Port Washington Public Library Oral History Collection

SANDMINING

Carta, Antonio (1901 -1987). Sand miner. *With* **Pinna, John**.

Traveling back and forth between Italy and America; work experiences: "caving", working on dredge, quarrying "big stone" for war memorial in Glen Cove; living in company house, "camps"; construction of washer; changes in sandbanks; hopes for future of sandbanks area.

14 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 58 min. 2 sec.

Chester, Catherine Giagu (1939 -). Sand miner's daughter.

Car tour of sandbanks along West Shore Road from Beacon Hill Road to the Roslyn Viaduct; families who lived there; barges; day-to-day life: shopping at Marino's and Langone's stores, butcher shop, fresh produce, penny candy; peddlers; socializing; housing: wooden houses, living in scows, barracks' residents, houses on stilts; feelings of isolation; happy times, playing games; homemade wine; hopes for future of sandbanks area.

24 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 53 min. 13 sec.

Christiansen, Christian (1917 -). Sand miner's son.

Childhood and family background: arrival from Norway, 1890; grandparents' life and work on sand barges; living conditions; socializing among scow residents; description of work; hazards: accidents, capsizing, fires; father's work in sandbanks; company housing, canteens; Christmas parties; work crews; sounds of the sandbanks; changes in technology, equipment of sandbanks; hopes for future of sandbanks area.

Reminiscences of: Mr. Gallagher, Jim Salerno, Al Marino.

33 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 48 min. 2 sec.

D'Amico, Saby (1919 -). Sand miner.

Car tour of the sandbanks: structures and equipment; maintenance of machinery; "truck cemetery"; transit mix; reunion of Colonial employees.

Reminiscences of: Generoso Pope.

13 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 1 hr. 2 min. 5 sec.

(Also interviewed in Newsday, February 3, 2008.)

Degoski, Wanda (1906 - 1991). Sandbanks resident.

Changes in the sandbanks area; living conditions, lack of water; qualifications of workers; dangers; feelings of isolation; description of family life, schooling; ethnic background of workers.

Reminiscences of: Bert Thompson.

19 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 40 min. 13 sec.

Henderson, Charles (1902 -1982). Sand miner.

Local history: Henderson Avenue area, Mill Pond; sand mining in Manorhaven, Soundview; work experience: job description, typical workday, equipment, techniques; company housing; wages and prices; accidents; camaraderie among workers; importance of sandbanks to Port Washington.

38 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 1 hr. 25 min. 1 sec.

Lamberti, Ralph (1898 -). Sand miner.

Audio only. Open. Interviewer - George Williams. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette) 50 min.; (digital) 47 min. 45 sec.

Lapham, Ted (1909 -1991). Sandbanks properly owner.

Sandbanks history: Sunday walks among the sandbanks; tugboat "Morania"; companies: Nassau Sand and Gravel Co., Penn Stevedoring Co.; World War II; Willets property; sand processing; locomotives; responsibilities of manager; Italian immigrants; Lapham/Willets genealogy; family history.

Reminiscences of: Jim Chapman, James Marino, William J. McCormack.

18 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 1 hr. 11 min. 19 sec.

Langone, John see McCann, Daniel R.

Marino, Albert (1914 -). Sand miner.

Father's emigration from Italy, 1894; childhood in Port: Goodwin and Gallagher school, housing, family life; employment in sandbanks, 1936-64; impact of Depression on sand industry; working and safety conditions; early machines; effect of automation on mining process; social life; unionization of the sandbanks, 1937.

Reminiscences of: James Marino, Generoso Pope.

56 pages. Open. Interviewer - Lucy Salerno. 1981.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 51 min. 44 sec.

Markland, Kenneth B. (1909 - 2005). Truck driver, messenger.

Life in the sandbanks, 1920s-40s: scenery, movies (Perils of Pauline, The Great Flood), recreational activities, worker housing, machinery, memories of the Gallagher House, ethnic relations; brother Alfred's work in the sandbanks as a truck driver.

15 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1981.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 37 min. 33 sec.

McCann, Daniel R. (-) Sandpit bulldozer operator.

Reminiscences of Dan McCann, John McCann and John Langone who worked for William J. McCormack and Metropolitan Sand and Gravel.

39 pages. Open. Interviewer – Elly Shodell. 2007.
Sound recording (cassette) 45 min.

McCann, John see McCann, Daniel R.

Mills, Herb (-). Geologist, Nassau County Museum.

Detailed review of geology of sandbanks; effects of glaciation: cretaceous deposits, glacial outwash, glacial till, terminal moraine; sandstone; sand mining; natural history of the sandbanks: trees, shrubs, berries; small mammals, birds; forestation; fossils; plans to develop area.

10 pages. Open. Interviewer - George Williams. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 33 min. 6 sec.

Mullon, Bill (1902 -). Sand miner.

Career in sand mining, 1920s-50s: digger, operating engineer; detailed recollections of work process; workers' housing in sandbanks; cave-ins, other dangers; social activities among workers; working conditions; ethnic mix.

9 pages. Open. Interviewer - Mitch Carucci. 1981.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 34 min. 32 sec.

Palen, Nancy (1939 -). Sand miner's daughter.

Road tour of sandbanks area along Shore Road: houses, occupants, company-owned housing, school, grocery stores; recreation: boccie, swimming, fishing, boating, and clamming;
ethnic background of residents; holidays; class distinctions; family history; union, strike; camaraderie among residents; accidents in sandbanks; ice in Hempstead Harbor.

20 pages. Open. Interviewer - George Williams. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 46 min. 42 sec.

Pinna, John (c. 1940 -). Sand miner's nephew. *See also* **Carta, Antonio**.

Traveling back and forth between Italy and America; work experiences: "caving", working on dredge, quarrying "big stone" for war memorial in Glen Cove; living in company house, "camps"; construction of washer; changes in sandbanks; hopes for future of sandbanks area.

14 pages. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 58 min. 2 sec.

Reese, Catherine (1915 - 2006). Sand miner's daughter.

Audio only. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1981.
Sound recording (cassette) 15 min.; (digital) 22 min. 52 sec.

Salerno, Albert M. and Lucy

The Salernos vividly describe the workings, surroundings, traditions and social life of sand miners and their families. Interview was conducted for the "Pulse of the Planet" radio show on September 21, 1999, Jim Metzner Productions, Inc. +

Interviewer – Amy Standen. 1999.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) SANDMINING (contd.)
51 min. 42 sec.

Santoli, Elizabeth (1922 -). Sand miner's daughter.

Sandbanks: neighbors along West Shore Road, memories of childhood, Hempstead Harbor School; living in the old schoolhouse, 1941-75; Gallagher house; social life; farms; ethnic groups; father's occupational skills.

Reminiscences of: Markland family.

13 pages. Open. Interviewers - George Williams and Adelia Williams. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 27 min. 30 sec.

Wrobel, Chester (1914 - 1999). Son of sandbanks worker.

Audio only. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette) 70 min.; (digital) 1 hr. 5 min. 17 sec.

Zwerlein, Peter (1950 -).

Audio only. Open. Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1981.
Sound recording (cassette) 15 min.; (digital) 19 min. 4 sec.

Walking Tour Tape. Conducted by George Williams.

Audio only. Open. 1982.
Sound recording (cassette) 30 min.; (digital) 23 min. 36 sec.

Audio Montage

Transcript by George DeWan (Newsday reporter) of "Particles of the Past" audio montage, a 15-minute compilation of oral histories conducted for the Port Washington Public Library under a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities. Description of life in the sandbanks, with music and sound effects. Voices of: Charles Potter, Radio Arts (Producer); Christian Christiansen, Al Marino, Nancy Palen, Saby D'Amico, Lucy Salerno, Chester Wrobel, Catherine Chester, James McCann, Josephine Palawsky.

6 pages. Open. 1983.
Sound recording (cassette & digital) 16 min. 36 sec.