Nancy Yasecko: The Brevard County Historical Commission Oral History Video Project. Interview with Harry Goode Sr., Melbourne Florida. January 17th, 1994. Equipment: Sony DXCM7 Camera. Sony BVW35 recorder. Interviewer: Nancy Yasecko. Cameraman: Robert Gilbert. Copyright Brevard County Historical Commission 1994.

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Mr Goode, let's start off by having you tell us when you were born, and where, and then when your family first came to this area.

Harry Goode Sr.: Okay. Call me Harry. I was born in Tillman, which is now Palm Bay, on October 8th, 1914. My family, the Goode family, came in June 6th, 1877, and they homesteaded on the creek in Melbourne. They participated in naming the town later on, so that they could have a post office and have a name.

There was my father, then 2 sisters, my grandfather and grandmother. They lived about a mile and a half from the river up the Crane Creek, which is near Roxy Lane now. Then I had an [00:02:00] aunt born there, which was supposed to be the first white child born in this particular area.

Nancy Yasecko: Where did they come from?

Harry Goode Sr.: They came from Villa Ridge, Illinois, Southern part of Illinois. A few years after the Civil War, you see, my grandfather was in the Illinois Cavalry, and for health reasons, and an accident happened, or disaster at least, they were in the tube roses [00:02:31] and strawberry business under glass. A tornado and hailstorm wiped them out and they were insured. So they divide the money up between the family, and my family came to Melbourne. Some of them went to the West Coast up in Washington, and that's how they happened to come here.

Nancy Yasecko: Why do you suppose they came to this part of Florida?

Harry Goode Sr.: They came to Eau Gallie first. There was a little community there, and a place to stay. They stayed with the Gleasons for a few weeks, and my grandfather is supposed to have taken his Civil War rifle and started south to find an appropriate place instead of going all the way to Palm Beach or Miami, which wasn't there then, of course, but he got as far as the next creek, south of Elbow Creek at Eau Gallie, and walked back and he said, "I have just found the place that we would really like." That's the

reason. He just liked it. He could see fish in the creek and all that. Of course, the creek was crystal clear in those days at times. Not all the time.

Nancy Yasecko: Just the natural resources and the beauty attracted him to that spot. What did they do after they got here?

Harry Goode Sr.: [00:04:00] First the family had to get here from Eau Gallie, so they came by boat, and there was a man had built a house and they bought that from him. I have a picture of the house. It's supposed to have been a log cabin. It wasn't a log cabin, made out of slabs of sawed lumber. I've always kinda wondered, I talked to my grandmother about just the question you asked, "What did you do?" They planted a garden first thing, because they were all horticulturists in my family. Even back in England they grew things. Immediately they started growing stuff for survival. Something to eat. They also found out there was plenty of game, deer, turkey, fish, turtles. They ate all these things.

They hadn't been here long until the steamboat, store boat ... It had stores aboard it like sugar, salt, grits, and stuff like that, they could buy, would come along, and they would meet them down at the mouth of the creek and buy stuff for subsistence.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you hear any stories about what it was like when they were first building their house and [crosstalk 00:05:46]

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh yes. It was, of course, very wild. A few animals, and lots of birds. [00:06:00] Some birds extinct now, for instance, in the first fall they were here, they came in May so there was a few months that they could start planning things. They were fighting a lot of mosquitoes at this time. Anyway they told me about the birds, the Carolina parakeets where just thousands of them would come for the palmetto berries and other things that they ate, mostly palmetto berries. The cardinals, and blue jays, and Florida jays, and my grandmother became a very ardent bird watcher, and helped get the Audubon Society to come here, and even went into the school and gave badges that we all had for a nickel, or something, some minor amount of money, and learned the name of the local birds and things.

Of course there was alligators and manatees, and oysters. No clams. There was no clams. The clams came later on. That's another story in its own ... They knew clams had been here because they could see the shells in the Indian mounds, but they gathered oysters in Crane Creek here. The

best oysters they found was down in Turkey Creek, which was a minor thing to go for, because they had sail boats. Just small sail boats. Cat boats, most of them at first.

For the first few years there wasn't even a wheel here. They didn't have a wheelbarrow even, so they did things like the Indians did with 2 [00:08:00] poles back, and walk along with it, and then they got a horse, and cows for milk, and things like that.

Nancy Yasecko: It's amazing to think no roads.

Harry Goode Sr.: There was no roads, no. That's another story I can tell you about.

Nancy Yasecko: How did they get around?

Harry Goode Sr.: By boat. Everything was by boat. Everybody had a dock. Practically every person that lived, lived along the river. All up and down the Indian River. This developed by 1886, which would be only 9 years after they came. They formed a yacht club, and the members of the yacht club were all the way from Fort Pierce to Titusville. That's the reason I'll give you an accounting of it that was published, and all the names of those people that belonged to the yacht club. You can imagine a club back 100 years ago with people from that far away. They came in all kind of boats, of course, to the yacht club meetings. Picnics and feasts that they would sometimes have.

Nancy Yasecko: I don't guess they had to have a yacht like you think of a yacht today to be in it?

Harry Goode Sr.: No. The yacht business is another story too that I can relate to you, because my father was Captain on these yachts. Privately owned ones.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's talk a little bit more about the boats and ships. If you went out on the river on any given day at that point, do you suppose you would see a boat, or do you [crosstalk 00:09:51]?

Harry Goode Sr.: You sure would, yes. I would have to go year-by-year. [00:10:00] Before the train came in 1894, which would be just a hundred years ago now, there was just oodles of boats. Everybody had a boat, or 2, or 3, maybe. Different kinds, and for different purposes. For instance, the doctors came on boat, the dentist ... There was a dentist by the name of Urlich, and he had a little houseboat he lived on. He would go, how far north, I don't know, but he would go down to Fort Pierce. I know that's as far as

he went. He would stay around and he'd come up, for instance, he'd come into Tillman, or Palm Bay now, into the harbor and stay there for a few days, and anybody that had a tooth to pull, or something, he would do that. The doctors didn't work like that, but the dentist did.

Nancy Yasecko: How did the doctors work?

Harry Goode Sr.: When the doctor started showing up, somebody would go for the doctor by horse, or by train after the train came, of course, or sail boat. Most of the doctors owned sail boats. One of them came from Cocoa, and it's a whole story about the doctors. For instance, [Rutledge Ensey 00:11:31], that's John [Ensey's 00:11:34] dad, that lives up on Merritt Island. Everybody knows the [Ensey 00:11:37] family. [Rutledge 00:11:39] told me that when his sister was going to be born, they came to Eau Gallie and told the doctor that the baby was going to be born. It was in the fall, and it was a north-easter blowing, and the doctor went in his boat up [00:12:00] and stayed with the [Ensey's 00:12:01] but it took a week before the baby came. There they were without the doctor in town. He was up there.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess a doctor would just stay with people?

Harry Goode Sr.: That's right. He would stay with the family. They would feed him and all that. Then they had some midwives that did kind of the same thing. There were a couple of nurses around. I'm thinking now about South Brevard County, not Cocoa, that was a little different. They had a couple of doctors about the same time.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's see what else. Eventually there were some roads that came in.

Harry Goode Sr.: The roads came from Cocoa South. Let's think about Cocoa, because it's interesting. The road system was built right along the river, and that road, of course, is still there. Crooked, and it's got stops in it because you can't go above 25 mile an hour, or something, because of the danger of these big oak trees growing right over and near it. When it got down to [Bonaventure 00:13:12] the road came back and went along the railroad.

When it got as far as Eau Gallie, stayed along the river mostly, but then they had to build a bridge, and it was a pretty good sized bridge where the creek went across, so they built a low, wooden bridge. This was about the turn of the century I believe, the one in Eau Gallie. As it got across, now it's Elbow Creek, it got across and went right straight back out to the river again. The original bridge is about where the US Highway bridge is

now. Same area. Then the road [00:14:00] went right out to the river bank, and came down to Melbourne, and there was some houses built along, so they had to build the road back at the Wells', for instance. Let's see now how I can describe. At the end of Bluff Drive and then as it went by the Wells', it went right back along the river again.

When it got down to where Strawbridge is, then you had to get back to get across the creek where it wasn't so wide, and cover up the harbor at Melbourne. They built a bridge for horse and buggies right at the mouth of the creek, and put a little [draw 00:14:45] in it, because they couldn't get the boats in and out, there was so many boats. Then the next one they built back a little ways, like I started to say, about where it is today, within a very short distance. Then it went south a few blocks, then turned on Prospect Street, where Prospect Street is today. Went back out to the river, and went south down about a mile and a half. Then a family by the name of [Coakley's? 00:15:18] lived there, so it had to get back away from them. I doubt if the road destroyed anybody's home, or took anybody's home. They would go around the early settlers.

Nancy Yasecko: What did they make the road out of?

Harry Goode Sr.: They made them out of oyster shells. All original roads were made out of oyster shells. Maybe a little bit of Coquina rock too.

Nancy Yasecko: Where did they get those shells?

Harry Goode Sr.: The Indian mounds here. There's lots of Indian mounds on Merritt Island, on the island, and on the mainland. The County would [00:16:00] dig them up for years. There was just big piles of them. The Ais Indians, and the Seminole's, and all that made these piles of shells, they'd come and spent some time in living there, and they would throw the shells in a pile.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you ever remember seeing those shell piles?

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh yeah, sure. There's still some around even today. The ones on the island, they would take barges and go over and they'd pick them up and put them in wheelbarrows, go up ramps and put them on these barges, and then tow them over to the mainland at that time, because there was no bridges. Bridges didn't come until later on.

Nancy Yasecko: What traveled on these first shell roads? Was it horse and buggy?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. Horse and buggy. Cars didn't come until about ... The first cars came around about 1910 or 12. Something like that. I remember the first cars that I saw very well. Who owned them, and all things like that.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me about that.

Harry Goode Sr.: Roy Couch, and Grant, and Johnny [Jorgensen 00:17:13] had the two first automobiles that I can remember, because they were unusual ones. Then a man by the name Jack [Raymond 00:17:22] in Melbourne, had a Stanley Steamer. That thing would be whizzing. Roy Couch had a [Colwall 8 00:17:31], unless ... What Johnny [Jorgensen 00:17:35] had. I forgot what kind it was, but you could hear him coming. It was so quiet in those days. For instance, they would blow the whistle on the trains, there was 2 trains a day, in Melbourne, and you could hear it in Tillman, or Palm Bay.

They had a big lumber mill in South Melbourne, [00:18:00] called the Union Cypress Company, and they had a whistle, and they named it Big Jim, for some reason. We could hear that all the way in Palm Bay. We knew it was 12 o'clock when they blew it. Then they blew it again at 5 o'clock for quitting time. 12 o'clock for lunchtime, and they'd stop and eat.

It's unbelievable that you could hear things like that. Another thing was after I was born, the Catholic church was already built in Palm Bay. It was built in 1912. St Joseph's. When any of the Catholics would die, they would have a funeral and they would have the tolling of the bell. We could hear it just like if it was right in our backyard, and we lived about a mile and a quarter from it. We could hear boats on the river doing things, making noises.

The last 2 paddle wheel steamboats that was on the river, was owned by the Gulf oil company, and they carried the fuel up and down the river in 55 gallon barrels. They'd load it all around on these ... They was real steamboats, but the point I was going to make, you could hear those steamboats running on the river, and they don't make a lot of noise. We'd go upstairs and look out the window and see the Gulf Mist, or the other one was called ... It was painted kind of a brindle yellow. They were the last 2 steamboats on the river.

They [00:20:00] started a little steamboat line from Jacksonville, just about during the depression, called the Brown Steamboat Line, and they had one steamboat. The others were diesel. It didn't mount to anything. The Gulf boats were the last ones that I remember seeing.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's talk a little bit more about the steamboats, because I know you're familiar with them. How many steamboats were there that were plying up and down the river hear at [crosstalk 00:20:33]?

Harry Goode Sr.: Before the railroad came, of course, there was a lot of them. The first mail was delivered by sailboat, up and down the river. Then the steamboats started delivering mail then, and these people that had the contracts, they would be out of a job before very long, because the steamboats would bring the mail. I suppose that would be a couple of dozen at least, that ran from Fort Pierce, Melbourne, Cocoa, Titusville, just in the Indian River itself.

Nancy Yasecko: It's hard to imagine going out and looking up and down, and seeing these boats going up and down just like a highway, I guess.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. The surprising thing about it, they kept real good schedules, and they went at a certain time and landed at a certain time, and you could travel by them. Buy a ticket and pay to go just up from Eau Gallie from Melbourne, for instance.

Nancy Yasecko: Is that how your [00:22:00] family would travel, say if you needed to go to Titusville?

Harry Goode Sr.: yeah.

Nancy Yasecko: They'd know when the steamboat was coming.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. Right. Certainly. Also, I mentioned a while ago about the store boat that would bring the food. You could go down and you could buy cloth, some manufactured clothing, like overalls, and blue denim, and calico cloth that women's dresses were made out of, and stuff like that. Then the sugar, and salt, and pepper, and cornmeal, and corn starch, and sometimes they would carry kerosene, which was very important because the early people had to use kerosene for their lights, and they would supply them for all these different things.

Nancy Yasecko: Would those boats trade with anybody?

Harry Goode Sr.: They were called trade boats. That's one of the names of them, yes. I don't recall that my family traded with them, or grew anything that they could sell, but others did, and some of them made things. Manufactured things in a certain way. For instance, one time in Melbourne, there was a little factory that made mattress out of Spanish moss. In my junk I have a

picture of this machine and it took me years to find out what the machine was for. Nobody could tell me what that thing was for, and it was for stuffing this Spanish moss and making mattresses.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:24:00] I guess that would be a nice soft mattress.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah.

Nancy Yasecko: What about the bed bugs?

Harry Goode Sr.: Of course, they'd be gone by the time you'd used it for a while. Yes, there is bugs in the Spanish moss.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess there are bugs of all kinds?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes, there was lots of bugs when my folks first came. Mainly mosquitoes, which was a real problem.

Nancy Yasecko: How would they deal with the mosquitoes?

Harry Goode Sr.: Smoke mostly. Then they would get a product called D Brand Insect Powder, and this was a product that was made, and you could just light it and it would smolder and smoke, and it doesn't take much smoke to keep bugs away. They don't like smoke. All the stores when I even start remembering. I can start remembering about 1918-1919 quite vividly about things. The stores would have like a gallon can, with some sand, and then this insect powder burning by the doors, on each side of the door. If the wind was blowing one way, it would be sure to [cover it 00:25:13]. I can smell it talking to you. I know how it smelt.

Nancy Yasecko: Was it a good smell or a bad smell?

Harry Goode Sr.: It wasn't a bad smell necessarily, but it ... Like fire burning, like smoke. Then, of course, when they got screens, that was really something. They had glass windows all right, but the screen business didn't come for a while. It was very expensive at first to keep the bugs out.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess so. When your family first came they set up a garden, they were able to subsist. What kind of business did they get into? [00:26:00]

Harry Goode Sr.: My grandfather, Richard Goode, he got into real estate, which I showed you one of his pamphlets, all the property for sale up and down the Indian River. Not very far away, people in Cocoa and Titusville had real estate people that sold the land in that area. My grandfather happened

to be one that sold it in this area. Some of the Gleasons sold it in Eau Gallie, which is now a part of Melbourne, but that was still a trip to go to Eau Gallie.

In clippings of some of the old papers I have, it would be a news item for somebody to go to Eau Gallie for business, it would say, or for visiting with some family, or something like that. If they'd go to the tourist, going back to Illinois, or New York, or something like that, it was a real big deal. That would get a nice article sometime on the front page of the Star Advocate, or The Melbourne Times. There was another paper too, up and down the river.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me a little bit more about the real estate business. Did he actually buy the properties and then sell them, or did he act as an agent for ...

Harry Goode Sr.: No. Agent. They did own quite a bit of property. They homesteaded some, and then my grandmother, Jessie Goode, was a very flamboyant, intelligent, energetic person. She had some money and invested it in different properties around. Funny things happened. For instance, Jim Culberson, who's writing a book about Sebastian Inlet, he [00:28:00] brought me this article where my grandmother offered to give a piece of her property for an inlet opposite Micco [00:28:09]. Can you imagine? This was 1915, and of course, there was no road, there was nothing down there except they was trying to open an inlet at that time. She was going to give a piece of property. This was about 3 years after ... My grandfather got killed in 1912 by a train in Chicago. She went right ahead in her ways, and did all kind of things. Like I said, she was a very fun-going person.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us a little bit about this book. Your grandfather decided in order to sell the property, he would have to do some advertising.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. I got these little ... It's like a pamphlet today, but it's like a little book. The first part of it is a history of Melbourne, and the geographic condition of the area. Then they list the property up and down the river. Most of it would be opposite the south end of the County here, on the island. A little of it on Merritt island, I noticed, and a lot, of course, around Melbourne and Tillman. I keep thinking of Tillman because we are in the old times and it was Tillman at that time.

Nancy Yasecko: What did they say the property was good for when they were advertising?

Harry Goode Sr.: You know what it is. Mostly it says pineapples. Isn't that funny?

Nancy Yasecko: Show us that picture on the back.

Harry Goode Sr.: On the back of it it shows the pineapple plant, but they would always quote that it was good for pineapples, or citrus, or mangoes, limes, lemons, guavas, [00:30:00] and some people grew flowers. They didn't sell the flowers, but they grew them for the seeds and the tubers, and shipped them, and sold them.

Nancy Yasecko: Where would they send these pamphlets?

Harry Goode Sr.: All over the United States. He'd mail most of his stuff into the central part; Illinois, Indiana, into that part. Some in New York, Pennsylvania. Wherever he had some connection with somebody that had moved here. Some of the early settlers.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay. This is Brevard County Historical Commission Oral History Video Project. Interview with Harry Goode Sr. Melbourne, Florida, January 17th, 1994. Equipment: camera, Sony DXCM7. Recorders: Sony BVW35. Interviewer: Nancy Yasecko. Cameraman: Robert Gilbert. Copyright Brevard County Historical Commission 1994.

Tell us about when your great grandfather Goode came to this area. [00:31:23]

Harry Goode Sr.: He came up after my grandfather came, and he brought 2 daughters with him from a second marriage, because my great grandmother had died. They would be my father's half sisters. Both of these ladies were educated, and one of them became the teacher in the Little Red Schoolhouse that there's so much publicity around Melbourne about. Her name was Maud. My great grandfather [00:32:00] thought that he could grow tube roses here, and sell the tubers into the Chicago market, which he did for some time. They shipped them by the barrel, by the steamboats, because this was before the trains came.

Evidently he was quite successful. He grew some other plants for the tubers, and for the rootstock. Like Calla Lilies, for instance. In fact, they grew Calla Lilies down there for years. There was a little stream through the property, and it was ideal for this purpose.

Nancy Yasecko: He knew something about horticulture.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes, he had worked in the Kew Gardens in London for years, and then in 1844 he came to St Louis to lay out the gardens ... At least part laying it out. A tremendous project. One of my great uncles was born in these gardens there. They lived in a house in the gardens. In the genealogy, I found this was where he was born. He came to Melbourne and lived here. His name was Alfred Goode, like my great uncle Al, for instance.

Nancy Yasecko: What kind of special problems did they have trying to grow things around here?

Harry Goode Sr.: For instance, they grew tobacco for their own consumption, and they found out that when the bugs would come, he had been taught to use tobacco dust for fighting bugs, so they had their own tobacco to grind up and make the tobacco dust out of for the different plants. There was a little [00:34:00] bit of trouble with the pineapple business at times, and they would get cottonseed meal from up north, I think, from Savannah, Georgia. They'd mix this tobacco dust to put in the heart of the pineapple plants to keep something from happening to them. I don't know what kind of disease, or bugs, or something, but I've heard these stories, when I was a kid.

Pineapple was big business. They all had pineapples, and grew some on the mainland, a lot of them on the beach, a lot of them on Merritt Island. A lot of acreage would be like 140 acres, 160 acres plots, something like that. All these places where people lived, or where these pineapple plantations were, as they were known as, had a dock because they had to get everything by boat, and they had to ship the pineapples by boat until the train came, but still, on the island, they had to bring them to Melbourne or Eau Gallie by boat. Cocoa was kinda out of the pineapple area, and Titusville. There's quite a lot of difference in the temperature there. They grew them up on the island, yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you think that pineapples was a profitable enterprise?

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh, very much so. Yeah. I've got breakdowns on it. How much they made, and it would be getting into a lot of technicalities to do that. I would be glad to give it to the Society sometime; a copy of ... An up to date, at that time, report of how much it cost per plant, per sucker, and how much they [00:36:00] would figure on making. This was a pitch that the real estate people would tell people up north, "You can come here, and you can make $600 an acre on growing pineapples," or something like that.

Nancy Yasecko: That would have been a lot of money in those days.

Harry Goode Sr.: I don't know that $600 ... I just used that, but I have information that, in writing the book I told you about, I needed this information to ...

They grew the pineapples all the way from the south end of the Indian River, all the way up to Melbourne and Eau Gallie areas, then on Merritt Island and on the peninsula. They are subject to cold. They were wiped out in 1895 freeze. It destroyed them, just about completely. They came back, and they grew quite a few up to about 1916. I've got pictures of me in 1916 and '17, where they were as big as I was, the plants. I know they were growing at that time. I can remember getting stuck by them. This was part of how people made a living. They would grow the pineapples and sell them.

Your question was, how did they make a living? The other way was building boats. My father had a boathouse, and he built boats, and the Beaujean [00:37:48] brothers, they had a place, and Don Martin had a place that built boats they used on the river. Like I said, you had to have a boat if you were going to get across the river, because there [00:38:00] was no bridges until the '20s. From the time the train came in 1894, you still had to have a boat to get across that river, and get up and down the creeks, and they used them for a lot of things. They used them for pleasure, they had races, and they had row boats, sailboats, motorboats, even shells. There was 2 shells here in 1894, which would be a hundred years ago. That's interesting because they're going to have a meet here some time this spring, I believe, from around the State, and I doubt there's another place in the State that would have had 2 shells. Stanford Wells and his brother ...

Nancy Yasecko: When you say shells, you mean rowing shells?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah, rowing shells. They had single ones. His name; Stanford and ... I can see those 2 guys. Anyway, they would get out and row on the river. They would row in the creek some, just like FIT, and the Melbourne school kids do with their shells. When the manatees came, they were scared to death of them, that they would wreck these shells. Shells cost a lot of money. They were built in Penn Yan, New York, and that's where they brought them from. They also brought a beautiful motorboat down, Mr Wells did. They were scared to go up the creek this time of the year, for instance, the manatees came up and could damage them. Could ruin a boat. They cost several hundred dollars. One now costs [00:40:00] 16,000, or something like that, I hear. The big ones.

Nancy Yasecko: Speaking of the river, there was a lot of fishing that was done, even back in the early days.

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh yes. The fishing got tied in with transportation, and ice. You could catch all the fish in the world. Tons of them, but what were you going to do after you got them? Until the ice came, and transportation back to the train. When the train came, it could bring our cars, freight cars, express cars with ice. They would pack the fish and by the ... Let me see about when. I would say about the turn of the century. I believe there was about 6 fish houses in the Melbourne Harbor alone. Then there was some in Palm Bay. I keep referring to it to Tillman, but around the bay itself, there was one down there at least, I know of, and a couple around Malabar, one at Valkaria, and 2 or 3 down at Grant, and of course, down at Sebastian there's another. That's too far away, you know what I mean, but they had some down there too, of course.

The first big ones were in Titusville, the [Scobies 00:41:31], because the train came up there, and must have been about 1892. I'm just putting numbers together to ... They had the opportunity to pack the fish in barrels with ice, and ship them to mainly 2 places. One to the Savannah fish market, and the [00:42:00] Fulton Fish Market in New York City. The train companies would have to stop where the ice, and re-ice the fish some. Had to take care of them. The ice wouldn't last that long, because they were just wooden staved barrels they were in. Now they make them out of plastic they could last a month, I guess.

Nancy Yasecko: Where was the ice house. Was there more than one?

Harry Goode Sr.: The first one in Melbourne, the old one that's sitting on US1, still there. They're trying to make a historical house out of it, because it's been there so long. Before that there was one right back of there, between there and the railroad. It was a ramshackled place, and they also generated electricity there. I can remember that, so that would be in the early '20s. Great big steam engines that turned generators to make electricity.

I had telephones by then.

Nancy Yasecko: One of the benefits of the ice house was that they made a little more electricity than they needed to make ice, didn't they?

Harry Goode Sr.: I guess it was all tied in together there. I know that. Then in the '20s they built that big ice house that's there now, and it has to be real tall to handle the cubes of ice. They weighed like 300 pounds a piece. Big blocks

of ice. The salt vats to freeze it in, and all this business. Simple enough, but ...

Nancy Yasecko: Did you ever watch them make the ice?

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us step-by-step.

Harry Goode Sr.: That was one of the things that they did when you went to school, is that they would take you on a field trip down to see how they used the ice, [00:44:00] and used the salt brine to make it. It was made in galvanized iron containers, like this wide, and that high. Put water in it, it would freeze it, and then they had overhead tracks with ... That's thinking back a long time. With some kind of hoist that they could pull and raise this ice up, and then they'd put it in ice houses to keep it. This was the building that they made it in, and where they kept it was not separate, but it was a different place, because it would melt.

That old ice house, I remember it had great big sheets of cork in it. Just the plank maybe was many layers of cork. Evidently the tree had grown the cork bark that thick. I can remember the brown cork everywhere. Then on the floors it had a lot of sawdust, evidently all for insulation to keep it ... Like I say, everybody who went to school went to see this, the way they made the ice. They told us, our teachers, that it was invented by a man in Florida, and all this business, and the importance of it in the way of life for the original people who lived here at that time. It changed their lives entirely, about keeping stuff, and shipping stuff, and mainly the fish like we were talking about.

The main fish they shipped was mullet, trout, channel bass, sheephead, that was the main fish. They [00:46:00] shipped no oysters, because oysters grew up north just as well as they grew here, you see, but the oysters was an important part of their subsistence from the standpoint of what they ate. They ate a lot of oysters. No clams then. No clams until a man planted 2 bushels of clams after the inlet was opened about the 6th time, I guess. His name was Roy Couch. He planted these 2 bushels of clams, and the river is saturated with them now.

They knew that the clams had been here at some time, because all the old shell mounds, and some of the roads, had big old clam shells in it. My folks never knew where they came from. They knew they had to be here at some time, but not until Roy planted the ones at Sebastian Inlet, and

the river's all up and down with a big industry, which you know about, of course. They came from those spats floating up and down the river.

Nancy Yasecko: What other kinds of fish would you catch if you went out fishing in those days?

Harry Goode Sr.: It would be interesting to talk about sports fishing. Before the railroads came. We'll start back when the first hotel. There was a little hotel down on the creek at Melbourne, ran by a man by the name of Hector. Then my folks built the Goode House, and it was quite a sizable hotel, 2 or 3 stories tall, and it was built just east of where the railroad track is. Called Orange Spot Inn now, facing Melbourne [00:47:56] Avenue. Then there was another hotel,[00:48:00] The Carlton Inn, which was on the bluff just north of Strawbridge Avenue. Another one was at the [00:48:12] Villa Marine at Melbourne Beach.

The oldest one was in Eau Gallie. I can't think of the name of it right off hand, but the Gleasons owned it. It was going to be part of the University of Florida. That's where it started. The University of Florida started in Eau Gallie, and it didn't work out so they moved it up to Gainesville. Another hotel was, at that time, there was one down opposite Grant. A real old, practically rooming [00:48:50] houses.

My point was about the fishing. These hotels all had the service of people taking people fishing, guiding them. They'd use launches mostly. A launch was anywheres from 14 to 20 feet long, and some of them would have 1 cylinder engines in them, and some of them would have 2 or 4 cylinder engines in them. There would be seats around the edge. They were all practically the same. Seats around the edge so you could sit and go fishing.

Let's say on a given day in the winter time when we had a lot of tourists at The Carlton Inn. There would be 10 people who were going to go fishing on one of these boats. Let's say Don Martin was the Captain, which was one of these people that ran the boats. They would get started early in the morning, and they would take a little bit of food with them, [00:50:00] but they would take pepper, salt, cornmeal, grease and they'd better catch some fish, because this was part of ... The going was to catch the fish and cook them out.

He would start from Melbourne, early in the morning, like daylight, and go up Turkey Creek at Palm Bay, troll up there, troll along, and they used 2 kinds of trawling bait mostly. A porpoise hide lure about that long, and

it had 5 treble hooks on it. Then they used Wilson's spoons. These were German silver spoons with a single hook on it. They'd go into these creeks, and he would slow the boat down and just troll up the creek, and they would troll for snook, trout, tarpon. Mainly that was the main fish that they caught that comes to my mind.

Then he would go down and go up, If you believe, Goat Creek. You could go up there at that time, in Valkaria. That creek was that big at the time. Then he would come out of there, and then go down and go up Sebastian River, and of course, this was the highlight of the whole trip. It's like going into the ... People on their first trip, they couldn't believe it because it was such a beautiful place with all these palm trees. So was Palm Bay, but not as tropical as the way Sebastian River was. They'd go by roads, then go on up and they'd always catch enough fish.

Then they'd go ashore at certain places, and women and men did this. They would cook the fish [00:52:00] for lunch, and sometimes they would cook maybe something like cornbread or another bread if they cooked in a pan, they called Hoecake. It was cooked in a frying pan just over an open fire. They would go build a fire on the shore. This was part of the bringing the people here to stay in these hotels. I have pictures, and I've given them so that other people have got them in the Societies; where you would have 2 or 3, 2 by 4s up and just hang them full of fish that they would catch. Not great big ones. I don't know why, but there was a lot of bigger fish after I got into the fishing tackle business later on, than I ever saw in these pictures. The snook and the trout were like that, you know. Of course they didn't keep the tarpon. They don't eat tarpon. Lady fish was another fish that they caught, was a real sporty thing.

They did some other things on those guided tours. One thing was they'd cut down cabbage trees and eat the cabbage bud out of it. Most people enjoyed that, and liked it, and they eat some of it raw, and some of it cooked. That's what they'd cook. They'd take some fat back, or some smoked meat, smoked pork like bacon, to cut up and cook it with that. This was a very prolific [00:54:00] thing. It meant a lot to the tourist industry. Go to Melbourne and fish. Also hunt.

Time after the train came and there was more and more tourists, the hunting got to be quite good. They had several people that would act as guides and take them out. I've got some pictures, and I have given a set to the Historical Society of some of the original hunting done with automobiles. Some of the first station wagons, and things like that. Real

interesting. The tents that they had, and they'd set them all up and cook out, and all that.

Nancy Yasecko: What would they hunt?

Harry Goode Sr.: Turkey, quail, deer mainly. They would hunt some bear for more sport than food, but of course, the quail and the deer, and the turkey they would eat. Then also there was quite a bit of duck hunting. A lot of people liked to go duck hunting. That was done in the Upper St John's Valley, from Lake Washington South to the headwaters of the St John's. Then also they would go over to Banana River to hunt. There was marshes over there all the way from like Patrick Air Force south, there was a lot of marshes in there that teal and widgeon, and bufflehead, and mallards, and scaups. There was so many ducks at time on the Indian River, it looked like islands.

Mostly the lesser scaup. A little black [00:56:00] duck with a little white stripe on his wings. Not thousands, but positively millions of these ducks on the ... We knew that when we'd see them, cold weather was coming. Even in my times, I'm talking about. I mentioned other birds a while ago in the trees, but the ducks was unbelievable, how many came.

Nancy Yasecko: You could hardly miss.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah. Right. They would shoot them, and eat them.

Nancy Yasecko: Did men and women both go duck hunting, or was it mostly ...

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. Had a lot of women that was sports. I have, in my junk, a whole bunch of fish, and a lady's standing there with her fishing rod, just her, just the lady. It led me to believe that women did these things too. None of my family, none of the women fished, that I know of, until my sisters came along, and both of my sisters, they liked to fish, and caught some big ones.

Nancy Yasecko: We hear it when you touched the mic there.

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh.

Nancy Yasecko: You said none of your sisters ...

Harry Goode Sr.: Both of my sisters, they loved to fish, and caught a lot of fish. I guess the other girls did when they were young, but I don't know any stories about that.

Nancy Yasecko: All right. Let's see. [inaudible 00:57:34]

Tell us about some of the lures that they used.

Harry Goode Sr.: I mentioned the porpoise hide a while ago, and it was really made out of porpoise hide. They took a piece about that long, and cut it, and they folded it like that. Then they put two treble hooks on [00:58:00] either side, and one in the tail of it. Why they put all those hooks on that thing, I don't know, but every one I ever saw was made like that. They would get just as hard as a piece of wood, but when they put them overboard and started trolling, they would get softened up, and they would wriggle, you see, and they were very good bait. I don't know where they were made. I never found out. They weren't made here. The made a world of lures in Melbourne, in later times. That's a whole other story, but ...

Nancy Yasecko: You could tell us a little bit more about the lures and things.

Harry Goode Sr.: Okay. The Wilson's spoon that I spoke of was made out of German silver, and made them all the way from about an inch and a half long, up to maybe 8 inches long. They had a 3 hook in it, just a single hook. They were very good bait, especially for the big channel bass, and most of the big channel bass was caught up in the Banana River.

Nancy Yasecko: We hear that.

Harry Goode Sr.: Anywhere from 40 to 60 and more pounds. Big, big ones. A lot of people did this for sport, because these great big fish weren't really too good to eat. The smaller fish were better, in the channel bass especially. They ate drum fish too, and sheephead. They weren't caught with trolling. Trolling was a sport like I say. They would get in these launches in the morning, and they would sit down, and troll, [01:00:00] all up and down these creeks, and some in the river too. They knew places where there was a rock point, like around Palm Bay, and just south of Malabar there's rock formations, and of course, this is a good place to fish. They would chug along and they used single action reels, not level wind or anything. Most of the reels were about that big around, and they were made by Ocean City Manufacturing Company, and quite a few English ones made in Prestwick, England, by Hardy Brothers. Some Vom Hofes made in Germany.

Nancy Yasecko: There's still sport fishing today, isn't there? Do they use the same kind of things?

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh yes.

Nancy Yasecko: If you were to compare them.

Harry Goode Sr.: It's so different now, it would take us a day to talk about the evolution of the fishing, because now it's ... When they invented nylon line, that was a different thing entirely. They could have spinning, they could have nets made out of this ...

Nancy Yasecko: This is the Brevard County Historical Commission Oral History Video Project. Interview with Harry Goode Sr., Melbourne, Florida. January 17th, 1994. Camera is the SonyDXCM7, recorder is Sony [01:02:00] BVW35. Interviewer: Nancy Yasecko. Cameraman: Robert Gilbert. Copyright Brevard County Historical Commission 1994.

As well as the sport fishing, there was some commercial fishing right from the beginning.

Harry Goode Sr.: Very much so. It got to be big, like I said a while ago. When the trains came, and they had the ice, then it started developing real fast. At first it was at [Scobies 01:02:30], at Titusville, and then it started developing around Cocoa, then Melbourne.

Nancy Yasecko: How would they do this fishing?

Harry Goode Sr.: They did it with nets. Linen nets first, and some cotton nets with mesh. They called one kind of a mesh net, gill net, and the reason it was called gill net was that the fish would go through, especially mullet, and they'd get caught back of the gills and they couldn't get out, you see. They would just go around and maybe have a thousand yards of net, generally rolled it out. Even some sailboats, they could handle it, called Sharpies, which was a boat designed and used in North Carolina, South Carolina areas for years; and Georgia. Scobies brought some of them down, and they would literally sail along and let the net go out at the back, and they'd go around and make a lot of noise, and the fish would run into the nets and gill themselves. They would pick them up and take the fish out.

Then other nets they would have to pull down, sometimes called bailing them out, with a cast net.[01:04:00] Another net, they'd throw it by hand, then catch the fish that were corralled up in the small area that

they had pulled down. That was generally done by motorboat. Then they developed some nets called Black Marias, and these they'd pull with big boats, even some steam propelled boats. That was very bad, because the mesh was small and they would take everything. What they didn't want, they would just throw overboard. Other fish, birds, maybe a porpoise, crabs. They outlawed this, but they were called Black Marias.

Give you an idea what they could do. In 1920 there was a school of channel bass showed up between Melbourne and Palm Bay. They were there, and some of them would come down and come into the creek, but they would go back out, and there were so many that the water looked like a rose color, because channel bass are red colored fish. Down came from St Augustine, 2 of these big power boats with these Black Maria nets. They caught 36,000 pounds of these fish. They'd just go around taking every one of them. Give you an idea what a devastating it did to the fish business, such a kind of a net and operation.

Nancy Yasecko: When would that have been?

Harry Goode Sr.: That was in 1920. Very much so. I can remember that very well. We'd see the fish come down in Palm Bay. A few of them would go off, maybe a half acre of them, or something. There must have been like 10 acres of them. [01:06:00] Just a solid mass of fish.

They had ice aboard. These were pretty good sized boats, and they took them back to St Augustine, I guess. Of course, that's just one instance of what an operation it was. Like I said, the Scobies were in Titusville, and in Melbourne there was, I believe, 6 fish houses at one time. I have a record of that. I had a man by the name of Brian [Shawl 01:06:40] write me a letter about the commercial fishing business. All the time he could remember, because he had been in it for years. The [Shawls 01:06:54] were an old, very fine local family, and I knew he knew about it, but I didn't know that one letter he was going to write said that, "Dear Harry, the night you were born I was with your father, fishing in the Banana River, and mostly what we caught was catfish, and we got home and your brother ran down and told us that you were born." I got a big kick out of that.

That way we were living in Tillman at the time, and my father was doing some commercial fishing at that time.

Nancy Yasecko: They fished at night then?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Did they fish in the daytime too?

Harry Goode Sr.: Some, yeah. They fished at night, because at that time they were using linen or cotton nets, and the fish could see the nets, you see, and they wouldn't run into it. They'd swim along the edge of it, unless they pulled it down and bailed them out, or unless it was the gill net, and the mullet would gill [01:08:00] themselves.

Nancy Yasecko: At night they wouldn't see the nets?

Harry Goode Sr.: That's right. They would run into it. It was big business. There was one or two fish houses in Palm Bay, or Tillman at that time, or Turkey Creek, and I'm sure there must have been one in Malabar, but I don't remember that. The Sudeikis's [01:08:26] at Valkaria had one. A long dug-out and then a house on the end, and people would go out fishing with maybe just a row boat, or maybe two people with two row boats with a motorboat pulling it, because it was necessary that they had a boat to put the net in, that it would just fall out when they would propel the boat, rowing it, or pulling it, or something.

Very hard to make a motorboat that would do this, because it would get tangled up in the propeller, or whatever, then the boat ... Then they would bring the boats back into the fish houses, and they weren't very high off of the water, and they'd unload them and put them in the ... They had scales, and they were like scoops. They were made that shape, and they would hold maybe, I'd say 50 pounds of mullet, for instance. There would be so many, they would scoop them up, put them in the scale and weigh them so they would know how many that particular fisherman was bringing into the fish house, so they could pay him. Mullet would be, in the early days, half a cent a piece, and things like that.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you all eat a lot of fish?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. Very much so. [01:10:00] Especially my family. Like I said, I was raised in Palm Bay, and ... Palm Bay was made up of a Catholic colony originally. There was a few people before that, but these people were mostly foreign people from Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, 2 or 3 Russian families. They were agriculturalists. They were growing different things to eat, and we were people who would go out and catch fish with a cast net, and we'd go and catch the fish and give them fish,

and they would give us vegetables. A lot of that went on for years. Another thing, whatever we had, we'd divide up with other people.

Nancy Yasecko: That was a good trade.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me about some of the early schools. You mentioned The Red Schoolhouse. Maybe you could tell us about [crosstalk 01:11:07]

Harry Goode Sr.: There was a little school in Eau Gallie before that, and it was open a few years, and then they built this Little Red Schoolhouse, just south of Melbourne, and it was attended by white and black both. Now very seldom that they went to school at the same time. The blacks would go in the morning, and the whites in the afternoon, or opposite. They would go blacks in the afternoon, and the whites in the morning. Maude Goode and the Valentine girl, I don't recall her name right offhand, was the main teachers. These 2 women were just excellent, [01:12:00] because they taught these children not only to read and write, but they taught them a lot of other things.

They taught them how to make ... You might call it crafts these days. These crafts were very important things that they taught them. They taught them how to make mosquito brushes, for instance. Everybody needed one at home, but just everybody didn't know how to make them. They were made out of palmetto fronds, and tied together, and stripped out and dried in a certain way so they'd be pliable to beat the mosquitoes. The historical group in the Cocoa area is called the Mosquito Beaters, and this is where that name comes from, I'm sure.

They taught them how to make pine needle baskets, these two women did, and how to make bow and arrows, and how to make some tools that they used around for growing things. Like the Indians did. Miss Valentine's father were connected to the Indians up north, and he'd learned a lot of things, and he'd brought this art to his daughter, and she taught these kids how to make spears out of just wood, that they could spear a fish with. You'd think that anybody could do it, but you had to think of it first, and figure out how to do it.

Nancy Yasecko: Were there practical demonstrations of this fishing?

Harry Goode Sr.: They taught them how to do it.

Nancy Yasecko: Not only did they teach them how to make the spears, they went down to the creek and ...

Harry Goode Sr.: Right, that's exactly right. She would take them off [01:14:00] on these trips to teach them how to do it. Teach them how to grow things. This was in Maude, especially, and the crafts was in ... Can't think of her first name, Miss Valentine, we'll call her.

Where they would go out to my great grandfather's place, who built the school. There was just that one room schoolhouse, which is at FIT now, on the grounds there. They'd go out and maybe do some work around the garden, just planting, or maybe harvesting. Just little garden growing like collards, and onions, and corn, and tobacco. The flowers, I guess, they taught those kids how to do that too.

Nancy Yasecko: What years are we talking about here?

Harry Goode Sr.: We're talking about 1884 to about 1890, I guess, or something like that. Then the next school was built up on where New Haven Avenue is. That teacher was the mother to George Gleason, which is all through your historical records. Then they built a big school on Vernon Place. A big school that was 2 storeys, and the first graduating class was in 1919 or 1920. There was a few girls and a [01:16:00] few boys in it. You had to go to the school records, which I've got everything about the schools in my junk.

Then the communities like Grant, Valkaria, Malabar, Tillman, they had their own little schools also as time came on, and people started living down there. That's where I went to school first, was in Tillman.

Nancy Yasecko: What was it like when you went to school? What was the classroom like? [01:16:35]

Harry Goode Sr.: Okay, that was a 2 room schoolhouse. It was right by the Catholic church at the end of the block, by St Joseph's there. My first year, my school teacher was a lady by the name of Bess [Lanier 01:16:53], and she came from Cocoa. My wife came from Cocoa, and their families knew each other, the [Laniers 01:17:00] and the Weinbergs, and Carters, and all that group. She lived with us. The school teachers in those days lived somewhere in the community. She couldn't live very far away, because she couldn't get there, unless she had a horse or a car, or something. This is ... Let me see what year that would be. About 1919, say. 1920.

The same thing in Malabar, they had a 2 room school down there, and had one at Valkaria, and one at Grant. Then, like I said, they built the first high school ... Wait a minute. The first high school was built on US1, near the ice plant that we were talking about. The [01:18:00] Wells' built that school, not the school board.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me what it was like, a day in school. Just your memories of ... What was the classroom like? What kind of things did you do?

Harry Goode Sr.: If you went back to the school at Tillman, like I said, there was 2 rooms. They had 2 teachers. The one teacher taught the first 2 or 3 grades, and the next one in the other room would teach 4, 5, 6. That's as far as it went, because then you had to go to Melbourne to get anything in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade.

Without a doubt, I learned very little in the first few years of school, because there was just no way of teaching how to read and write, and things that you should be doing with the system they used. I look back on it and think that, at least. Until along came a man from Kentucky and he really laid it out. He figured out how to do it, and taught you how to write, and I still make letter like he taught us today, and I think how that man, Mr Symmonds, made us stand up on the blackboard and write Spencerian, is it? He gave us homework. Our first teacher didn't give us any homework. If you don't have homework for a one room school and trying to teach 2 or 3 grades, you weren't accomplishing very much. [01:20:00]

They had a ... We called it a library, and it was a bookcase maybe 6 or 8 feet long, and had these encyclopedias in it, full of pictures. They would let those kids, including me. I loved to look at those books. You'd evidently spend most of the day looking instead of being taught by the teacher, until this man came along that really put the bee [01:20:33] on things, and made you learn.

Then when the 4th grade, they closed that school up. I went to Melbourne School in the 4th grade. Low and behold, lightning hit the school and burned it down. The one in Palm Bay. It was Tillman at that time. My mother used to tell the story that Harry prayed for the school to burn down. His prayers were answered, but he just didn't catch him in time.

The Melbourne school was in the new school. This was at the school. I just happened to have a picture that my grandson gave me. That's the

school in Melbourne, just like it is today. My first class was in this room right here. Never thought about it until this moment. It was ...

Nancy Yasecko: Turn around and show it to us.

Harry Goode Sr.: It was a very good school.

Nancy Yasecko: Where was your first class?

Harry Goode Sr.: In this room here. Then they built 2 other schools, one on either side.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay. Tell us just a little bit about the early churches in the area.

Harry Goode Sr.: [01:22:00] The first church was the Episcopal Church. It was built on the south of the creek at Melbourne. South of Crane Creek. About opposite where the sewer plant is. Right in that general area. It cost a couple of thousand dollars. A lady by the name of Borden, one of the Borden milk [01:22:33] people that developed the milk [01:22:38] business, gave a thousand dollars. She gave a thousand dollars to the one in Cocoa, and one in Titusville. They built it in 1886, I believe.

To get there you had to go on a boat, so they got the idea that wasn't too successful, because everybody didn't want to come or go at the same time, and everybody didn't have boats to take care of the whole family, so they built a little bridge, just like a walk across the creek. The creek wasn't very wide there. That church stayed there for years, and then they moved it, eventually, across the river, up to near where that ice plant is, that we've talked about in high school, up on US1, in northern part of the old Melbourne.

Then the next church that was built was a Methodist Church, and it was built near the railroad tracks on New Haven Avenue. The next one was the Congregational Church on Strawbridge and US1, and [01:24:00] the fourth one was the Baptist Church. We're getting up to 1925, or something like that, was built. Right across the street from the post office in Melbourne, across from the high school. It's still there. The First Baptist Church.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me about where your family went to church, and what kind of activities you all did. [01:24:29]

Harry Goode Sr.: The were Episcopalians. They went to the Episcopal Church. They had to come to Melbourne from Palm Bay, and they were quite church going

people, and on Sunday that was part of the ritual to go to church. Even going to Sunday School, my first Sunday School teacher just died, Richard Lawrence. He just died 2 weeks ago here.

Interesting thing about the churches was that when they built the first church, the Episcopal Church up there, being it was the only one, everybody went to it regardless what religion they was, if you had a tendency to go to church. Of course, all the kids, they went too, until they built the Methodist Church. They had a hot rod minister that strived to get the kids into his church. You'll be surprised how many left the Episcopal Church and went to the Methodist Church. When they built the Baptist Church, Congregational Church, later on, the same thing [01:26:00] happened there.

They developed it and got it to just a world of the kids into their programs. They had one in the evening. The Episcopal Church tried that, but it was not like the Methodist and the Congregational Church, it was downtown right near the railroad track, and that was the center of things at that time. Then the Baptist Church came along, way later in '25. We're talking about 35 years from the First Episcopal Church being built. The kids all started going there. The young people, we'll say. Even my brothers. They would come from Palm Bay and go up to the Baptist Church, because they were active, had things going on, up-to-date and time, and all.

Nancy Yasecko: There was some rivalry then.

Harry Goode Sr.: I guess you would say it was rivalry. Yes, a little bit. St Joseph's Catholic Church was built in 1912 in Palm Bay, and that was a different proposition. They didn't take kids from over there ... They had their own flock, and they were Catholics, and that was it. They went if they wanted to or not, to their Friday night programs, and all. I went many times to the Catholic Church, although we weren't Catholics. Very, very strict, religious people, and the bringing up that they had socially [01:28:00] was very strict. Strict with the girls and the boys. We got along fine with them.

The Catholic Priest was Father Gable in the old days, one of the earliest ones. He would frequently [01:28:16] come to see my folks. My father was a Captain on the boats and would be gone a long time, and my mother would be home with us children for days, and weeks, and months on end. These people, and this priest, Father Gable, was like a friend that

would come and see us. Visit with us, and I can see him coming at that time.

The church history is a little bit ... I've written quite a bit about it at times, and I got a lady interested in the church history, that wrote for the Melbourne paper, and she ... What was her name? She did a commendable job. She dug into the ...

Nancy Yasecko: Weona Cleveland?[01:29:14]

Harry Goode Sr.: No, it was long before Weona.

Fish, Mrs. Fish wrote it.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's talk a little bit about some of the politics of this county. Our county used to be a bigger county, I guess.

Harry Goode Sr.: Oh yeah. It was the Mosquito County originally, and it took in a vast territory. My grandmother Goode was a staunch Republican, and my father was a little bit Republican. I guess he registered to vote Republican. A funny thing happened. My wife's family was staunch [01:30:00] Democrats, and when I got old enough to register and vote, we went over to where we had to register, and my wife just said, "You know, register Democrat," so I've been a Democrat since. A lot of people laughed about that, that so many people thought that because my family had been Republicans, and I became a Democrat.

There was very few Republicans elected to things. Everything was Democratic.

Nancy Yasecko: There were very few Republicans in the whole county? Really?

Harry Goode Sr.: That's right. They would vote, I guess, nationally would mount to a ... The first big election that I can remember on a national level, was when Herbert Hoover was running, and was a Republican, and Al Smith ran against him. I can remember seeing Al Smith's picture in the homes. This was Palm Bay by then. It became Palm Bay in 1926. Changed the name from Tillman to Palm Bay. Some of them would have American flag with it, or some bunting with red, white and blue. This is the first time I remember anything about politics.

Up to then, I'd heard who the President was, and all, but this was an election and the old days, the elections in the county were really

something.[01:32:00] For instance, somebody running for County Commissioner, or Deputy Sheriff, would have these people that had a lot of political power. Why? I have never figured it out. My wife, Catherine's Uncle [Bubba 01:32:18], would come down to ...

Nancy Yasecko: Brevard County Historical Commission Oral History Video Project. Interview with Harry Goode Sr. Melbourne, Florida. January 17th, 1994. Camera: Sony DXCM7. Recorder: Sony VBW35. Interviewer: Nancy Yasecko. Cameraman: Robert Gilbert. Copyright Brevard County Historical Commission 1994.

You were saying that certain people had a lot of political influence.

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes. I mentioned Catherine's Uncle [Bubba 01:33:10]. He would get into some old car and come down through Eau Gallie, and stop to see these different people. Some of the masses, and some of these people, and come down, and go out and see a [Harm 01:33:23] or [Cad Platt 01:33:23], or maybe all of the Platts, and 2 or 3 people downtown in Melbourne, and go down to Palm Bay and see a few, then go back home. They darn near [01:33:35] elect these people by the system that they used, which was unbelievable. I don't know why he would have this kind of power. It was several people that could do this very thing. I just use this man because I knew him well.

Nancy Yasecko: Are you saying that he would just go down and say, "This is a good guy to vote for?"

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah, right. Exactly. [01:34:00] "You want to vote for Matt Symmonds, this time. He's a tax collector, and he's doing good," or, "Kurt Barnes is a tax assessor, or clerk of the court." They would stay there as long as they kept their nose clean, and did the right thing by the people. Of course, at that time, like I said, the Republican didn't have the ghost of a chance of electing anybody on a local ... We're talking about local level now. Sometimes people would get pretty hot and furious, because there might be 2 or 3 people running for Sheriff or County Commissioner. A lot of County Commission were ... People in Titusville, Cocoa, would decide on somebody in the Melbourne area that, "This is our man." They'd come down here and find out, well, the people in Melbourne weren't exactly for this guy, so they'd have to do some politicking and go out, and like I said, they'd go see the ...

The Platts had a lot of power. Of course, there was a lot of them, and wonderful people, so they would say, "Okay, we'll go along. Forget about

it," and you could evidently forget about it. He was going to be elected in that precinct, or that area.

Once in a while they would have dissension between North Brevard and South Brevard. Not a great deal, but enough to influence our election. Who got elected. They held the reins on most everything for years, because there was more population up there in the old days, you see.

Nancy Yasecko: Up there meaning?

Harry Goode Sr.: Titusville, [01:36:00] Mims, Cocoa. Titusville and Cocoa were together some, more than the ... The south end was kind of on its own. Of course, times changed. Modern politics is a different thing entirely. No doubt there is more Republicans now than there is Democrats, but it's a different story. We're talking about the old days.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember hearing any stories about some of the kind of politicking that went on in terms of, did they have fish fries, or did they ...?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah, sure. Exactly what they had. Evidently you've heard this. They would have weenie [01:36:48] roasts, fish fries. It would even go back to like the original times of having the palmetto cabbage that I spoke of. Cut the hearts out, and have this as part of the meal. Sometimes they'd get a band up. There was a band in Cocoa, and a band in Melbourne. Just a few pieces. A band down in Malabar. The [Hidered 01:37:22] Hungry Five. They would get these people to help gel up a get together.

In my junk I've run into pictures that I've wondered, why these people were together, was it 4th of July, or Washington's birthday, or was it a political gathering, or was it the yacht club group? I figured out who that was mostly. The old yacht club in Melbourne that I spoke of earlier.

Nancy Yasecko: When did your [01:38:00] family get interested and involved in politics?

Harry Goode Sr.: My father was elected Justice of the Peace. My grandfather was one of the Mayors of Melbourne. I was on the city commission in Melbourne, and I was on the inlet commission for 28 years. That was an elected office. Very easy to get elected, because they don't pay you. At least, they didn't pay us anything on that. Then our son, Harry Junior ... Before I get there, my father was elected first Mayor of Palm Bay, when they formed the city down there in 1925, I think. November '25. Doesn't matter, but at that time, and he was elected the first mayor, and then it went kerflunk.

They dissolved and it became Palm Bay again, and they rehashed over, and it's a long, long story. Harry Pollak was the first mayor of the present Palm Bay. The first mayor of Melbourne was C J F Campbell. There was little interest there. 28 people voted in the first election in Melbourne.

They just had something about this, and they called me down to the City Hall to participate in something recently about the City being formed in Melbourne, I think 105 years ago now.

Nancy Yasecko: If 28 people voted, how many people were living here do you think?

Harry Goode Sr.: I [01:40:00] would say about maybe 3 times that many. Maybe 100. 75 to 100. Very few women voted. No blacks voted. When C J F Campbell, his name was Charlie Campbell. The night that he was elected, it was a cut and dried thing, apparently, by what I can figure out by the stuff that I have dug up, and know about. He came in a full dress suit with tails and a [inaudible 01:40:47] hat on. Some of the people that was elected to the council were in overalls. I told this at the City Commission meeting, is said, "You all look just like that original group there, except there's no top hat."

That was down on Front Street before the fire. I believe they met in the newspaper office. Everything was down there originally.

Nancy Yasecko: Your son also got into ...

Harry Goode Sr.: Harry Junior, yes. He became mayor, and was mayor 8 years. Now he's been State Representative for several terms. He likes politics. I didn't especially like politics, but I was a very civic minded person, and did a lot of things like Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, and the Inlet, of course. I was strong in that. He just loves politics, and loves to try to do something for his community, I guess. [01:42:00]

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember any stories? Any funny election times, other than this one mayoral you were telling about? Trying to get the vote out, or trying to find the polling places?

Harry Goode Sr.: No, not necessarily. I really don't recall anything.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay. Let's cut and we'll use the rest of this tape to ... 4, 3, 2, 1.

Harry, tell us a little bit about this story with the whale[01:42:24].

Harry Goode Sr.: That morning, Pearl Leach called me on the phone. Pearl Leach was editor of the Melbourne paper. She says, "Harry, I hear that the beach is covered with whales. Would you want to go down and see them with me?" I said, "Sure," so she came by and picked me up, and this is what we found when we got over there. This is Pearl and I standing on one of the whales. Let's see, they were ... I can't figure the name of them now.

Nancy Yasecko: Pilot whales?

Harry Goode Sr.: Pilot whales. Right. I couldn't think.

When we got down there, of course, lots of other people, literally hundreds of people started showing up. By noon there was people from Orlando, and Miami, and by late afternoon, people had flown in here even, because there was 50, I think, 53 of them on the beach. The beach was just lined with them. You'll see in this picture. Is this the picture that's got so many of them in there? Oh, way down there. If you can imagine, here are these poor mammals that weighed anywhere from 1000 to maybe 1500 pounds apiece, I guess, flopping on the beach. Several of us, and some of the pictures will show that, started trying to push them back into the ocean. As fast as we'd push them out, the [01:44:00] way they'd come back in, like if they were trying to commit suicide.

Of course, there's all kind of theories now. They still do it all over the world. Just in the last month several dozen came in on the beach down in Australia, so it's all over the world this happens. They think that they get disorientated by something in their ears, and different things causes them to beach themselves.

Nancy Yasecko: What can you tell us about this story?

Harry Goode Sr.: Jack [Holme 01:44:38] was the first newsman on WMMB, which was the first radio station in the county. That was really something when WMMB came. The first started testing it way in the morning, like 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. I knew this man, and he did most of the ... He made it like news for them to run the test. He brought up the idea about this net story. He said, "It was such a way of life in the old days, making the nets, throwing the nets, catching fish, eating the fish, giving the fish away, and all that, mostly mullet, so let's do a story on it." He said, "I think I can sell it." Okay with me.

We showed these different things. How to make the nets, how to throw it, and I believe, maybe the next page, I'm not sure. The next page has got pictures of taking the fish out. No. Okay. Anyway, he thought he'd sell the story to Life magazine. He called them, talked to them on the phone. Yeah, they [01:46:00] were interested. Sent the pictures up. They sent the pictures back and said, "The man ought to be in the Olympics. Not the way of life to catch a fish to give it away." The way that these 3 pictures give you an idea of ... They said, "The finesse." Jack didn't sell the story

Speaker 3: Tell us about the bridge.

Nancy Yasecko: What is this picture? We're looking at the first bridge?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yes, that's the first bridge to Indialantic, which solved the problem of getting over there, except by boat. When they first built the bridge, it was built by Ernest Kouwen-Hoven. They didn't have any road after you got over there. You got there, but you had nothing but sand roads, and it was a problem, but they developed roads real quick, and laid out Indialantic, and then they built a road down to Melbourne Beach, and had a couple of streets down there. Although in Melbourne Beach, most of them were back to the oyster shells, because they had had some there, and some horse and buggies that had been taken over. That was a big thing to the area, develop another beach. More tourists and all.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us a little about the picture we see here.

Harry Goode Sr.: Okay. This picture would be taken between 1914 and 1917. I don't know exactly the date, but it maybe on it. It's taken in front of The Carlton Hotel. When I told you about the fishing expeditions, you know, they'd go out on a fishing trip with the guides. This is the kind of catches they would bring back. I said they weren't big fish, necessarily. This is trout and snook. The child sitting in front of it is [01:48:00] Carl McDowell [01:48:00]. His father owned the hotel.

Okay, that's Lewis [McDowell 01:48:09] and his mother, with a catch of fish in front of The Carlton Inn.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us what we're looking at here.

Harry Goode Sr.: This is the east side of The Carlton Inn, which is facing the Indian River. All these rooms here would be looking right out over the river. They would

charge a little bit more for these rooms than the others. The picture of the fish was right in front of that hotel.

This is another view of it. Let's see if I can sit that ... Yeah, that's it there. Another view of it. The Arbor here, you're seeing. Another view. This hotel was built in the late '80s or early '90s. I spoke about the hunting as well as the fishing, and here is one of the camps, if you'd believe, it's a tent you see, and the equipment they've got here is Winchester and Remington shotguns, and the camp stools, and the table that folds up, and all.

Nancy Yasecko: Hold on a second. Let him get some close ups of some of those things, which are so well described there.

Harry Goode Sr.: Go ahead.

Nancy Yasecko: How many people do you think would sleep in a tent like that.

Harry Goode Sr.: Maybe 2 or 3? 4, maybe. I don't know. They'd have several of them, and The Carlton Inn would go out. The [01:50:00] strange thing about it, most of this hunting was this side of the St John's River, because they went in cars. I'm sorry, I don't have ... I have them, but I don't have them here, pictures of the cars they went in. Some of the first station wagons ever built.

Talking about cars, this is a funny looking one here. I'd like to find out what it is. It looks like kind of a half-breed German Rickshaw. See the top how it is, and ... The [McDowells 01:50:33] had quite a bit of money, and had different automobiles, and guns, and toys for the children, and all that.

Talking about the fishing, this was ... Let's just take this of now. This was the first fishing club that they had in Melbourne. They called it The Tournament Casting Club, and a lot of these people weren't fishermen at all. When they found the picture and wanted to find out who the people were in it, well, it was quite a difficult thing, but I have recognized and marked all but, I think, 4. I could keep thinking and recalling who they were, and I just confirmed some of these names with some children of some of the people that's in it.

This is an interesting picture. This is the day that they first started playing golf at the Melbourne Country Club before the house was built for the clubhouse, they called it. You see where they had a thing there to wash

the balls, or something there. This was the first [01:52:00] tee off, and those are all T Models, and there's a couple of automobiles there, but it was the starting of the Melbourne Country Club in Melbourne.

Nancy Yasecko: That's great. It don't look like the greens were too smooth, huh?

Harry Goode Sr.: Yeah, I don't think Don Ross had got there yet. He's the man that laid it out.

Nancy Yasecko: You think they opened the club without having all the holes all ready to go, or?

Harry Goode Sr.: I don't know. I didn't play, and I don't know. When they officially laid it out, President Harding came and my grandmother was the only one in the family that was a participator, that I know anything about. Of course, she was a Republican, like I said, and that was a big deal for her. He came in his yacht, and kept it off of Melbourne, and then came ashore with a small boat, and dedicated it. There's a lot of pictures around Melbourne of the dedication.