

FMH-A0005a. Mary Lois Timbes-Adshead interviews Helene Beiser Hunter and Evalyn Berglin Porter for

Background information for her books Meet Me at the Butterfly Tree and the Fair Hope of Heaven. 1998

"Everybody has memories about the gullies." "About the gullies?" "Yeah, all the gullies." "We had so much fun." "And how much fun the gullies, and what they meant to say to it because it was unique that the children used that as a playground." "And they used it as a theater down at the back." "Yes." "That gully down at the back." "Right there on the end of Oak Street."

Evelyn and I know that area beautifully. We climbed those banks when we were kids for years. Well, not only for Shakespeare Festivals, but whenever we had company from Wisconsin or Chicago or wherever, we took them as far as the Ettle Place. And then we went down into the gully and walked through the gully and you took all your out-of-state gas through the gully. With all the beautiful clay and the sand. Oh, it was really a wonderful bridge.

And Big Head Gully was the largest gully. That was down on Section Street. And we climbed those banks and built caves in there. And that's where Gavin had the cave in. He caved in on him, and John Borom pulled him out. They were on a school picnic. That was the... Oh, that dolly was so good.

Remember the spits of clay in the bank, the different colors? That's where so many of them was. They used to get the clay. Didn't they get it for the school? Yeah. From down in the... Well, no, I think most of the school, the organic school of clay, came from Clay City. You see, that whole area in there is nothing but clay. Where the Jennings had a place, it was B.C. Anderson's place. But Gretchen Riggs asked me to get clay a few years ago for the theater arts kids to make up their faces. And I found all the yellows and ochres and different colors right up here at Ecor Rouge. They had all those colors white in it. That's where I dug the clay out that I did my modeling when I was doing it with Chris Stafford. And I got there, and it fired beautifully. They were afraid that it might, you know, explode, might have some pebbles or sand or something, but it just did beautifully.

Was there a name for the gully that was at the foot of Oak Street? Foot of Oak Street? Well, you said the one on Bayview. Uh-huh. Yeah. That's Stacks Gully. Yeah, there's something called Stacks Island. And Big Head Gully is over where, like, Fairhope High, and then it became Perry Hope High in immediate school. That Big Gully. A Big Head Gully is way down on Section Street and goes all the way down the bay and it comes out, the drainage comes out at the condos there as you cross that bridge where it all

washed down because it's on concrete. That was the fallout from Big Head Gully. And the Gully behind by Colonial Inn. What was the name of that one? I noticed they're cleaning that out. It looks like a gully. Oh, I'm so glad I want to get in there and walk. I know it. I'm trying to think of it. I'm sure they're going to fill it up with some concrete or something. There was a name for it. I can't remember what the name is. I said it was just... Well, is that one that people played in? Uh-huh.

Where was the swimming hole? The treacherous dead man's hole. Devil's Hole. Devil's Hole, yeah. Devil's Hole was out above my place. Where Frank Laraway went. He owns Devil's Hole now. Who does? No, that's Bohemian Hole. Oh, I'm sorry. Devil's Hole, there was a terrible accident. Devil's Hole is where it was. Back of, I mean, up past Fly Creek. Yeah. And, you know, you see it. And Harry Pond's mother built a house right on the edge of the hill. Well, and of course it was a great, big, beautiful area. Oh, it was cool. And that's where the Harper boy died, Dr. Harper's son. Drowned. He had made a, at the school, he made one of those things that go over your head. Diving bell. Oh! Diving thing. And he walked down into Devil's Hole. They never found the bodies that way. The diving bell came up as well.

We used to swim in there all the time. You know, there was an alligator. There were small alligators in there too. There was an alligator in there, because I can remember we put a canoe, and we were canoeing in there one day. And there was an alligator, he must have been 12 feet long. Was the Harper boy in your class? No, he was younger than I. I never heard that.

But you used to be able to go in a skiff from Fly Creek up to Devil's Hole. You could have to push a little bit to the reed. We had a new canoe. But you could go all the way up in a boat. And they said that they never could find the bottom of Devil's Hole. Yeah, that was the way it was described. I have a lot of pictures. Couldn't find the bottom. That's why he had that diving ball. He used to go to the bottom.

I remember the only time I played hookie, with Susie, and we went up to Devil's Hole and we went swimming naked, and who was the baseball player? Oh, Stanky. Stanky. Eddie Stanky. Uh-oh. Came along to fishing, you know, a big fisherman, and Susie and I were stuck in that water until he left. I bet he knew it. You saw these cute little girls heads sticking up. Well we were swimming out there when we were in school, and that Pat Zimmerman came and took our clothes. And we were, we had to wait for the duck, his duck came out of the creek. It was just at the creek, not at Devil's.

Oh. Well remember how Fly Creek used to be such a swimming place. Oh, Fly Creek was wonderful. And remember the little bridge that went across? Mm-hmm. And we'd always go up on the bridge and look down to make sure there were no snakes down there before. Where do you?

Now, Charlie Carpenter's father had a store somewhere at the foot of Fly Creek. I mean, Charlie Carpenter's father. Now, there was a little hot dog stand, a little tile building. That was our first jet club. Oh. And the little tile building was only about twelve by fourteen. That was Mr. Schley. Remember Nellie Slay? Well that was Nellie Slay's father that stayed down there in that little... In the hotline.

Oh, right. The first dance we had for the Yacht Club, there were about eight couples and we had, they had a concrete slab out there in front of it and we had a Nickelodeon down there and this was like 1941 or two and about eight couples went down and we had our first dance at the Yacht Club.

Oh, I wanted to ask you two about all the dance pavilions there down at the beach. The Casino was the number one. And then there was one at Burkel's. Did they have live music or did you think? Bands from Mobile. Crescent City from Mobile used to come over on the boat. The Fondren boy, what was his name? Jimmy. Jimmy Fondren. And then we also had a local band, the Lowell Boys, that played in the same time. Let's see, "Bun Lombardo" they called Mr. Low, because he had a bakery and he had a band, so they called him "Bun Lombardo." Wonderful. And they went to Riddick. But the bands, did they just play on weekends or? Usually Saturday night. They always came over on Saturday night and played, and then they came over on the boat on Sunday afternoon.

We had a dance on Sunday afternoon, and they played for that, and then they played on the boat going back to Mobile. And Burkel's was a dance place then. And then later, a skating pavilion. And there was also one down at Battles Wharf where the... Where the Legion Club? No, no, no, I'm talking about Battles where Moog's had a store there, and there was a pier out there, and there was a dance hall. A pavilion. Well, that wasn't La Corona. No, no, no. La Corona is now the Elks Club. Yeah, but this is what we are talking about at Battles Wharf..

Well, there was a hotel there. And a big, beautiful, long wharf. But that's where you're talking about, where the old hotel was. That was where the... Rennie Parker's... You know who lives there now? It was the Pacey. Remember? The Pacey's. And they sold it to a couple from England. Right, but Rennie Parker, Rennie Pittman told me that it was a place where they were. It was her family's hotel at one point. The Parker's. Prince Parker was his name. Okay, that must have been running far. But even before that, who had the hotel? It wasn't Miss Grace Hutchings, was it? Well, now her hotel was farther down in Battles Wharf. This one was right at-- For now, yeah. This one was right at Moog's Store and landing. Right where Gavin Hunter was born. She was born there at Battles Wharf. Oh, really? So all the way... Almost Point Clear. No, we're not at Point Clear. That was 44. It goes up to the... east of town. But this, where Dini's house is, that was the Lanes. But then there were houses there, the Delaclanes and that sort of thing. But just down at the other corner, the Kirkland's had a house there that lived in Quitman,

Mississippi. They called it Mogg Lane. Mogg Lane. And in fact it's still tall. Yeah, I was thinking I've seen that song. Oh, Miss Mogg lived, what, to 100% and they had a store there. Oh, I've seen it spelled M-O-O -G. That's it. See, I thought that was me. Well, I thought it was probably MOGG. It is. Could be. Right, okay, now I get it. I know, I've seen it too. But they had a little grocery store there, and also the pier ran out from that. In fact, I have some pictures of that. **See end of transcript for information*

Seems like most of the piers where the boat stock had a hotel or... Well, you see, that was the only transportation to Fairhope. Everything that came to Fairhope came over on the boat. And there were piers all the way down. Point Clear, Battles, Fairhope had a pier, Magnolia Beach, which is where Pier Street comes down. Where the Pier Street comes down. Yeah, people always say that.

And there where Grace Forster's son lives, what's his name, Charles Torrey, that was the Forster home. And they had there next to the big pier that went out, they had a pier there and all the oil that was brought into Fairhope came over there to that pier. And one time they caught fire and those oil drums full of oil exploded and went up into the air. You could hear them all over the whole countryside. They would just boom and away would go. That was a disaster wasn't it?.

So you remember that? I surely do remember. Because we were at Englewood Villa, which is where the Baptist Church is, and right there, we could hear it. So we all ran down there to see it and they kept us away from the beach area. It must have been exciting. It was very exciting, but how terrible it was. Were there any casualties? No. Just the...

Only casualties, I remember, about fire on the beach was old Mrs. Burkel. She went back in to get her dog. She didn't stop. That was in about 1950 or something. It was '53. Yeah. When was that? I think it was about '53. We moved here in '52. So it had to have been. You remember that? I remember skating at that skating match. But I was later told it had been a dance place. It had a beautiful floor. It was a little tiny strips, you know. It was really a wonderful dance floor. And that time, Dini was living down on Pier Street herself. Yes, my family was the Reynolds. On the block there. They've done the block, didn't they? No, Deney. Oh, Deney. The Windlands. The one they've moved now to the... Albert Reynolds. Yeah, it's got those great big condos on it now. That was the old Reynolds. They're not... They're individual houses now. They're just big individual houses.

Did you all know that Louise Dustin passed away? No. No. I didn't get the paper. This was in the Courier. I knew she didn't really. I was reading the paper this morning. Are we still being recorded? Yes.

The Wheeler Mercantile Company is where Uptown is, Daddy had a big store here, two stories. And I can remember that when we go up there and when it would rain and the street we'd have to take our shoes off and the mud would come through our toes as we walked across the street.

And Evelyn lived down, Evelyn's people lived down where Mary Ann's place is now. That was the big Berglin home. Oh. Across from the Cortes. Yeah. Was the house there the sort of windows? No. Evelyn and I walked the woods there and picked violets. In fact, we were talking about that this morning. That was a vacant lot and beautiful pine trees. And we saw, Helene and I used to gather violets in there. We could pick violets. And ride bicycles. The little footpath that went from, from, across from Evelyn's house, the Berglin house, through there, down to the little footbridge that went across the gulley, across that gulley back there. And that's the way we got across there because we didn't want to go way around this way, that way.

And I remember when the children were small and they played tennis over on the tennis courts, there were tennis courts across from the Episcopal church, and I would stand out at my back door and yell for them to come home for supper. And they could hear me for a while. From the Church? Yes! Mother, your voice carries so. It's ridiculous.

Well, there were several hotels around Fairhope. It was The Gables and... Yeah, Gables, across the street. Wasn't that near where your house is? It was right across the street. That's where the little John Bethea's place is. Uh-huh. The building. The building station. It was a mega station later.

And the next... Mrs. Cross. Mr. and Mrs. Cross are people I would love to hear. Oh, Grandma Cross was a doll, and that was there when I had my shop in, on the corner there of Church Street and Fairhope Avenue. You had a dress shop? I had a dress shop, and Granny Cross had the hotel over there, and I can remember I was fascinated with her kitchen sink. It was about as long as this table, a porcelain sink, and about that wide. And it was all across that one part of her kitchen on the back. And now Laura Fletcher has it on her pier. She does? Oh, she does. That sink. Oh, for heaven's sake. Well, Mrs. Cross used to say it immediately. Yeah, that was it. We used to go over. She was a great big woman, but...I don't remember him very well, Do you? She was the character.

Then when they moved from there down to where... On Summit Street, in the corner of Summit. Yeah, Summit and Fairhope Avenue, the old hotel. And now the doctors in there, the neurologists what's her name? Oh, that, yeah, that was the hotel. That was the hotel when I lived here. Yeah., the Masons lived there later on. They bought it from the... They bought it from the...

And those little houses work as you go down Fairhope Avenue across from there, Kanuck and those little... And that was another hotel. Yeah, it was a hotel. Yeah, it was a hotel. Some Canadians that ran it or something. Jardine. Mrs. Jardine. I know that they had that sign on it. And her son moved down here, and I think he was out in Magnolia Springs there for a while, wasn't he? Fish River. Fish River. Fish River. That's right. Yeah, I remember Miss Jardine very well.

And then next to, down there on the corner, across from where the Moyers had the drugstore, which is now the antique place, this, east of that, on the corner, which is now I think, insurance, was the old Malbis Bakery. That was the Malbis bakery kind of restaurant. You remember that? It was the first restaurant that Malbis had. That's right. They were out here, of course, in the settlement, but that was their first restaurant and bakery. And it was a wonderful restaurant. The Malbis wanted... ..after school and had some of their vegetable soup. Do you remember the stools there at the counter?

I have a question about Fairhope Avenue, if it were not paved, how in the world, when it rained, and just a slow road, you could see it all over. It was like having a snow, I mean, snow or ice. It was mud, yeah. It was mud, it was mud. It'd come through your toes when you walked back. It was mud. It just, "psh". But I was just thinking, and driving on it. It was, there were tracks in it, you know, it would get all threaded, all the ruts going up and down.

Well, when we first went to Mobile, the road was so narrow that in places you'd have to back up and let somebody come past you.

And remember going to the Gulf? That was a day trip. That was a full day's trip to go to the Gulf, in a little Model T. Because those cars did not go like we drive.

No! But one of my chapters in my book, I take a walk down Fairhope Avenue as I remember it, so it'd be fun for us going back another few more years. I start on the corner, on the Organic School campus on the far corner there, next to Dahlgren. Yeah. And I remember being a little, some pine trees there, and there were always boys, because they had high that would come over, hang around with their bicycles, and I understand which you make in those books. And I think of them almost every time I pass that corner, it's a strange feeling and time.

But then going, walking down the street, and the potato shed goes across the street, and then you come to Comings Hall, and that was all it was. I'm told that was a movie house for a while. Do you remember that? Yes. I think it was in the '20s or something. That was Mr. Fuller had the Playhouse Theater down where, across from Bill Baldwin's place there on the corner, and then later on he moved it up to that place. Comings Hall? No, not Comings Hall. No, to the... Where the, that place where they sell all the ham, across from the Julwin', there on that corner. Uh-huh. Okay. The Creamery, the

Fairhope Ice and Creamery Company, was across the street from that, where Julwin's is now, right? No, it was where the... The parking lot. The parking lot. Ice Plant was like that. Yeah, I remember the Ice Plant.

But the Creamery was originally down at the beach, wasn't it? Yes. In 1908, my father started it down there, and in 1925, we moved up in town. 1925? Well I heard that it was the first creamery in the state of Alabama. What? I'll put that down if I can count it. And that's one reason it's such an attraction. They also had an ice plant in there and they made ice. Uh huh. And I can remember those big bat things down there where they made that ice and I can see Lavigne right now in his boots way up to here walking back in that place that was all wet. And the smell, it smelled like ammonia to me.

Well, who grew the dairy cows? Oh, the farmers. We had the dairy cows. We brought the milk in every morning by, well, to begin with, it was a horse and buggy, a horse and wagon, and then later on they had a model to use and stuff. They had, uh, the farmers all sent their milk. But we didn't own them.

I can add a little to that. Mr. Conrow worked for your daddy, and he had an old truck. And Ruth Conrow and I used to ride the route with him once in a while to pick up the milk. And the farmers would milk the cows, and out of the gate they had these great big cans like this, put the milk in them, and he'd put those cans in the back of the truck, and we'd take them back into the Creamery. I remember that very well. Was it your summer job, or you just did it? Well, I didn't go with him just a few times, but I can remember. We'd go out in the morning, and Marvin would go with us, and they would pick up the milk.

When Gavin was in business down in that corner, and he had Gavin's Ice Cream Parlor, he bought all of the mix that he made his ice cream, that had these big machines in the back, from Mr. Berglin, from the Creamery. And then he had the machines that turned it up and made the ice cream, and he sold ice cream there for years. Ice cream mix? Uh-huh. Yeah. Of course, we made the ice cream. At the Creamery. And Lavigne, my oldest brother, was the one that made the ice cream. It was wonderful. And it was a 25 gallon lot. And you know, you'd stand by the machine just when it was ready to come into the pan and go into the cold storage. And it was like having a wonderful stiff milkshake. Oh, delicious. And then they did make the mix, and we sold mix into Mobile and Pensacola. And then they put their flavors in. The whole thing was ready.

That's what Gavin bought. He bought the mix and then he had a big machine that whipped it up, you know, and put different flavors in it. Why do you think that has disappeared, this idea of having, "Well, they made ours with pure cream." And competition comes in with these great big companies, you know, and it's just that the little man's just pushed out. You know, with the Walmarts. Yeah, look at what Walmarts down to this area.

Well, I was thinking of Vermont where they still have the dairy cows in the field, and then they have these little stands that the ice cream is made and sold, and they make flavors depending on the fresh fruit in the season, and it's eaten within a week or a few days. That is really wonderful. It's a sense of their spirit. They may have a feeling more fun at this time. Yeah, but it would be, it would probably end up being too expensive. If you were going to make a living out of it. Just sort of a sideline.

Well, when I think about the homemade cones that we had, that Mr. Sparrow made for us, and it was often in, you know, he used those great big brown lard cans, and there were 500 to a can, and he charged us a penny a piece. And of course there's homemade cones were delicious, you know, like eating their cookies. And with one great big scoop of ice cream that was sized in. And if you wanted to... A double dip.

You know who bought the irons in that recipe? Gavin. He made the cones for years. Oh, he did? Yeah. In the back of his, Gavin's ice cream plate. Yeah, that's wonderful. I used to make cones for the Stearns and Mrs. Perkins and Mr. Stearns had when I was a teenager. She had her back porch set up with the stove and the irons, there were six irons there, and she mixed the batter up and we would make the cones. And you have to roll your hands, your fingers, with cloth because the irons are so hot and you pour it, it's like a waffle iron, but the cone is about that thin. You roll that, put that in that iron, and you have to turn it so it would bake on both sides, you see the heat was down. Then you open that iron up and you take this, like a cone thing like this, wooden, with a handle, you put that there and put that there and one up there, and there was a little thing up at the top that had eight places where you stick the cone in until it cooled. Then once they got cooled, then we'd take them off and we'd stack them and put them in these great big round pins. In fact, I've got one of the tins in my garage right now. It's about that big around. You can give that to the Fairhope Museum. You know, I really should. It's something that would be useful. And Gavin got a penny a piece for them. He sold them to a lot of people. Well, that, do you still have that recipe? No, he didn't. He sold the recipe and I think he didn't make a copy of it. He sold it to somebody, I don't know. Because he had to go to war. Yeah, he was one of the few. In fact, I think he's the only one. He and Cliff Goodwin were the only two men with children. That was 1940. That's when he sold his business.

Tape stops for several seconds.

You were at the Creamery. Okay. At the Creamery, and then across the street you had the building that had been made into the movie theater. Yeah, that was, um... That's where the Fairhope Cleaners was, or something like that. Yeah, that's right. Then, the restaurant that became Dale's in the '50s, was that something? Remember that? It's now, it's now George's. Well, it was. Was that a restaurant? It was a little office building. Mm-hmm. So in the corner store, when you get to the corner Fairhope, the intersection

of the Gaston Motor Company. Somebody called it the center of the universe, Fairhope Avenue and Section. Yeah, Section in Fairhope Avenue. Has always been the center. Yeah, that's the those are the lots, the four lots that the colony used their scale to your taxes. Uh-huh. And those were the highest paid lots. You had to pay the most money for those four. Probably lots. And everything went this way. Now it's from the shopping center, the colony. I didn't know they did that. But they reassessed it based on that corner.

But there was always a dry goods store. It was Pitman's and various, I don't know. It was Crawford store and the Pharmacy's always been there. But, Evelyn, what was between the Julwin's and the Gaston Motor Company? Wasn't there a little place that Harry Gander used to run, like a feed store? It was a feed store. Yeah. And then also there was a little shoe shop in there too. Oh, wasn't that on the other side though? That's right. That was Mr. Sturtzel. And there was a little sandwich bar in there in the 50s. Where do you want to? But I'm thinking of where on the cross the street, where the Village Peddler, where those things are now. Oh, now that was the pool hall, and Harris Rockwell ran that. And his wife just died, she's a hundred years old. She's related to Helen Dyson in some way. That takes care of that block.

But we get to your daddy's corner. Ok, a Wheeler Mercantile Company was daddy's store, and that's um, uh, across the street. It was McKean's hardware. Yeah, yeah, and then it was Harold McKean. But who built that building? Was that Wheeler's? That was an old two-story wooden building and upstairs was a dry goods department, Downstairs was feed, groceries, farm implements, and they had a big, um, It was a general store, really. Yeah, it was a general store. And in the back, there was a big dock built across the back, where the delivery truck, because he delivered groceries all over Fairhope. And he'd back that truck up and put the groceries in there, and Clayton Baldwin worked for him, and Everett Winters worked for him. Did Lawrence Stubblefield work there? No. He worked at Lawrence. Carl and Bobby Young worked there for a while, but that was so... I'm thinking of Mr. Stubblefield, Margaret Howell's dad. No. He worked in one of those stores, and it must have been... I think it was Pitman's. I think it was Pitman's. Now that would have been the Cecil Pitman's father? Yes. See, there were the two big grocery stores, catecorner from one another. Which used, Pittman's used to be the Crawford's, didn't it?

And in the center was a water tower. That was before. That was the water tower and the railroad tracks ran up from the bay to the water tower. It was in the center of that intersection. And for fun, the kids at Fairhope would climb up onto the water tower. And I heard this guy ask them, "Why'd you do that?" Because there wasn't anything else to do in the bay. And like, Piney Gaston that age, people would climb up there. Well, so they tore it down in what? I don't remember the water town, the center town. No, I do. Most of them, you were what, about ten or eight? I was born in 1916. But you didn't, you

weren't born in Fairhope, were you? Loxley, but I came here when I was two. Oh, you were two then. I guess I'm thinking. Evelyn and I, three years old, were running away, weren't we Evelyn? Mrs. Berglin gonna get the police to go find us. No, the cook Sadie come after us. Where were you running to? Do you remember? We went into the bay. Down to Simpson's Lumber Mill, which was way away from town. That's where the post office is. Think of where they lived and they were pretty amazing.

How many days did you and I spend down there at the bay when the Creamery was down there? Do you remember that? So that was your treat after school? Well, this was before we went to school. We were just little. You could run all over Fairhope. Yeah. We probably were still in diapers or training pants. See, because we first lived, when we came to Fairhope, we first lived right two doors from the Berglins in the Powell House, house. Where the bed and breakfast was right the next house next to that. We lived there. That's where we came so, Evelyn and I became so close because we were just right there. If she wasn't at my house, I was at her house. Because Aunt Eva and Uncle Adolph were like another mom and daddy to me.

Yeah, and I can remember when Myrtle, when we were teenagers, Myrtle had these bows caught in her and everyone and I would just pray she would pick Jack Sly. Remember that? We thought he was the most gorgeous creature on the earth. He was a handsome man. Who got him? Remember? She did. Oh, she did. Remember how they'd sit in that swing? And then I'd come here and peek at them. And I have a picture of you sitting on the front steps of your house. holding Lavigne Jr. We called him Sugar Man. So he's a teeny baby. He was a teeny baby. No, we called him Sugar Man too. I never heard of him say that. He was born in the hospital that was in Fairhope, on Fairhope Avenue where the mortuary is. It was a big two-story building there. And that was the hospital. Lavigne Junior was born. Not Phelzheimer? Not Phelzheimer, Phelzheimer where the mortuary are. And also the little, the Shay. No, no Phyllis Phyllis, Phyllis Dade, she was born at the same time he was and I remember Evelyn and I went to see that cute little darling baby. We could wait for Quida bring him home.

Do you remember much about the Pinequat Shop? Oh yes. And those ladies were from the early days of Fairhope. Yeah, Call. Yeah. And old Mr. Call was quite a dapper man. That was her brother, right? And he had a horse, remember the white horse? That Mr. Call was her husband. Her husband? Mr. Call. Well, one of them wasn't married. One of them was the daughter. And I've been told that you couldn't tell mother from daughter. I have given the museum a copy of the poem that Miss Call, is the word she called, wrote about the young men in Fairhope. And this was Spider and the deal for boys and Edium and Perigender and the Berglin boys and everything. I've had a copy made and this up in the museum. Well I'll go check that. That's very interesting because he took all these young men, he didn't mention the girls until the very last, but he didn't know much about the young girls. Oh, he talked about all the young men in Fairhope and what they've

been accomplished. He put it in poem form? Uh-huh. Oh, how wonderful. There are a lot of cute little poems that are in that bag.

There's my mother's scrapbook, and I would, when I read it, the scrapbook, and just, as dear, I'd be happy to hear them. How wonderful how the scrapbook, oh, mother's scrapbook goes back. And Eva was really before they were married, but they were married in 1900, and this shows the whole history of Fairhope. Oh! What an absolute surprise. It is. I'm going to have a chapter called "The Fair Hope Media," which I'll include things that other people have written from the past. I have some poems that Winifred Duncan wrote about Fairhope, and various... a lot of people have written things. The poem was Mr. Call. Yeah, that would be very good.

And there was a little copy of a pamphlet from some writer's group that was here called "Colene's of the Scribblers." And that poem is in, I mean, the pamphlet is in the background. Have you got any of Piney Gastons? Yeah. I've got both of your books. Yeah, and she wrote a poem for Gretchen Riggs for her memorial for Gretchen, and I thought that would be nice to include. But if you have those old things, I'll be interested. Then from that research.

But the Pinequat Shop, it was essentially a gift shop, I gather. It was a gift shop. And they made the homemade things out of pine straw. Yes, and they made kumquat marmalade. And candy from kumquats. Kumquat and candy, great fruit. So they got the name of the trash from the pine needle baskets. I still make their candy grapefruit first. I have the recipe for that. Well, that was it. But didn't they sell the marmalade in little things that were covered with the pine baskets? I can't remember. Anyway, that was a combination of pine. Did they make all the pine needle baskets themselves? They did not themselves. And they were originally builders. I think other people made some of those. Well, now they did have a lot of things in there from other places. I made some of those pine needle baskets myself. Well, that's right.

There's a craft person in Foley making those beautiful pine needle baskets. I have a whole set of the hot cakes of those pine needles. Oh, yes. Must come from the pine needles. And I guess the reason it was because all pine needles are the long leaf pine needles, I used to pick them up and they have to be a certain way. We just wash them good. You have to get them soft too, don't you? Wash them and you wet them when you use them to keep them from getting. Now when we made them, we didn't spray them with the clear polyurethane, but now we do the woman that I got some longer kind of maps from, used to do, and she did the most beautiful time of it. Beautiful time. What was it? Irene Bell's the one that taught me how to do it, the teacher at the art school at Organic School.

One thing interesting about Fairhope Avenue, since you were talking about that, a telephone house used to be on Fairhope Avenue and the Lawrence family ran that. And

of course that was from the first staff telephones too I guess. I thought that was on De La Mare. Well it was later on, but to begin with it was on Fairhope Avenue and you could call someone like I might call you. And the operator, the Lawrence people, would say, "Oh, well, she's not at home. I just saw her driving down the street." I mean, going—not driving, going down the street. And so, I mean, this was communication. Yeah. They didn't really need a telephone. And then, you know, I'm going to move it. I have to tell now, but to begin with, it was right there for the service. And she knew everybody's business in Fairhope, because she listened into everybody.

This must have been Ken Cain's grandmother, you know, on his mother's side. Who? Kenny? Yeah. They were related. Oh, but not that close. But this was Alta Lawrence, and I'm trying to think of old man's name, William and Brian's daddy And then little Alta was the girl and she died. And Mrs. Lawrence was crippled. Remember that she was a high ~~boat~~ with a place under it, just like Gavin's daddy we used to have.

And then there was a barbershop that was there for you. And then there was a little That was before the building was built that had a Soda Garden. It was just little separate houses. I remember all separate houses. And you see some pictures sometimes in there. And there was a little meat market in there and Hoppy Nelson ran it. Remember that? Remember all the saw dust on the floor? And then later, Ellis McKenzie had a meat market where the Christmas shop was. I remember that. And my black Labrador retriever on the grounds up to the school would stop in and get his bones. They'd get his bones, get treats.

And over there on Section Street, the Greer's was originally on that corner of Delamar. Yeah. And then the City Market, how long ago did they change that? That was Mr. Ruge's filling station over there. Oh yeah, there's some filling stations over there. And then where Betty Jo Wolf's place is, belonged to my Uncle Ralph and Mr. Gaston's, E B Gaston's sister, Dr. Crain, and another woman, two little old ladies that lived in There were two houses there, and Uncle Ralph Young, Bobby's mother and daddy, and Bonnie and Aunt Claire lived there. And then the little Crain woman, Dr. Crain and the other woman lived in the other little house. And then where the big building there is, that's the dance place, that was the post office. They have the two-story where the Cheshire dad's upstairs, that was the post office. That was. Yeah, because it has in the center.

Do you remember Madame Morehead? Yes. Tell me about Madame Morehead. She lived down where I am now. Around the corner. That was woods. Yeah, it was woods. A mile from town. She was in back of our place, Englewood-Villa. And, but now, she lived just down on the street and everyone took their animals to her. Gavin never liked her 'cause she killed his dog. Oh, she was a better, sort of a veterinarian. She was a

veterinarian. And I told she made a house call around her horse. She had a white horse. She called Madame Moore. She was from a German or something. I think German.

Oh. And then we had another character too, was the bird lady, Mrs. Schramm. Do you remember her? The red-haired woman that lived in the tree? She lived in the tree. I'm sorry. She lived in the tree. And she had a back tip down underneath of the tree house. And she would go and take her back down there and do the sneak down there and find them in the bushes to watch her day. Now where was her tree? It was down where, right in the area where the Organic School is now, Marietta Drive. It's right in that area. And that was all woods. No, it was on Section Street. Huh? It was on the Section Street. Well, I'm saying it's in the area on Section Street where the Organic School is now, Marietta Drive, in that area. I think it was just before the city warehouse down there. It wasn't that far, but it was up between the cons and whatever. Well, how did she, was she just a single person who moved to Fairhope, but you know where she came from? She was a real character. Well, I know. I don't know where she came from. I wonder if Sam might know, but I don't. I've never heard anyone say her. And everyone called her the bird lady.

And we had another character, which Otto Wint. He was the funny little old man that used to come to everybody's back door to get food. You remember him ever? Mm-hmm. And he would come, mother would feed him always on holidays, and he never would take a bath. So he was the town beggar. On Halloween, the boys and girls get together and they take him down to the bay and get him a bath. They did this town of favor. Every Halloween. Oh, that's wonderful.

Well, in my day I remember a man, an older man that walked around town without wearing shoes. That was the Weaver. George. Oh, George. I don't know who I mean. Not the Weaver, this was George. Yeah, George. Do you know who I mean? He always sat on that bench where it was in front of him. His feet were, oh! And that big and swollen. Oh, yeah, I know where he, I'll tell you what his name was. There were two or three of them that come out together in front of him. Yeah, but this was Scundy Banks. That was his name, Scundy Banks. That's the Weaver or that's George? No, this isn't the Weaver. This was a boy that was barefoot that would walk around town and I don't think he was Frank. No, he wasn't. Like Bradley Titus.

I think the man you're talking about had a beard in there. No, no, you're thinking of the... Yeah, his home. His house. The Hermit. You're not talking about the Hermit. No, he just walked around town in the jeans and... Well, I remember that. That was Scundy Banks. He would always say something to me from across the street. He'd send it to talk, you know, he was kind of... Probably not all there, that's all I know. But I just didn't know anything, I guess nobody really knows. There was a whole family of those Banks, but

this one boy was kind of... Scundy was kind of weird. He was kind of Scundy. Perfect name. Great name for it.

*Cataloger's note: The ladies are discussing the Moog family and the Mogg family and there is confusion. The Moogs were in Battles Wharf where Mr. A. A. Moog operated a store. Mr. J. J. Mogg lived in Fairhope.