted it and then started back down to Allenhurst again.

Along the way, we would stop and ah, deliver mail to the rural mailboxes. Now, his little model A originally had Isinglass windows but of course they had long gone. When I remember he just had canvas that he pulled up when it rained and when it didn't rain, you let it down and let the wind blow through. Of course, you had to be careful because the mosquitoes like that too every time he stopped. He didn't stop very long but anyhow, we delivered the mail on to Shiloh and to Allenhurst and that was the end of his day.

Roz: What else did ... sometimes, he used to pick up things for ah ...

Frances: When the people needed something from the store, they would leave dad a little note in their mailbox and ah, dad would pick it up for them at Shiloh or Oak Hill and bring it back. Because that was the only way of getting sugar and flour and coffee and things of that sort because we always had our own garden [00:10:00] and orange grove and we had cows and chickens so we didn't need a whole lot. Although behind us there was a black man named Moses who lived just in the shack back there and I know (Clears throat) if it hadn't been for dad bringing him little stuff because he literally lived off of the land. He had no family. Ah we ... times were so good then, you didn't worry about that.

We kids would go sit on his stoop and he would tell us all of these tales which were so funny to us. But you didn't have to worry about molestation or anything like that because he was just a good old black man that cackled and told us stories. (Laughing) So ah now, our next door neighbors were the Wattons who had a grove right next to us. A lot of people knew him as Speedy Watton and in later years they had a ah, fish camp there called Watton's Place but ah, right in that area if anyone is driving up there, they will see that is where the old cemetery for the Wattons was where the family was buried. But right in the back of our orange grove, there was a colored cemetery.

Now, the Jacksons and the Campbell colored people had acres on the Mosquito Lagoon where they had their gardens and um, in fact the one of the Jackson women was a descendant of Dummett who established the Dummett Grove up there. (Clears throat) At one time, they had a school there and I believe the school was made out of a ... a wrecked boat that they used the lumber from. A lot of this was before my time but I remember everybody talking about it. Then just up the grove, the road from us, in another grove where Alfton [00:12:00] Davis' family and now they were descendants of this Davis family that was in the Mims area. They even have a bed and breakfast up there now that had ... one of their buildings that had belonged to them. But ah, that was the Wattons and the Davises and the well the colored people, the Jacksons and ah, that lived right in Clifton.

That was all there was to Clifton. But of course when you went down to Allenhurst, there were the Teagues and that's where the Haulover Canal was. Originally, it had been a mile south of that but the canal that was dug where the boats could go through, that's where we kids all learned to swim. I wouldn't let my kids swim there because I did find out years later that my daughter did but I didn't know it until she was grown. But anyhow, that was our recreation. The mosquitoes were too bad to play out so we would go down and swim in the Haulover Canal from one end to the other. Now what a lot of people don't realize is there is a tide in a canal like that. When the ocean is going out, the water goes one way and when it's coming in, it goes the other so you just get at

whatever end and go the whole length of the canal swimming. That was our recreation. Like I said the Teagues had a fish camp there.

But going on up to Shiloh, Shiloh was the Taylors and the Mayhans and the Keeblers and the Griffis and ah, goodness, Paltillos and um, Treadvilles. Like I said there was a lot of them but about oh, 10 families ... 10 or 15 families there but they all ah, mostly it was orange groves that they survived by. Then there was [00:14:00] a small school in Shiloh and it was just a one ... well, it was a two room school to start with and went through the eighth grade. But in later years they cut it back to just a one room school house and ah, it just went through the sixth grade. But we had a school bus that picked us up and took us up to Shiloh to school.

We went nine months at the time. School had gotten to the point that it was a full thing that way. Ah, we had whatever teachers we could get because it didn't pay much and it wasn't a very pleasant place to live and the Taylors usually would board these teachers just to ... so they could get a good teacher because they believed in an education. Ah, now, Mr. Pepper which a lot of people in Titus will know that name because he eventually taught and was principal of different schools in Titusville but he was also the father of Woodrow Clarke, he is now who's a member of the Baptist church here. But ah, she's in her 90s. But anyhow, she was an Ashcraft but she was Woodrow Pepper when she was little. Her dad was one of the teachers up there.

Um, different ... ah I've said our books were whatever was left over that we could get. They weren't very good books but we just had a reader and a spelling book. When you sit in a one room school house, you do your lesson but you listen to everybody else's. So really and truly, you learn rather rapidly in a one room school because you hear all of the other readers go on. We behaved when we were in school too. We knew better than not to. Because my mother always told me that you get spanking in school, you get one when you come home. Now, we had in, in [00:16:00] at the school, they did have electricity because it came from a generator that you know went that way and our water was pumped up by a windmill.

Now, in our house in Clifton, we did not have electricity. It was ... I was 12 before they brought rural electricity up through that area. So we had the old fashioned lamps and that was it, period. Um, we were fortunate we didn't have to cook on a wooden stove which is terrible in Florida in the heat. We did have a gas stove and we also had a gas iron that you pumped up to get heat with and ah ... but we did not have any luxuries. I mean there was outdoor privies and you got out in the mosquitoes and fed all of those animals which you had to keep to keep yourself living with. Um ...

Roz: When you went to school, what were some of the games that you played in school?

Frances: Really, we made little hopscotch things on the ground and I used to throw a ball and play something come over you know and tag. They really ... I don't even remember us having balls and bats and gloves. Now some of the boys may have but we as girls didn't have.

Roz: When you were small ah, what was Christmas like and how did you celebrate Christmas when you were small ...

Frances: Okay, well now at Christmastime there was a community house there and everything was done in this community house. We had our Sunday school and our church and whatever was going to go on. Christmas Eve they would put a great big tree up there that touched the ceiling with no decoration on it. The decorations were gifts that everybody brought to be exchanged. [00:18:00] Mostly it was pocket handkerchiefs but you know they made real pretty Christmas tree decorations. They tied them up to the tree and then they call your name and you go and get your gifts. We also had some wonderful um, ah, programs. We would put up the manger scene and Mother Mary and sing all of the religious things. We were fortunate Mrs. Taylor could play the piano and we would play out our parts and people would come from Oak Hill and Titusville just to see our Christmas plays.

Roz: This was held at the community ...

Frances: At the community center. In fact that is where I originally even found out about the Baptist church. We had a minister that came here from this Baptist church here in Titusville on a Tuesday night. His name was Dr. Austin and he preached just for whatever contribution was given in the collection plate. Most of the time I'm sure it didn't even come to \$5. I doubt if it paid for his gas. But that's how I heard my first preaching services on Tuesday nights up there because we would not afford a preacher full time in Shiloh. Now Mr. Dewitt Taylor, he would have us like an Easter service. He would preach that for us and then we would have a big Easter egg hunt in the school yard.

Ah everybody would bring the eggs and hide them and Easter Sunday, I'm afraid none of us ever heard whatever the preacher said to us because we were so busy waiting for the Easter egg hunt but that was a big deal. We didn't have many things to do. I mean there was no video, or television or anything like that. You made your own playthings and some of the ... we did once a year, we got a doll to play with and that was about it. Or paper dolls and I [00:20:00] ... one of my favorite stories my mother has on me was cutting out the section of the paper dolls and getting mad. We didn't know cuss words and so we would go

cuss, cuss, cuss, cuss. That was how our paper dolls got vented, they're anger. But anyhow ah like I said with the mosquitoes like it was, we had to play anything we could inside.

Roz: How did you get ah ... when you started ah school over here in Titusville, how did you get here?

Frances: Okay. Well to start with my brother and my sister, there was no way of getting to Titusville by bus. My mother had to board them with my grandmother. Well my brother was 12 years older than myself so he got two years of high school. But they had to let him drop out because he just wasn't doing anything. He ended up going in the CCC camp. But anyhow my sister Laura did that for one year but then we lucked out. Carl Battle and his wife both owned school buses and they bid on and got the job to carry us to school. What they did, they could not drive these buses across the little narrow wooden bridge.

They had brought their buses up by way of Oak Hill down and parked them at Allenhurst or Haulover Canal and they would drive their car there every morning and they would start picking up the students and they went from Allenhurst to Clifton to Shiloh up to what they call Shiloh Point which is almost Oak Hill and then back down and they picked up everybody at Scottsmoor and Mims and on to Titusville. In other words, to go to school, we left at 7:00 in the morning and got to school at 9:00. To come home in the afternoon, we got on the bus at 3:00 in the afternoon and got home at 5:00. [00:22:00] Did all my homework on the school bus though. But that ... We just felt like we were just so lucky to be able to go to high school that way.

Roz: You attended ah Titusville High School ...

Frances: I graduated Titusville High School the year after the war started, yes.

Roz: What year was that?

Frances: '42. The war started in '41 didn't it and yes, the school that I graduated in '42. Aha and um, then the year before I graduated, my dad and mother had a chance to buy a house here on Main Street just a couple of blocks from where we are in the first Baptist church here and ah ... they moved here at that time. Unbelievably at that time, they bought this wood frame house for a thousand dollars and it was sitting in the middle of a great big lot you know but that was ... it was from an uncle of mine who ran the City Ice And Fuel here in Titusville. You know back then, we didn't have refrigerators. Well they did but not to start with and they made ice here in Titusville out where the ... on Tropic Street where the Florida Power and Light is now. Ah, one of the biggest thrills was to go to my

uncle's for ... City Ice and Fuel and go to the ice house where they made ice because it was cold.

Roz: Who was your grandfather?

Frances: Oh, yes. My grandfather's name was James Golightly and they were from Kentucky also. But they moved to here in Titusville and he had a little fish market. Well it would be where the causeway is now but at that time that was just a wooden bridge that went across the ah, came- across the river. It was called [0024:00] Dad's Fish House and you could walk from the foot of the bridge out on the little and ... fish house to buy your fish.

Roz: You're talking the location is on Garden Street?

Frances: Yes. Except it wasn't Garden Street then. It was the end of the old Dixie because there was no US1 coming that way. Old Dixie came ... old Dixie was part of what Garden Street is now. So it would have ... we would have gotten curved around on the old Dixie and gotten on the bridge there and then gone across the river. It's almost a mile and a half I believe to take to go across that river there. It was a little narrow wooden bridge that you had to very carefully meet another car on because it wasn't very wide.

Roz: Ah what time period was this?

Frances: Ah, this would have been in the 1930s, ah-ha because ...

Roz: Ah, tell us something about Dummett Grove, the castle ...

Frances: Okay. That is interesting to me. Um, the people seem to think that Dummett build this castle which he did not. Dummett had a grove. He was the one that started the orange groves and found that in between those two bodies of water the ah trees did not freeze and he ... in other words, if people would get their budding material from there. But after his death, this Castila, I think his name was built that Dummett Castle and that was what was still there when I was a little girl. Of course we were scared to death of it. We thought maybe it was haunted but it wasn't. My best girlfriend lives there. The Reagan family. There was I think four girls and four boys something like that.

Roz: Do you remember their names?

Frances: Ah, yes. Abby and Suzy and Sam and Richard and Robert and ... [00:26:00]

Roz: Um-hm.

Frances: Levone and that's as far as I can go right now. I have the picture of them in the little school bus that we used to ride. But anyhow they would have square dances there and we would all go and square dance. That was the one thing that we did have about once or twice a year and we would go to this Dummett ... what was the Dummett Castle at that time and ah, ah, the interesting thing to me was that this family were what we would call squatters. Because if they had lived there two more years, they could have claimed it with squatter's rights. But the woman who was a um ah, what would you say of the family ...

Roz: An heir?

Frances: An heir to this property, Mrs. Drennen, she came back and claimed it and they had to move. So they built a little house just a little but further north than where they were but like I said, they almost owned that thing and they lived in it for years. I don't remember how long but at the time this Ms. Drennen came in, she wanted to do a history on it. She wrote this history up and had my sister Rosemary go to Stetson University with her to give a speech about the Dummett and that's where we got a lot of our history about the Dummett Castle was her doing that.

Roz: What did it look like inside? Do you remember?

Frances: Not really.

Roz: Was it wood?

Frances: Yes. Yes because the ah ... unfortunately that's the reason it burned so quickly. In fact I think these big round ah sides ... two sides was it part of a mast of a ship that was supposed to have gone into part of that. [00:28:00] It was ... the middle part was just one storey and that's where we danced and that's where I was most of the time. The two sides, it had a stairway but it was circular stairway like a lighthouse would have that you went up. That's what we were really afraid of because they told us that it was haunted and if we went up there that something you know ...

We were reasonably sure that we didn't dare go up those stairs. Of course, my mother would not let me spend the night there with my best girlfriend which I could not understand because my best girlfriend, Abby lived there and she would spend the night with me. But I found out later that some of the older ones made moonshine in the grove. My mother didn't ... my mother was ... she didn't let us spend the night there. I could see also with as many boys as they had. But I didn't see it at that time.

Roz: Do you remember if it had a porch or a street ...

FrancesThrekeldBradenSharek (Completed 09/24/13)

Frances: Yes.

Roz: ... or anything attached to the back ...

Frances: On the back side where we look at it from, from the road, there was not a porch. But on the front side that overlooked what would be the Indian River, it had a big wide porch and some of the pictures even show that. There was also a little building, what did they call that where they sat out and read and what have you. There's pictures of it at the museum, I know of this. In fact ah, there's even a well still left to the south of this building ah that was one of the original wells called the minorcan well or something to that ...

Roz: The ...

Frances: What did you a, minorcan well right. It was still there when my nephew went to write up a write up on this because he took pictures of it. Also of this little building that was outside and the whole thing because when this Mrs. Dummett came in ... Ms. Drennen came in [00:30:00] and rebuilt on that, she even put on the copper roofing that was supposed to be like the original roofing was. Unfortunately, years later after someone ... at one time, I don't know whether it was after the government bought it or what, some men were caught over there trying to strip the roofing off of it because it was a valuable thing, you know. Because I know one time my daughter skipped school and she and group of kids went over there and she later told me where she had been. I said Sherry, didn't you realize that those men were trying to strip that roofing off? If you kids had gotten over there when they were doing that, they'd probably killed you and nobody would have even known you were over there.

Roz: Do you remember... do you remember what the kitchen, was there a kitchen?

Frances: Yes.

Roz: What were the rooms inside?

Frances: Downstairs on one side was the kitchen and it was just your old fashioned kitchen you know. Ah.

Roz: It had beadboard on it or on the walls?

Frances: I just don't remember, I was too young at that time that I was in there. I was never in it after the woman came back and remodeled it. So I don't, I don't really know.

Roz: Do you remember seeing the old chimney out there in the ...

Frances: Yes, there's a picture of that also ah, in ah the historical things that we had gotten back so that ah ... of the chimney. But now I believe the chimney, that chimney, that was from Dummett's.

Roz: That's right ...

Frances: That was for when Dummett himself had build his cottages there because ah all of what he had had burned down and ah like I said, the castle that you're talking ... that we're talking about that later the government moved over to the causeway and it burned there and lost history that can never be returned.

Roz: Do you remember anybody [00:32:00] mentioning about the graves that were in the Dummett Grove?

Frances: No, now that's something I didn't know anything about was the graves in the Dummett Grove. But I probably in something that I had read in ... that was the Dummett himself, his wife was killed by Indians, I believe. In one of the stories that I read on the history of that, and he buried her there and because she had ... one son that was buried. Of course, part of the Dummett family was also buried up nearer the New Smyrna area there were ...

Roz: His son, Douglas.

Frances: Right ... aha so I mean it, it, nothing of this was ever really written down. So it's just people just kind of grabbing out of the blue sky to find out what some of the stuff that has been written up and a lot of it I read and I can't remember all of it ...

Roz: What happened, ah, what happened to the um, to the fish camps it was ah, what was the name of, of Speedy's?

Frances: Well ...

Roz: Speedy's Tavern and what was the name of the fish camp?

Frances: Well Speedy, the fish camp that you asked about Speedy ... um, Speedy did that after the war. So that was after we had moved away from that area. But that Beacon 42 was in back of my dad's orange grove and that is where the original Campbell and Jackson colored people who were ah, their families had been slaves and they ended up in that area and buying up [00:34:00] acres and acres and living off of the land over there and they had some of the most wonderful gardens you ever saw. They had the daily onions because we ever knew that there as a valdalia to grow onions. But ah, but then Beacon '42, that was put in after the war also. It was a fish camp that was quite popular but that would have

been in the 1950s. Because like I said we moved from up there in the 40s. So it was ... I was there from '27 until '40.

Roz: Ah what was early Titusville like after you came here from the war years?

Frances: Oh, during the war years when we came back of course all there was to Titusville was the one downtown street there. Ah, you could walk downtown and up one side and down the other and down to where the post office which was before you got to where the post office is now, that was Titusville period. The house that I now live in across the railroad track here, that was considered almost out of town. But um, there was ... we did have a wonderful theater which is now of course the Jess Parrish Theater that they do plays in. But where we are here now at this first Baptist church which they started services here in the 50s or 60s.

But anyhow, originally right behind this church was the original Baptist church which actually came from the LaGrange Church with the Chaudoins and all those families. That is where I joined and was baptized was in the little wood framed church that was right in back of this church that now faces Main Street. But that church faced [00:36:00] Palm Avenue. Ah, the only reason that it had to be torn down was termites had gotten into it unfortunately. It's too bad but it happens in Florida sometimes.

Roz: What was your pastor's name at that time?

Frances: Ah, at that time was, when they moved into this big church, his name was Harden. Dr. Harden. He was here but before that, we had Dr. Austin and he was the one that went to Shiloh. We had two or three pastors that was called that went into the service during World War II also. So ...

Roz: Conway ...

Frances: Con ... yes, Reverend Conway was at this church at one time. Because we only had one Baptist church, one Methodist church, Episcopal Presbyterian and that was we had four churches in Titusville and the Catholic Church. That was it, period.

Roz: Do you remember when Burt Johnson had the billiard hall over on the west end of the Emma Parrish?

Frances: I don't remember, I remember everybody talking about it. Ah, but Burt Johnson did have ah, I, I, ... you know when you were young you don't pay attention to things, a lot of things that you do when you get older.

Roz: Ah do you remember when some of the um ... do you remember Jimmy the Greek's Restaurant here ...

Frances: Oh yes.

Roz: Tell us about Jimmy the Greek's Restaurant ...

Frances: Well, it was ... Jimmy the Greek was the only really restaurant we had in Titusville.

Roz: Where was it located?

Frances: Ah, next to where the um, oh ... it was underneath the ah, hotel that's there.

Roz: Walker Hotel.

Frances: Yes, aha, underneath where the Walker Hotel is and ah, Jimmy had I think six girls [00:38:00] and he said he was going to have a boy and when he finally had a boy that was the end of it. But he had a whole bunch of girls because I remember that. Karentinas, yes. Aha.

Roz: What was the specialty of the restaurant, do you remember?

Frances: We didn't eat out that much. But now when I first got out of high school, I worked at what was called the Deluxe Dinner that Mrs. Nelson ran and ah ...

Roz: Where was that located ...

Frances: It was where the coffee shop is at the Baldwin Shopping Center is where it was located. But it was made out of two railroad cars put together and that's the reason it was called Deluxe Diner. I waited tables there. I was 16 and just out of high school and ah during the war of course, we gave the meals to the servicemen. That was what when that ah, ah bus went off of the bridge and so many of the boys were drowned. Those were the boys that came and had breakfast ... that we served breakfast to every morning.

So it was a sad time for us when we lost the boys and of course, I was 16 and I didn't know there was anything but boys that time. Ha, and I am almost afraid to say what I made. I made \$5 a week in meals. But that was the way waitresses and whatever tips you made but honey if you got a tipper that maybe gave you a quarter, you had a big tipper. Most of them it was a nickel or a dime if you got anything at all.

Roz: As a young teenager, what did you do for entertainment in Titusville?

Frances: Well for entertainment in Titusville ah, down in Indian River City, they had what was called Clark's Corner. That's where we had our proms and dances and everything.

Roz: Talk to me where was that located?

Frances: At the end of Route 50 built out onto the river. [00:40:00] Ah, then we also occasional a skating rink would come in and put up ah on Sand Point and we would skate. But mostly, I mean there was baseball. Of course, I was drum major and the cheerleader and just anything that made a lot of racket that I could get into, I was into it. Ah but of course when we lived over on the grove, ah, I either had to spend the night in town to go into any of those things. Ah and I had my best girlfriend would let me spend the night at her house. I always did admired Mrs. Thorne. I don't know why she put up with us. She never knew when she went to call the girls, how many was going to be in her daughter's bedroom the morning when she came for us. But ...

Roz: Do you remember a Denham's Store?

Frances: Oh, yes, Denham's was right across from Pearl's Beauty Shop and when I ... after I stopped working at the diner, I went to Jacksonville and took a beautician course and came back and worked for Pearl who had a beauty shop which is right ... which was, which would have been next to where the Renaissance Restaurant is now and it's just recently been torn down. They're making an outdoor thing out there for that but anyhow that's where Pearl's Beauty Shop was. Denham's Store which is now Kloiber's Cobbler is right across the street from it. Then of course, we had the F&S department store and we had Pritchard's Hardware and ah Ford's Hardware and where Renaissance is now, was Frank's Bar. I was never in there because women weren't allowed to go into bars at that point. You kind of look the other way when you walked by.

But you knew what it was. They had a pool hall in there and a lot of the men hung out in that area. Then down on the corner was Mr. Ford had a hardware, [00:42:00] I mean ... it's almost hard to remember what it all was there when you look back on it now. There was a feed store. At one time there was buildings where that vacant lot is across from the Jess Parrish Theater. There was also a beauty shop in there because Nan Barnes had her shop and I worked there after I had my children. I have ... I had one child but then when my children got to be teenagers, I built a shop onto the side of my house so I could be there when they come home and had that for 40 years. So.

Roz: Do you remember when the train used to come through here? Did you ever ride it?

Frances: Oh yes. Yes.

Roz: Where did you go?

Frances: Well, I don't really remember going much of anything. But when my son was at cub scout age, they had a thing on trains and so they took us by bus up to New Smyrna and they let all the cub scouts go through the train ah, roundhouse up there where they turned trains around. Then we got on the train and rode from New Smyrna to Titusville. The kids ... of course they let us walk from one end to the other to tell us how the trains worked and the kids walked all the way to Titusville. Because then I also, I said I didn't ride it much when ... I took my beautician training in Jacksonville, I came home every two weeks by train. Because it was during the war and the buses, well I rode the bus a few times but most of the time you had to stand up all the way from Jacksonville. They were so crowded with soldiers at that time.

Roz: Do you remember how much the trip cost?

Frances: It wasn't very much. Ah, around a dollar to two dollars I'm sure because ... I don't remember, no, I don't. I know ... Jack Williams who was a barber here at that time, also had a barber shop in Jacksonville and I sometimes rode with him because he was coming home the same [00:44:00] time I did. That is Pearl Williams was his wife who had the beauty shop that I worked for here.

Roz: Going back over to ah, Clifton ...

Frances: Yes. Right.

Roz: What did people do when they became ill?

Frances: (Laughing) Over in Clifton if you got ill you better know how to take care of yourself because we had no doctors. I was never to a doctor in my life until I was a grown. Ah if you got a bee sting, daddy chewed up some tobacco and put it on the bee sting. If you got a burn, you used milk like I put on it. I know I got a bad sunburn one time. Too bad we didn't know about aloe back then because we grew aloe but we didn't know it was good for burns. But we just ... and fortunately living out like that, you didn't have the illnesses I guess. At least I never had any illness in school because I didn't catch things ... When it went around, they weren't brought back again, you know. Because when my children brought home the measles and the mumps and the chicken pox, I took them from my children as a grown person. Don't ever do that, that's terrible.

Roz: What did you use kerosene for?

Frances: Yes, dad used kerosene for everything. He thought that was the ... it was good. If you could take the smell way from it, it would have been wonderful. But I know my sister fell off of the bicycle on that slag road and he just chewed her up and daddy literally bathed her in kerosene. The only thing is he made the mistake of, wrapping it in cloth and it blistered. So don't ever wrap kerosene in a cloth. It will blister. But it is very good for a lot of things.

Roz: You took it by the spoonful for several different ...

Frances: Some people took it by the spoonful for medication. We never did take it that way. We used it externally only, thank goodness. (Laughing)

Roz: Did you ever hear of the use of spider webs?

Frances: They said that [00:46:00] ... what was that, they put that on some kind of wounds, didn't they?

Roz: Bleeding?

Frances: Stop blood right ... yes. Aha, they put it on to stop blood, right. Ah ...

Roz: Um when you were in Titusville coming back to Titusville, when you were in Titusville in the ... during the ah war years, do you remember when the war, when the news came when the war was over the streets ...

Frances: Oh, yes, when ...

Roz: What happened?

Frances: When the war was over and it came across the railroad, of course we could hear everybody. The horns started blowing and the whistles started blowing and you know downtown there's quite a few wonderful pictures that was taken right in front of the businesses in Titusville. Of course by this time, we had quite a few servicemen from Banana River. In fact, quite a few of our girls found husbands that way. Ah ...

Roz: You're referring to the banana river ...

Frances: Banana River, aha, right and so they ... it was just more or less shouting and just that than the other. Because now I had my child ... because my husband had gone overseas and ah, my ... had my little boy so I was more or less ... My son was 14 months old before his daddy ever saw him because he was in Germany when he was born.

Roz: Did your husband come home from the war?

Frances: Yes, yes. Um-hm. Yes, he came home from the war and was one of the lucky ones.

Roz: Um, is there anything else that ah from the old days that you can ah reminisce about that you'd like to include?

Frances: (Laughing) I probably think about several things I need to tell after I get home. But right now, my mind is gone ... I think I've talked you all to death haven't I? I think it's probably time for me to give Aline her time. Haven't I just about used up all my time?

Roz: We thank you for coming today. (Laughing)

Frances: If you think of [00:48:00] anything else, you can ask me later.

Roz: Okay, thank you so very much, Frances.

Frances: (Laughing)