

FMH-A0005b. Mary Lois Timbes-Adshead interviews Helene Beiser Hunter and Evalyn Berglin Porter, Ken Cain 1998. Part 2. Run time approximately 48 minutes.

Yes, well she was, yeah, she was modern dance. Quite a character. Fascinating. Yes, she had a mind. (No talking for a few seconds.) There was a hotel there? There was a hotel there. I don't know. But that was back in the early 1900's. I heard my mother and father talk about that. There were two or three big ones. The Gables, the Fairhope Hotel. Is the Gables the same? (Several seconds with no sound.)

And then the Smith home was next to her, with Gordon Smith from Mobile on the back front.

Yeah, and there was a tennis court where all the tulips are on the park down there. Beautiful. I was from Colonial Inn Yeah. And there was also... Major Hill used to get tennis lessons. I took lessons from him. He was wonderful. He was great. He played tennis up into the... Well, he played because he died, and he was about 85. And Professor Nichols was another one that played tennis all the time. And he was our English teacher at the Organic School. Professor Nichols, that's uh, Judd Wynn's grandfather. Yeah, I get this, now is he connected with Marvin Nichols? Martha? Yeah. Well, then her husband was uh, Marvin Nichols. Yeah, was Professor Nichols' son. He was also, uh, he was a brother to Margaret Gaston and Lorena Hoffman. So that's all the Gaston side family.

Now, Evelyn, wasn't the house that the Calhouns lived in there on Magnolia Avenue? That was the Hopping. Hopping. Hopping. Yeah. The Hopping. And then Emma Hopping married Bloxson. Bloxson. Yeah. I remember when the Bloxsons lived. Now the house next door going down the hill on Fels, E.B. Gaston's house. You mean on Magnolia? Magnolia. Yeah, that's right. I think it's a lot. Yeah, that's what we're saying. But the E.B. Gaston house was on there. That seems to be empty now. And Aunt Frankie lived in that house for a long time. She and Edna Damerow. And that was a wonderful woman, Frances Gaston Crawford. Every Monday morning she would call everyone in town. Get the news. And get the news. And even if you had gone to Mobile, it went into the Courier. And that's largely what my mother's scrapbook is. You know, she had company from Mobile or she went to Mobile or they went to Pensacola. It was the town crier for the social. And our paper was just wonderful. You kept up with everything. It was so personal. Yeah. And I can remember when I had my dress shop, Aunt Frankie and I went to New York to be some fine, and she'd always say, "Find me something pretty. Find me something pretty." She's pretty. She's lowly funk, lowly jowl funk.?? Did she shop there? Huh? She shopped in your shop there? Oh, yeah. She enjoyed when you got to go to New York with my clothes for her.

I remember when we'd get up in New York and, you know, big old tall me and always go into the garment district where you buy and all these little short Jewish men. Yeah. They probably did. Oh, they just loved me because I talk Southern and I don't talk Southern. Because they just love to make me talk. That's what Southern's been.

Evalyn, you worked for the city, didn't you? No, frankly. I was secretary for Smith Ruge for two or three years. I was thinking about that today, but down there we're talking about it. And who was the mayor? Oh, Howard Ruge Oh, okay. And then George Morgan was a city clerk and he was just sick and died and so they appointed him to be (understandable).

Remember little Mr. Melville? He had that building where Verona had the Colony Shop for long time on Fairhope Avenue and then Buddy Richmond was upstairs in that workplace. And then Camper's had a grocery store where Price Furniture is. Oh. That was Mr. Kamper's grocery store, big grocery store. Uh-huh.

And years back, your daddy and mother had a place on the corner where the old, uh, uh... Our house was there. Hmm? Our house was there, didn't this? And moved it back, but didn't he have, didn't she have a meat market? No, our house was there in 1917. We moved the house back to where it was. Well, I thought he had some kind of business on that point. It was, before they moved it. It was. Before he went.

You know, it's a shame they tore that house down and they tore our house down, Englewood Villa. That was a beautiful old country style wraparound porch, two-story. We had six acres here. Daddy had that whole block where the Baptist Church is, all the way over to Church Street, from Section to Church. Nichols on one side and White Avenue on this side. And I think about, he cut that yard. One of those little owers he pushed, went this way. And remember the hedges down the driveway? And he kept all those trimmed. And the north part of the lot, we had pecan orchard. We had a cow. We had a horse. We had chickens. We had a goat. We had strawberries. We had Loganberries. We had a garden. We had a pool with fish and a tennis court. We just had the best time. Now it's all just cement and bricks. Yeah. Because, you know, the last few years of Daddy's life, he said, "I don't want to go by that. I don't want to go by that." No, I can understand. I don't want to go by that. That was pride and joy. All those beautiful azaleas he had, and pear trees, we had persimmons, satsumas. We were sort of self-sustaining. Well, there was like a satsuma grove right around there. I don't know, was that just your... No, we just had enough for our own. And fig trees. Two beautiful big fig trees. That was a lot of land. We had a riding horse, Tal, and we had a wonderful time. We used to ride the gullies on her. That's pretty hard, getting the horse down the gullies. You could get in on this side. The high banks were only on the south side. Susie told me that she and Kenny went in, they were exploring in the gully and they found some old animal bones of some kind and brought them back and they made Halloween costumes

for them with necklaces of bones. Who said that? Susie. I wouldn't doubt it. Remember wearing the bones around your neck for Halloween? I found them down in the fully.. Might as well find something to do with them. Nancy! Can I help? You can hear everything. You've got good ears. Sure, I'm glad to see you up and out of that bed. We're gonna get that on tape. That pause there. He was not. I didn't want to interrupt you. I got my corset on. Oh, did you get one of your back braces? Is it one with velcro? Gavin, where's one of the place going?

Well, let's get going. Where were we? We were walking down to the road in about 1914. We were, uh, we'd gone down to the... It was almost there. There was the railway running down the street. Oh, right there. We were down about in the Knoll park. I don't remember. It came up from the bay, from the pier, the Fairhope pier. But they hadn't been using it for it. I don't remember. Well, they used it until, oh, I can remember, maybe I was about 8 or 9 years old. So that'll be 1925. Pretty soon. I don't remember the railroad track coming to town. They charged you 10 cents to come up, but you could go down for a nickel. Because it took less gas and had a little bit of trouble coming up and went down to the boat in the morning. And it went all the way up to the end of the pier. And how far east was that? Up to the center of town. Section and... It was called the People's Railway? Uh-huh, People's Railway. What's it called the People's Railway? Well, it belonged to the people. It was a corporation of people, I mean, just a group of men, I guess, that got it together, so they called it the people. Who started it? Mr. Patterson was the warehouse manager down there, and he ran the warehouse and ran the trolley back and forth.

There was a warehouse across from the Casino down on the beach. There was also a big warehouse out at the end of the pier. Remember that? What was the place called the Tip Top? Where was that? Tip Top. Kit Kat. No, the Tip Top was a hotel. No. Coffee shop. It was a coffee shop going out on the pier. It was right at the opening, at the foot of the pier, you had the story frame and that. And then later on they called it something else.

I have a story about that. You mean the one that the casino was here and then there was another little place. I thought that was called the bar. It was later on. You know, Dad had a scar. I don't know, let's just do a little bit about that. I know, but you're not. No, he's the right. Ben has a scar right before his knee. It was a long scar. At the time I remembered it was probably six inches long. And he would always say, can't you see this scar? He said, this is, I got this when I was riding down a bike down that hill. And this was before coaster brakes. So the pedals kept going. And he said I was going as fast as I could down that hill and I was going to ride out on the pier. And he said, "As I got to that opening, the train was there between the two buildings." And he said, "I tried to go between them." And I think he hit that restaurant. And that's where he got that start. He couldn't stop the bike.

I can remember when the hill was so steep that the cars had a plan getting up. Well, not so much that the hill was steep, the cars didn't have any power. It wasn't paved was it? No. And of course my mother was the first woman in Fairhope to learn to drive a car. And in fact that it was in the paper. Mrs. Berglin has accomplished the art of driving. And she'd surprise Dad and take the car down the hill to meet the boat. Did you have to have a license then? No. I didn't have a license when I first started. and she hit that sand bed and wanted to turn over but she didn't make it down the hill. But, um, she had to get rid of the big sand bed right there, as you went down at the foot of the hill.

Which up there, the artesian well. There was an artesian well just to the right side of it down the hill. And I remember, uh, the big wharf and the little wharf. There was another one to the north. That was the Berglins. Well, it was the public pier. That was ours later on, but I mean we built the pier, but there was still a small wharf out there. You know, but that's not ours. That's places?.

The best vacation we ever had was that week that we spent on the pier. I remember it was a large structure and it was screened in a cotton and we slept there. It was a livable house I think, but in the summers, fall? in my father and I used to stay out there all summer. That's like a summer vacation. That was when you went down on Summit Street? On Oak Street.

Well, my mother took a boat from Mobile on a Fairhope visit at the time of June. She grew up in Mobile, same era, and they stayed at what's now the Legion Club. It was the Mobile Women's Club. Yeah, the Pine Needles. And it had like screened-in porches. There was a big pier that went on.

Yeah. I want to clarify, you were talking about the big pier and the little pier. Do you not mean the big casino and the little casino? It was a pier. But I mean, there were two structures, as I recall, in the 50s, the little casino and the big casino. I think the pier Mary Lois is just thinking of is the good pier. It might have been. Now, didn't my father guess that in the 1950s? No. And he followed us six years old. 15th. 15th. 15th. GARBLED Because you own that beach property there. That park there. It went right to the bay. And now that's owned by the city? They finally bought it, you know, but when we decided to sell it, we offered it to the city and they wanted us to get it to them. And Little and I didn't feel like we could afford to get it to them. And so we did sell it to a man from Mobile, and then he wanted to put a little seafood restaurant down there. And he wanted to have gumbo and they wouldn't get any more permit to sell beer. And so, anyway, in turn, he sold it to the city later on, and they had to pay more for it to have it then.

Well, who built the Tiki down there? The City built that. Did they sell beer at the casino or the dance places? Well, I don't think, I don't ever remember. I don't even remember

anybody drinking beer. Yeah, I was thinking if you had a drink, you'd run after your car and have it.

I think I remember the big casino serving beer back in the 50's. Oh, the dances. They probably did. You would think they were. The big casino was wonderful dances, and that big porch out the front, we'd get so hot, we'd walk out there and breathe the breezes like air conditioning. It was just wonderful.

Do you all remember the structure that was on the water at Battles, the Battles Hotel? Yeah Did you talk about that? Mm-hmm. And we've been through all the hotels. That had nice little, um, door-levels. That had nice big room, um, they over there, too. And there were dances there.

I've seen other things, right? Yeah. The waterfalls there. That is, that was one of the favorite places for some of the Mobilans to come over, because Gavin's people came over there. He said that's where he learned to swim. His mother said, "If you don't get out there and learn how to swim, I'm going to throw you overboard." And she did. And he said he swam.

That was a beautiful, that was a beautiful old hotel, really. Beautiful old wooden structure. It then went downhill when the, what was it, the Prince's that got it later on, from Mobile. When they let it go downhill, it just deteriorated so terribly. And then when the, um...

Tell me a little bit about the history of the road that used to be on Seacliff and Aunt Sally and the Carpenters General Store. Now, you all may not remember that. I remember Aunt Sally. Fortune Teller? Fortune Teller, Aunt Sally.

Yes, tell me a little bit about that because that's right out in front of this house, that road, that old road. It was a road, but it was a day's journey to get to it. No, that was too far to come from there. Right along the plot. Right along the plot. But didn't you charge a nickel toll to go along that plot down to the Carpenters Store? don't remember that.

We always walked to see Aunt Sally. Now when was she had a little-- Did she tell you about her? I don't remember. I was probably too young. She had a little cabin up here somewhere. Right there. Yeah, and I'll tell you, you bought that. Tom St. John bought her place. Remember Tom St. John? Well, you know, the dentist had that cottage here before they built. That 9, whatever it is, 21 Seacliff. That cabin that Aunt Sally had, they had, it was added on to. And Frederick destroyed it. That was the last of that cabin.

And there were a couple homes up there, weren't there? The Smiths? Tom St. John is the one that owned where the Davis was lived. Okay. And he's still alive. I think, Who, Tom St. John.. No, he's not. He did. Yeah, he was the secretary to the Hunter Land

Development in Mobile. He died about a year ago. He was with the bank in Mobile. He married Gavin's cousin. He married Duck Hood, I mean Buck Rock.

And up here there was the Johnston home and the Smiths, the sister. That's Windy. Windy Johnston. And that family home is still here. And that was about the only thing up here other than. There was one home up here on the, but it might be on the other side of the creek that had the double roof. house was built and then they built another one up here so the wind went through. It was like to keep the house cool, air conditioned. I don't remember exactly where it was but I believe it was about where Roberta McCue's place is. Wasn't that the Davis property? Davis, no. Was it the Davis property? Yeah, I believe you're right. I think that's where it was. Because that was our severe weather wasn't it? August.

When we came back and remodeled this house, Craig Sheldon came up and spent some time with me and said, "Kenny, you remember what our severe weather is, don't you?" And I was thinking cold. And he said, "August." And he said, "Put a lot of fans in here and get some ventilation in this house." So that's what you're talking about, is the ventilation. Well, you know, that's a smart idea when you start to think about it, because your roof gets so hot and your attic gets so hot to have enough, and so the breezes went through. And didn't your man that works in your yard do that to his trailer? Put a roof over the top of the trailer? No, no, he was talking about that. No, he did.

The interesting thing to me is the way that those old houses were designed for this climate, and that people would go outside if they were hot and stand in the wind. Now, nobody wants to go outside. My house that I'm in was designed for that. It's the hallway down the middle. The breezeway. Okay. Four rooms. Two on each side. A front gallery and a back gallery. And a little outhouse in the back. And there was a pump in my pantry. That was the pump house. And you just open those windows and those ventilation. It's a crust. Every way. Yeah, and when you do that, the house, the curtains. Yeah, and they get kind of moist. Yeah, they get kind of moist, and the fixtures all get rusted. That's when we decided we better air condition. Yeah, it's kind of the same. That's the first thing we did to that house when we moved in. It was air condition.

You never suffered from the heat like you do now, because you become so accustomed to air conditioning. But back then, all we had were fans, and you put them on the floor or whatever. People came to Fairhope to get cool because it was breezy and it could go up. But there's many a night when we lived at Englewood Villa where the Baptist Church is now. It was so hot up in that two-story house of ours and Rickie and I had the southwest room, so the afternoon west sun beat down on that house. And it was that, the two-story house is kind of like a story and a half, so the roof came down you put the beds up under that roof pocket in them, I would get up and wet the pillowcase and put it

on my bed to cool myself. And it still didn't work, I'm sure, but it was better. I could go to sleep if I didn't.

I don't know how many houses were out there, like a couple houses down, at the south of the Grand Hotel on the boardwalk, but they have those special out on the porches they have, of course they have the rain porches, and then they have the roofs that allow this recirculating that would come in through the porch louvers, come into the house, and it would just sort of make a circle of air. The house itself was designed with a sort of a The old Blocksher? home, is that one? The one that, what was his name? Dalgrins? Yeah, Dalgrins. It doesn't have to burn there, is that right? There are several other still hubs here down there that are built that way. You see, I had the rain roof on my house, one of the last ones. And we closed it in and glassed it in. That was a rain roof. That was a rain roof. That was an open porch, and a rain roof went over it. We still got the rain roof, but we glassed in the screen porch. with a rain roof in front of the screen porch.

Well, do you all remember going over to the Sanger Theater and how cool it was in that theater? Now, they had transpiration treatment. They brought in air over ice up in the roof, and when they blew it, they sucked it down into the theater, and then it exited. I just read where New York was doing that show and done. So they're just catching up. Actually, some of the places in New York are doing exactly that same thing.

There's just something about the way the world has changed, that the houses designed as they were for this area, you can't sell that concept anymore. I have 11 foot ceilings in my house. My house is small, but you don't feel like it's really small because the ceilings are high. And that's considered wasted space now. And it is part of the air conditioning, that you know, that's okay. It just doesn't air, it's not economical anymore. It used to be you just opened all the windows.

And the way that worked was, as air expands and is forced into a larger opening, it cools. There's the Venturi effect of that cooling. So that's why they're seeing war hives, more for the air coming into a small space and then expanding. I believe you're feeling like that.

Well, we certainly had been lucky to live in this area as long as we did. Well, we lived through beautiful times, didn't we? Absolutely. I guess my heart fell completely for the kids being robbed today, because it's not going to be like it was. I think you all probably lived in the best time of bringing up. I think growing up in the '50s was wonderful. We really used to behave. Evalyn and I had a wonderful time. Evalyn always had a car available. She was about the only one at Fairhope that had a car. So she was really, she could get where she wanted to go. How long did it take to get to the Gulf? To go? It was, I couldn't. You wouldn't take that a half a day. because by the time you got there

you could only spend a few hours, but you had to come back and it was dark, dark, dark, midnight by the time you got there.

It was a little trail like this with ruts that you went to. One car, you had to aim for it and the lights weren't working. Gavin says he remembers when his mother would take them down there and she said she carried boards in the car. to get out to the beach, she'd get out and she'd put the board down and she'd run the car down and she'd get out and take the board out and put them in them down so she wouldn't get stuck. A lot of work. You've got stuck at least a half a day behind every time you went to the Gulf. There weren't only roads, so you just had to make your own tracks.

Well you know, back in when Gavin and I were first married, and Daddy would go down, we'd and we'd go down fishing. And we'd roll over to the island and take our little coffee can and our little stick, and we'd roll over to the island and we'd go there and we'd poke there. And I think this was the hole right here. We'd put the stick there and do like this, and the Fiddler crab would come out. We'd grab him and we'd put him in the coffee can. And we got the coffee can filled with Fiddler crab. We rode back and went over to Alabama Point, where the path goes through, and we're still there. There was no one in sight either way. We had the place to go and fish for sheephead. We'd stand right there and fish for sheephead. - Now Helene, was there a road? One was 180 there at that time? - There was just roads. - None of the roads were there. - And as far as a golf course down there, that was all swamp and woods. There was nothing down there. - There was a one-tart, you know, and it was one old hotel that made itself a place to pass. But it was always, I mean, it was sailing. You know, you were driving and sailing.

Well, you went to Mobile, you had to back up in places because there were ruts to go across to Mobile. And you had to back up to let another car pass if one passes. Well, now, the Causeway wasn't there. No, 1927. Before that, you had to go way up around the river. Yeah, I was 11 years old when the Causeway opened. I imagine that was quite a trip to get to Mobile. 1927. The only way was to come, you know, buy boat or... Or go up around there around Bay Minette. That was a day trip, especially. At least a day. Way up by. We've come a long way, baby.

When did they pave the roads? When did they pave the roads? in the 30s? Must have been in the 30s. It wasn't paved when... I think they started... Well, let me say it wasn't paid Most of the little roads in Fairhope not in a Section Late 40s All the fruit and nut section was paved back then. I don't know. I can remember when they paved the road at, when we lived at 209 Liberty, Gaston Avenue was paved. And my porch, when they were paved, when they were putting that red clay down and the south wind would blow, it ruined everything on the porch because it was screened. And I'd get that red dust in there. And I spent my life cleaning that paint until they got through paving that road.

I think they paved Fairhope Avenue probably in the 30s. I think so. It's always enough that they paved. Always enough that they paved. Well now, when I had my dress shop there in the corner of Church and Fairhope Avenue, across from Bill Baldwin, which was the old theater building, the Tea Tile tea room that Fairhope was paved. And that was in the 30s. Because I graduated from high school in '34, it was paved in.

But not out beyond Ingelside? No. No. A lot of places, street in Fairhope were not paved in. They did a lot of paving after we had moved, Gavin and I had moved into that big house that we bought there on Liberty and Gaston. And all around them, it was all dirt roads.

School Street wasn't paved until about, you know, probably about '52 or '57, something around there. I remember that was a red clay hill when you don't know. It was fun to watch those cars slide around the way. After a rain, we'd bet each other to do what car could make it up there.

I've seen pictures of the movie house, and they're hooked up with this brick building, in the Fairhope Playhouse it was called or something like that. Tea Tile Tea Room and that was a theater. Okay and is it where the Fairhope Theater was then on the corner of Church? And see that, that, that, some of them, that west corner was the Tea Tile Theater. That was called the Tea Tile Tea Room. The Tea Tile Tea Room.

Gavin had an ice cream parlor in there. Gavin, after I had the dress shop, I moved across the street to where the barber shop is and the little dress, that, I moved my shop from that corner over there. He went in and had the ice cream parlor there and made ice cream wholesale and retail and beer and made the cones and everything. In the tea room? No, he changed it. See, I had a dress shop after the tea tile tea room closed up, and the front entrance, you opened the doors, and you walked up, and there were three steps up into the front. And there was a great big show window on this side that went into the entrance of the theater so that I could display my clothes there so that they could see it. Oh, we were uptown. And then when I moved across the street, Gavin opened his place there. And then when I got pregnant, I got out of the business. Sold it.

The original tea room, though, I mean, they really had a nice tea room. It was lovely. Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Emma Wood, and Selina, uh, Nimitz, Robert, uh, ran the tea room. And it was just a delight. It was beautiful, lovely. And the meal that they served was just daily and wonderful. Mrs. Wood was Piney Gaston's mother. Ok, with Judge Totten. He had built a movie house and offered it to Mrs. Johnson. The proceeds would go to finance the school and she rejected it. But that sort of isn't true, but I don't know. So far I just got to get that. Yeah, Mr. Fuller offered anything. No, not Mr. Fuller, Judge Totten. Oh, Judge Totten. Built a movie house. He was probably in the '20s. Oh. See that was before my time. Do you remember that one? Another movie house? No, because the main movie house I knew of, because it was right there at our back door. And it was Mr.

Fuller, was it? It was Mr. Fuller. And that was in the 30s, 40s. When was that? That had to be, I tell you, in the 20s. In the 20th because George, his oldest son was in my class at school. You know, I think you're right. Someone owned it before Mr. Fuller. Maybe Judge Totten built it. Yeah, I think I did. I'll find out in the middle of the day because I've got to...

Craig Shelton, I know Butch got tired of listening to this, but Craig, I don't remember. Craig used to say, every time I'd seen him he'd say, "Butch, now that was my first date in Fairhope" When we were about eight or nine years old, he used to take me to the pictures. He said, "I used to take Evalyn to the picture show." The first time I ever took a girl was to the picture show, and I sat there and held her hand the whole time. And I know Butch got tired of listening to that, but he told it every time. I didn't know Craig Sheldon was even here when he was little. He ran away, you know. Well, he was here, though. He beat his stepfather up and ran away, thought he'd killed it. I know, but he was here when he was in school. And he tells that. He didn't make it up. He seems to know. But you don't remember it? I don't remember going to the picture show with him.

Maybe I hope you remember the boyfriends. I remember Evalyn's boyfriend George Steele. Her mother didn't like him. Tell them what she did. I think that's the cutest story about George. Evalyn was at our house and I was at her house so much at the time that we were just buddy buddies. She had this car and she was crazy about this George Steele. I think he was kind of crazy about her too. But her mama didn't like him for some reason. Why Evalyn? I don't know.. And so she would take the car and she was going to go down to the Beiser's thing. So she'd back up to our house. So that she'd get the car and she'd back up to our house from her house. Now where that corner of the Englewood Villa. Back up. She'd go out and go by George Steele's house. I thought it was the cutest story I ever heard. Well, you had to be a pretty proficient driver to do that. She was a good driver.

I smell something that sure does smell good. What would you like to drink? We have iced tea or hot tea or more coffee? Water, would you like? What would you want to call it? I'll take some water. I'm sorry? I'm sorry. You think you've gotten some good information?

We've got one more question here. The theater on the beach? Thank you, ma'am. When the theater on the beach started. The beach, you mean the beach theater movie? Uh-huh. Is that Curtis Willard? Yeah, that was our courting days. That was back in the... I thought it was good. I thought that was the early 30s. It was supposed to be a new trend, I'm sure. The early 30s, didn't it? That was Steven Riggs and what's the boy's name that's in electronics? Curtis Willard? I thought Curtis Willard. Curtis Willard. Curtis Willard. No, Stroser's too much younger. But they did have wonderful, and they had blowers, and they blew the mosquitoes away. I forgot that. Yeah, I didn't remember.

We'd take that citronella oil just in case the blowers wouldn't work. But that was fun, wasn't it? Those seats were hard. They had wooden seats. Oh, they had wooden seats. I don't think they had any back to them. No. Well, they did. They had a back. They did have a back? They had a back. I remember if the grass wasn't cut, they couldn't fall in the mosquitoes. I mean, there were long ranges, so we could be more. Everybody had to sit together, sort of family style. And you could sit as close as you wanted to. Oh, of course. Sometimes it wasn't family style. Yes, sweetheart, I'll leave it with you.

I think one thing that everyone used to enjoy in Fairhope when we were growing up, Our Fairhope basketball team, which consisted of Henry Bishop and Kirby Wharton and all the young men. The town team. They were the town team. Of course, we played all the places from Mobile, like McGowan Lions and all the businesses over there. And we had our basketball games every Saturday night. In Comings Hall. And everyone, I mean, your whole family went to the game. And not only that, the whole family stayed for the dance. And from the time I was a little girl on the bus, my mother and dad were there and they went to dance. But you know, we were all there and we went to the dance as well. And the same way was down at the casino. The same way was down at the casino. The whole family. Well that's nice. And it was such a wonderful children with family. Yeah, and old folks, they're going to beat 80-year-olds and 4-year-olds. Well that's like they do in Cajun country today. Yeah, that's a nice movie.

That is nice. Where's that? That was where Collins' drugstore was. R -A -T-H-J-E. Oh, R-A-T-H-J-E. Some kind of a... No, it was a general store, and you could go in there and buy high-top button-up shoes and old-time dresses. Anything you wanted. And they had, and of course on one side they had a little grocery store, the other side was a general store, and they sold everything. Everything. And one time. Well, that would be a huge sensation now. Oh, it was. He had a sign in the window, and I'll never forget this. He put it in the window, and he said, Get bread here, but it was B-R-E-D. I remember that, too. It was the talk of the town. In fact, I think Aunt Frankie even put it in the Courier.

How did the Berglins move to Fairhope? My father came here in 1896. It was right before it came on. And my mother came with her family from Michigan, and they met here, and I didn't know which one of them. Now how was your mother related to the Luciere's? Not really. What was her maiden name? My mother's name was Lavigne, L.A.V.I.G.N.E.. But her mother died when she was four years old, and her mother had a heart condition, and she asked good friends of theirs if she they would adopt my mother. She knew she was going to die. Who adopted your mother? The Beebolts. Beebolts? And that's, that's, she came down here. I thought they were related to, in some way, to the Luciers. But my mother really wasn't related to the Luciers. And so your grandfather -- She had no brothers or sisters? She had five brothers, but the Bebolts did not want her to know that she had been adopted, and so they told her father, or sent word, and then your mother had died. Oh, how strange. And they changed her name from Mary.

What's her name? Mary LaVigne. That's what she called her. Yeah. But what did they change it to? To Eva. Oh. Well, that was strange. But I guess people did things like that. So how did she find it all out? Well, she was a beautiful thing. Later. She knew. Mother was friends, and she remembers her mother, She does remember? And she knew she had been adopted, but these people kept speaking in French. We took her early enough because she'll never know if she was adopted. And -- They hadn't told her. She and my father were married, and she was 18, I think it was 1900. And the adoption papers fell out of the trunk. And she had always been very obedient and she wouldn't pick up the papers and her father, her foster mother asked us why she wouldn't pick that paper up and she'd pick up the I didn't know that story. Yeah, I must have known. Yeah. So then, after, by that time, after she and my father were married, she decided to try to find her family which she did. Oh. Her father? Uh-huh. And her five brothers. Oh, how wonderful. And it was in the Chicago Tribune, it was big. Oh, I still had all the clippings about the long lost history. And the reporters got on the train and they -- Oh, that's in her scrapbook. You really have the whole history of this family. That is so wonderful. When her mother stuck?, did she keep a diary as well? That's a wonderful story.

Did you know your real grandparents about it? No, no. Her mother died, and the father, well, LaVigne had been born and then Myrtle. So that was, she took the two children to Chicago, so that had to be about 1905 or something like that, by the time she discovered her family again. But she remembered the priest in the church, and that's how she wrote to the priest, and his name was Marvin, that's where Marvin was. Oh, that's nice. And he's the one that told her how to get in touch with all of her brothers and, um, She was the only girl? Mm -hmm.

So, you grew up considering the Bebolt, people,? I didn't believe you. I don't know. Maybe you don't. No. Well, how were you related to the, the Vince, uh, Mrs. Vincent, was it? Vincent, uh, no, that was my father's sister. Oh, the layout sister? Kid, uh, she was married to Mr. Waterwitz? Mm-hmm. Well, that was just a friend. The yacht club by the New Sailor, from Waterwitz? Well, we brought him down here from Rathina. He belonged to the rich in the house, and we used to visit Laura, and she found out.
GARBLED.

End.