

**Transcript of an Oral History Interview in the collection of the  
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922**

Roz Foster: It is September 4th, 2010, and we're going to speak today to a lovely lady who used to live on North Merritt Island, where the VAB is located. Good afternoon and we're very happy to have you with us today, to tell us the story about what it was like living on North Merritt Island. So [00:00:30] what is your name and what was your family like, living on Merritt Island?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: My name is Evelyn Briggs Smith. I was born in 1926, in Titusville, and of course, my mama went to Titusville for a few days until I was born and then we went back home. And--

Roz Foster: What was your mother and dad's names?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: My mother's name was Lena Benecke and my [00:01:00] dad's name was Dorr Briggs. He came from Michigan, down here, and he met my mother, and they got married. And everywhere they went, they had to walk, and sometimes go across the creek in a boat, and then walk for about four miles to where they wanted to go.

Roz Foster: Okay. What was his vocation? What did he do for a living?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: He did fishing down here, in Florida.

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative) and do you remember, was it plentiful [00:01:30] back then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: There was lots of fish back in those days.

Roz Foster: And what did he mostly catch?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mullet.

Roz Foster: Mullet. Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: That was our mainstay, for food, was mullet, and ducks, in the winter time, and coots. Of course, we ate sea turtle, in season, and we ate sea cow, and we even ate softshell turtles, and gophers.

Roz Foster: And what time period was this? What time was it? 19 ...

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well [00:02:00] back in the 30s. 30s and 40s.

Roz Foster: Okay. I understand that also there was a ... Life was good out there, and there was plenty to eat. You had mentioned to me about eating sea grapes and sea oats. Talk about eating some of the wild things on the island.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay. Every year we used to go out and pick sea grapes and we would make sea grape jam. [00:02:30] Very, very good. It's got kind of a brackish taste, very different from anything else. And then we would go out and pick huckleberries and they were a very, very low bush and the grass men would burn the woods at a certain time of the year and that is where we would get our good huckleberries. And we made pies, and [00:03:00] jelly, and all the good stuff. Then we also picked dew berries and every time you go out you would kill a rattlesnake, it don't matter when it was, and we lived in rattlesnake heaven.

Roz Foster: Did you ever eat rattlesnake?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh no. No, no. I remember when I worked for Pan Am, there was a girl that brought some rattlesnake out there. But when it came time for them to eat it, I left.

Roz Foster: Well getting back [00:03:30] to where you lived, describe what it looked like back then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well behind our home was a switch grass pond, a pond, and then my dad had built a dragline out of an old car, the axle, and all of that. And then he ditched, made a ditch bank, all the way around our place and a deep ditch. Because it was kind [00:04:00] of low ground, but real good ground. And I remember one year, it was so dry that the mud in the pond, it cracked open, and Mama stood out there with a hoe in her hand, standing up and you could just see the top of the hoe above those careless weeds, they were called. And then I've seen it to where, after a hurricane, that from [00:04:30] the whole creek, down there was overflow down there into the pickle grass, pickle weed. And there was like a salt flat down by the creek and you could take a boat on the salt flat, that's how high the water was.

Roz Foster: My goodness. Do you remember them building the house out there?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well our house burned down my first year of school.

Roz Foster: What year was that?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:05:00] I was born in 1926 and I was about eight, I was about 7 years old when I started school. So it was my first year of school. I went to Wilson school. It was just a one-room schoolhouse on the Titusville Causeway.

Roz Foster: And who was your teacher?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mr. Roberts. I don't remember his first name, but he was a good teacher. We'd go outside sometimes, and play baseball, or whatever, and we'd stay out there for a little longer [00:05:30] than normal.

Roz Foster: Was it a one-room schoolhouse?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: One-room schoolhouse. We had, probably from the first grade through, I don't know, six, or whatever it was, I don't remember, but my oldest brother he drove the school bus and picked a bunch of us kids up. And then he would come on to Titusville, because he was the oldest, and he had already, you know, gotten to a higher grade school, but the rest of us went out there to [00:06:00] Wilson.

Roz Foster: Do you remember, who were some of your classmates that you went to school with?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh let's see? There was the Griffis girls, Flora and Viola. Then there was Sherman Griffis and I can't ... Was it William? I can't remember the name right off hand, but there were several of them.

Roz Foster: Now did they live in Shiloh?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No they lived on the Titusville Causeway.

Roz Foster: On the [00:06:30] Titusville Causeway.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And then, I don't remember if the Futch girls went to school with us, there or not, any of them. I just can't remember everybody that went there.

Roz Foster: Okay. Do you remember when Wilson had a post office? Did they have a post office when you were there? And a store?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I was ... That was my first grade.

Roz Foster: Oh okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: So I was kind of young and I don't know. And whether they got a post office, later years or not, I don't know.

Roz Foster: Do you not remember if there was, [00:07:00] at that time, if there was a store out there at Wilson's Corner?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No, there was no store.

Roz Foster: No store, okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No.

Roz Foster: Okay, and how many people about lived in Wilson?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well there was a Johnson's, lived across the street in a little bit east. And Mr. Hazelwood lived right on the corner of a road, and I don't know the name of that road, but he had a big house there. Then a Mr. Schnapp, he lived there was a roadbed, going south [00:07:30] at that corner, and he lived way down that road.

Roz Foster: And we're talking approximately where the corner of State Road 3 and 406 intersect?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No that was west of State Road 3.

Roz Foster: That was west of State Road 3? Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah a few miles west of State Road 3.

Roz Foster: Okay. And the school was located on the north side?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: On the south side.

Roz Foster: South side

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Of the Titusville Causeway.

Roz Foster: Oh, so the south side.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:08:00] They used to have ... It was a community building also. They would have dances there, and whatever they did, there. I remember we used to have square dances there and my cousins, the Benecke's, used to go there. I think my cousins went to school there. I'm not sure when they first started school.

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Did you and your brothers and sisters go to the beach a lot?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh we used to have a lot of wiener roasts out on the beach. [00:08:30] I remember, one time we were playing out there. I can't remember the name of the game. Anyhow, everybody would get into a circle, and one person was running around, they'd tag somebody, and you'd run around, and then the other person would try to catch 'em. Well, somehow or other, I got going a wrong way, and me and my cousin run into heads. And he said, "You have got a rock in your head." That was [00:09:00] June, you know June.

Speaker 3: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What do you remember about your grandparents? Who were your grandparents?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I can barely remember my mama's dad. I did not know her mother, or stepmother, because they had died before, but I remember him. He always stood real straight, a proud man, and a long beard.

Roz Foster: What was his name?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: His name was ...

Speaker 3: Helmer?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Henry Benecke.

Speaker 3: [00:09:30] Henry Benecke.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Was it Johan, or something like? I can't remember. He was from Germany.

Speaker 3: Henry Johan.

Roz Foster: He was from Germany?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: And what was his vocation?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh he made musical instruments and he played ... He had a big piano, that took up a whole room, and there was only two of them in the United States, and he played that piano. He made a zither and played it. [00:10:00] A niece of mine, I think, has that zither. And he made guns, he taught school, he made boats, and his wife made the sails.

Roz Foster: Oh my, all out on North Merritt Island?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes, yes, he did all of that. He was a very, very wise man.

Roz Foster: It sounds like [00:10:30] it. Did they have a vegetable garden? Did your grandparents, and your parents, have vegetable gardens?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, they grew stuff. They had bees.

Roz Foster: Oh they had bees?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh, they had bees too.

Roz Foster: And so you had your own honey?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, they had their own and when I was growing up, we had our own bees. We had about 40 colonies, I think, maybe three stories high. We worked in those bees two weeks at a time, [00:11:00] twice a year.

Roz Foster: Oh my.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And we had to turn the extractor by hand, but ... And get stung quite often.

Roz Foster: Oh my, isn't that interesting?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Where did the bees make their honey from? From the groves? From the orange groves?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well people, some people would move their bees to like where the orange groves were, or maybe out to get the palmetto honey, or then you got your wildflowers, and whatever. [00:11:30] But, to me, my mama used to take honey to the fair, and she's gotten blue ribbons on it, and palmetto honey ... Everybody doesn't know about palmetto honey, because you don't find it very often. But to me, it's the best honey there is.

Roz Foster: Out of the blossom that comes on the palmetto?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative), and they still make medicine out of that palmetto berry, you know?

Roz Foster: Yes, I know. In fact, there was [00:12:00] a Mr. Terryn, who lived out on Pier Road, over at Cape Canaveral and, I believe, another Mr. Ryan, at Cape Canaveral, that used to make honey-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay.

Roz Foster: Out of the ... Excuse me, not honey, the palmetto berry medicines.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: The palmetto, yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah, yeah. Did you have citrus?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes, we had lemon trees. We had a few grapefruit trees, and orange trees, and I don't remember if we had a tangerine tree, or not, but we had a sour orange tree. And we always had fun [00:12:30] when the snowbird friends would come down. Oh they'd look so pretty if you'd give them one. And you know what a sour orange tastes like.

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: They were surprised.

Roz Foster: What did your family do when someone got sick on the island?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, we didn't go to the doctor unless you knew you had to. My brother one time ... Well our house burned down when I went to the first year of [00:13:00] school. Then we had a little old shack, where we took care of the honey, we lived in that little old shack for a while. A few years and my brother slept upstairs in the old shop. There was a gate, they would let it down, to keep the wildcats, or any kind of wild animals from coming up to them.

But anyhow, my brother had gone up to where the house was, where it had burned, to feed the chickens. Well [00:13:30] they were kind of acting up, but he couldn't see nothing, so when he came back through a ground rattler bit him. So mama and my older brother, they were gonna take him to Titusville. She, as I remember, she cut that and put permanganate of potash on it, that's what I remember. But I don't really know all [00:14:00] the rest of the details on that. I don't remember, but it seemed like she told me that she didn't need to take him to the doctor, but he never did really get sick. I don't know the details on that, I can't remember.

Roz Foster: A lot of the home remedies really worked back then.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz Foster: They used plants and I understand they used spider webs to coagulate blood when you got cut.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, I've heard those stories.

Roz Foster: What is your fondest memory [00:14:30] of your grandparents?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, my daddy's mother lived with her daughter, who had two children, a boy and a girl-

Roz Foster: And what were their names?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Their name was ... She was Harriett Briggs. Now, my grandfather, I just barely remember him and I remember the room that he was in, when he was sick, I [00:15:00] was quite young. I remember that he had a beard, of course, and I remember the room he died in. But anyhow, my grandmother lived there with my aunt and her two kids. We used to go over there most every Christmas. A lot of times we would go by boat over there.

Roz Foster: Oh my, what kind of experience was that, going by boat? Now you're talking about a little row boat?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh well [00:15:30] Daddy-

Roz Foster: Or are you talking about a catboat?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Back them days, we called them a launch.

Roz Foster: Okay, a launch.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: It had a cabin on it and he would put a car motor in the boat and that was the kind of engine it would have.

Roz Foster: Oh my goodness.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And that's how we went.

Roz Foster: So you went from Merritt Island-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative), there at Banana Creek.

Roz Foster: At Banana Creek-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Where the VAB building is.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Go through Banana Creek and then across the Indian River.

Roz Foster: To?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: To Indian River City.

Roz Foster: [00:16:00] Oh, to Indian River City?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative) and the house is still there. It's right at the light ... That's JCPenney, or is it Sears?

Speaker 3: I think it's Sears.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: The house is still there. It's been refurbished. It look a square, kind of, you know, but the driveway is right there where the light is, at the Indian River City.

Roz Foster: At Indian River City.

Speaker 3: What were their names? Elmer ...

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Elmer and Harriett Briggs.

Roz Foster: Elmer and Harriett Briggs.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:16:30] And my aunt's name was Lila Rose.

Roz Foster: Lila Rose, okay. What ... Getting back to ... You said that they were in the fishing business? Were they commercial fisherman?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes, that was commercial fishing.

Roz Foster: Okay, do you remember what was a typical day like, for instance, they'd go out in the launch, and set nets, or whatever, and then ... [00:17:00] What was typical routine for that?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well sometimes they would set the net, and leave it, I guess, and then go back, and pull it in. Then there would be times that they would, you know, drag, they'd call it drag the net in, and they would drag it and pull all your fish in. And they'd drag it into a circle and catch the fish.

Roz Foster: Okay, and this was mostly mullet back then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mostly mullet, they'd catch bass, and trout.

Roz Foster: And they took [00:17:30] it to market? They sold it?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes and Daddy, oftentimes, took the fish to ... And honey ... To Orlando, or to Sanford, and peddled fish. And by that I mean, house to house, and whatnot. People would come out and buy the honey and fish. Then, the way Daddy would ... They did a lot of farming in Sanford and he would stop and buy vegetables sometimes. Maybe [00:18:00] cabbage in season, he would even buy celery, and we would can celery. Because you could use it in soup, and whatnot, because we canned stuff that would last us all year, you know? And we would make sauerkraut in a, like a 40 gallon Coca-Cola barrel. We used to get the barrels and scrape that old wax out. And then we would re-wax it with paraffin, or else beeswax. Then [00:18:30] we would use that for honey barrels also, for our honey. And then we would also make sauerkraut in those.

Roz Foster: Now you said old Coca-Cola barrels?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: What was Coca-Cola ...

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well that would be the syrup.

Roz Foster: The syrup-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: Was in a Coca-Cola barrel.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, they came in like 40 or 50 gallon barrels.

Roz Foster: And why would you buy a 40 gallon [00:19:00] barrel of Coca-Cola syrup?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well we didn't, it was just the barrel.

Roz Foster: Oh I see. I see.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Just the barrel-

Roz Foster: Oh I see.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: To make the sauerkraut in.

Roz Foster: I see.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Take the top out of it.

Roz Foster: I see.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And then you'd put your sauerkraut in there, you know. Your cabbage, and your salt, and then push it down, and then put your leaves on top of it, and put a weight, and then leave it set for ... I think a couple of weeks, or something like that. Then we'd go in there and get a handful of that out, and eat it, and it was good.

Roz Foster: Yeah, that was good. [00:19:30] And who was your mama again?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Lena.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Benecke.

Roz Foster: Okay. And what is your fondest memory of mama?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh.

Roz Foster: Did she grow roses?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes, she did, she ... Oh flowers. She always had a bunch of flowers out and always started her own plants, to plant a vegetable garden.

Roz Foster: I bet she [00:20:00] had roses, tell me about her rose garden.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes, she had roses and a ...

Roz Foster: Why were they so big, you think?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well we put the wash water on 'em. When we'd wash clothes, we would carry the wash water around and put on them and they were so huge.

Roz Foster: And they smelled good too.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes. Back then, they had a good smell to them.

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative) and what ... I understand that you had a sugar kettle?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:20:30] Yeah, an old syrup kettle.

Roz Foster: And old syrup kettle.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes we did. Had an old syrup kettle. We used to get on that thing and kind of play around on it.

Roz Foster: And what ever happened to that syrup kettle?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, it's buried somewhere.

Roz Foster: Somewhere. Okay. For safe keeping right?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes.

Roz Foster: What was it like during a hurricane in the old days? Do you remember when you were a child, that a hurricane came through here in the 30s.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes I do.

Roz Foster: [00:21:00] What happened?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I can remember, we had windmill. We never did have a well, but we had the windmill and I remember one ... And I used to go in there to play with my dolls, we kept the chicken feed in there, and all of this kind of stuff, you know? But this hurricane, it tore that thing, and it fell piece by piece. We watched it fall.

Roz Foster: How did you know a hurricane was coming back then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, we did have [00:21:30] a radio but you had to bring the car up close enough that you could take the wires and hook it up to the battery. If the car wasn't there, you didn't have a radio. But I remember the kids, at school, when I was in the elementary school, they would talk about, "Well aren't you afraid to stay on Merritt Island with a hurricane coming?" So I guess, maybe there was people had

radios. Or how they found out, I don't know. But anyhow, we knew they were coming. No, [00:22:00] we were never afraid to stay there.

Roz Foster: How 'bout, do you remember winters being cold?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes.

Roz Foster: And what did you do?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I remember, my first year of school, I wore long handles and the back side had buttons. I wore these long stockings and it was cold back then. I can remember the ditches being frozen. I can remember the Banana Creek being frozen. My daddy [00:22:30] and brothers picked up frozen fish and of course they were good, they were frozen.

Roz Foster: Yeah, yeah, that's interesting, it got that cold here.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I don't know whether they sold them or what really, you know, I don't know. But anyhow, I remember that, and I can remember going to school and the pump was froze. And I remember one time, the old wooden potbelly stove got knocked over, there at school, before the teacher [00:23:00] got there. But, you know, I don't remember whether it had a fire in it or it was before the fire got started in it or what, but I remember that happening.

Roz Foster: What are some of the games that you used to play, as a child?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well now, there was a game that we used to play. It was a string, everybody would sit in a big circle, and it was a string, and you'd put a ring on that, and you'd pass that ring around to people. [00:23:30] There would be somebody in the middle and try to figure out whose got the ring. And then, if you'd find them, then you'd sit down and they'd get in the ring. And musical chairs we played a lot and our place was the gathering place, it was Mama and Papa Briggs and we made ice cream a lot. We had two ice creams churns, you know, that you had to turn and we did that a lot.

And there's been times that we ... [00:24:00] We had barrels at the eaves, the corner of the house, you know, to catch rain water.

Roz Foster: Rain barrels, rain barrels?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: We've even been known to empty them, having water fights.

Roz Foster: Oh. Did you have running water out there?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No, we had a cistern. And then at the end of the house, we had a big tank, which water would come off of the roof, you know, and catch that. That's what we used for drinking water and then [00:24:30] out of the cistern we used for the animals,

and clothes, for washing hands, and taking a bath. We'd get the washtub, and bring it in on the weekend, and take a bath, and otherwise you'd just spit bath.

Roz Foster: Yeah. What was ... Do you remember your grandma and your mother doing laundry on Mondays. What was laundry day like? Do you remember?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I don't really remember them doing it. I remember me helping. [00:25:00] On the scrub board and the wash pot.

Roz Foster: Okay. Describe what it was like doing laundry on Monday.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, you would have to get the wood and build the fire and get that going. And then you'd have this big old wash pot, you'd fill it with water, dip it out of the cistern, and fill the wash pot. And then you put your clothes in there, boil them, poke them down. And then you'd scrub them on the scrub board, rinse them. And if didn't rain, [00:25:30] and you used all your water up, and it didn't rain, you'd have to ... We went about a quarter mile, and had a big barrel in the rumble seat part of the vehicle, and go about a quarter of a mile to the old Briggs homestead, and pump water, fill that barrel, and bring it home. And that's what we did to wash clothes, and feed the cow, pigs, anything, wash hands, [00:26:00] wash clothes.

Roz Foster: So it was an all-day affair just about.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes. It was hard work back in them days.

Roz Foster: When you were a child, you shared in a lot of the household chores?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes. Yes. We did everything. We weeded the garden, we planted seeds, and we watered. We'd go down to the ditch with a can, or whatever, bucket, or whatever, and use it to water the garden if we [00:26:30] planted, you know, plants. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Roz Foster: Let's talk about Happy Creek a little bit. Where was Happy Creek relative to where you lived, where the VAB is situated now? Where was Happy Creek?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay it was north of us. Fact is, it would be easier to say it was just south of the Titusville Causeway. There was a big hammock that was called Happy Hammock. [00:27:00] Then Happy Creek, I guess it came off of Banana Creek, or what, I'm not sure. But it was called Happy Creek, up there, the head of that little creek. And that's where my mama was raised. That's where Dad settled. I understand that this ... Them, or somebody else, I don't know who, grew sugar cane [00:27:30] and they kind of made, what do you call it?

Roz Foster: Hooch.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Hooch, or something.

Roz Foster: Moonshine.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And everybody was happy and they called it "Happy Creek."

Roz Foster: Is that why they called in Happy Creek? Do you remember them telling you any stories? Your mama telling you stories about when she was a child and lived at Happy Creek?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes, I remember her and my daddy's sisters. There was an old house [00:28:00] there in the Happy Hammock. And of course, windows are out, and all of this, it must have been there for a few years. Anyhow, they wandered around the woods, and what not, here they'd saw some, there was wild cats in this old house and they started running for home. But one of her sisters stumbled and said, "Hey, wait for me. Wait for me." But this is the type of thing that they would run into, because there was [00:28:30] a lot of wild animals back in them days.

And then, one time, one of mama's sisters had walked through the hammock and to a friend's house, just on the north side of the hammock, and she said, "I don't know whether I'll come back tonight, or whether I won't." Well anyhow, I guess my grandfather had heard the panther scream, or something happened, why he went out looking for this panther. Because [00:29:00] you know, he didn't know whether she was coming, or not. And he found the panther, he shot, but he trailed him the next day, but I don't know whether he ever found him or not, but I remember them telling the story about him shooting the panther.

Roz Foster: Did they ever tell you any stories about any alligators?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes. My mama [00:29:30] and her sister used to catch alligators. I can't remember, which one of the sisters it was. Whether it was Aunt Lillie or Aunt Rose, I'm not sure, which one of them it was. And she fell into, my mama fell into the alligator nest and her sister pulled her out and I think it was Aunt Rose. But they used to catch the baby alligators and sell them to the snowbirds, when they came down. They had that way of making [00:30:00] a little bit of spending money.

Roz Foster: Isn't that something? Do you remember the story about Uncle Dudley? Who Uncle Dudley was?<sup>1</sup>

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Who is Un-

Speaker 3: Lillie.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Huh?

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<sup>1</sup> "Uncle Dudley" is the pen name Lillie Benecke, the aunt of Evelyn Smith Briggs, used to publish her experiences as a hunting and fishing guide in Merritt Island. Please see the *Indian River Journal* Fall/Winter 2016 issue for more information on the Benecke family.

Speaker 3: Lillie.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh I didn't know she was called Uncle Dudley.

Speaker 3: Yeah, she ... You don't remember her writing the stories for?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Not really. No. I don't remember that.

Speaker 3: That was your mother's sister.

Roz Foster: Okay. How about the boys? [00:30:30] What do you remember about the boys? Why is June called June?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, because they had two-

Roz Foster: Now who are we talking about first of all?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay, who am I talking about? I'm talking about my Uncle Herman and Aunt Mary, they wanted a daughter and they had two boys.

Roz Foster: And what were their names?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Their name was Henry and Ray. And they wanted a girl and well came [00:31:00] along it was a boy, so they named him June, is the way I understand it.

Roz Foster: And how did June feel about that?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well I never heard ... June Carroll, I think, was his name.

Roz Foster: June Carroll?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah. He's about eight or nine months younger than I.

Roz Foster: Okay and what did those boys do for a living? As they were growing?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: They fished. They fished.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And June, my cousin, he was just a little younger than me, he used to take hunting parties [00:31:30] out when he was about 16 years old. 15 and 16.

Roz Foster: So he was a guide?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: He was a guide?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: He took hunting parties.

Roz Foster: Do you remember any stories about where they used to go hunting and what they caught?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well I remember one place, Flatboat, they used to go hunting a lot. Fact is, on Thanksgiving, my Uncle Herman and his family, and then my aunt, who lived in the old homestead, where my mama and them was raised.

Roz Foster: At Happy Creek?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: At Happy Creek. [00:32:00] They would take their boats and we'd take our boats, and family, and what not, and of course, we'd cut palmetto cabbage, and have palmetto cabbage, and potato salad. And then we'd go to Moore Creek and the men folks would go shoot some ducks and coots, and we'd clean them right out there, and cook them. And it was just fantastic and my aunt used to chase me, or I chased her, through the pickle weed. We used to have a lot of fun. [00:32:30] She always was laughing and she was a wonderful person.

Roz Foster: How did you prepare it? Did you fry it, or roast them, because you were outdoors right?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Do you remember?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, I guess, I know that mama used to fry the breast. They probably fried them, out there. And she would pot roast, what she called pot roasted, she'd put [00:33:00] some grease in the skillet and put your duck, or your coot, in there and she'd sprinkle a little sugar over them, and then cook 'em, and put a little water on them, and cook them down, cover them up, cook them down, and then put a little more water on, cook them down until they were done. And they'd have all off that good, sweet, stuff on them, and they were delicious. Ain't nobody could cook like my mama.

Roz Foster: That sounds pretty good to me. [00:33:30] Do you remember them baking? And what was your favorite thing that they baked?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh mama always baked bread. Very seldom did we ever buy bakery bread. Of course, she made her own pies, cobblers, and we picked elder berries, and made jelly. Of course, grapes, we made grape jelly, and grape juice. These wild [00:34:00] grapes. They grew everywhere. We'd get up on top of the car and reach them and all this kind of stuff.

Roz Foster: You had mentioned that you ate sea oats?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No, we, no.

Roz Foster: You didn't have sea oats?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Not sea oats, the sea grapes.

Roz Foster: Sea grapes?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: Okay. Let me ask you this, where was the churches? You had mentioned Orsino church? Were there any churches on the island back then that anyone attended?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:34:30] Well not down towards where we lived, but there was ... Down at Orsino, there was a community building, and that's where we went to church. And there was the school house, also. I talked my parents into letting me go down to there. It was during the fifth grade of school and I went to school with a Roy Roberts, and [Polon?] girls, I think, and Christie girl, maybe, I can't remember who all. [00:35:00] Then it was used as a, you know, sometimes, get-togethers, where we'd have just parties, or whatever, you know?

And then they built a church just west of that community building. Mr. Elliot, what was his, I can't remember his first name. He donated the property and his daughter, Kate Elliot, lived with him, there in the house. Daddy [00:35:30] and a fella by the name of Newcomb, and his son, they helped build that church. And Christie, Jim Christie, and his wife, they were there at that time, and they helped build that church.

Roz Foster: Did you have automobiles?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: We had an old Model-A.

Roz Foster: Oh boy.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: With the rumble seat?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: We also, yeah, we had a ... I think that was a Model-A too, [00:36:00] that had a rumble seat and then one time we had a two seater and that's what ... That's the car ... I learned to drive on an old Willys-Knight, but I drove that old Model-A to Orlando. My first trip away from Titusville.

Roz Foster: Oh boy, what an adventure.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: It was.

Roz Foster: Do you ever remember riding the train? [00:36:30] Did you ever ride the train?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: It seems like I did, but I can't remember too much about the riding the train.

Roz Foster: Did you ever remember anybody telling you about they took the train to Jacksonville, or down to West Palm, or from Titusville to Cocoa? Do you remember?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Not really, not too much. Hmm-mm (negative). Not about that. I was just an old country girl.

Roz Foster: So and you had to come to Titusville to get the train anyhow.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Right?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: So what was your [00:37:00] mode of transportation then? Mostly, over on the island? Although, you did a lot of walking, or did you have ... When you were little, I'm talking about then.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, well our closest neighbor was about two miles.

Roz Foster: And who was that?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: That was Jim and Julia Christie, and they had a son, Jimmy Christie, and a daughter, Edwina Christie, and we used to ... And [00:37:30] of course, there was nothing but sand ruts going down there. It was a road bed.

Roz Foster: No paved?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No paved. Oh no, uh-uh (negative), and then it had sand spurs too. And of course, we were usually bare foot. Sand get hot. We'd use an elephant ear to hold, but it would soon wilt.

Roz Foster: Who is Zannie O'Berry?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Zannie O'Berry. Okay, they [00:38:00] were friends that came from Orlando and they lived down in a boat, at the creek, for a while. And they bought a piece of land, I don't know how much of it they bought, from the old Briggs homestead. I don't know whether they bought it from Daddy, or his parents, I don't know who owned that land, at that time. But anyhow, then we all went with our machete's, and axes, and everything, cleaned out a place for them to [00:38:30] build a house.

Roz Foster: And they lived there, at Happy Creek?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No, no, that was off of Banana Creek.

Roz Foster: Or off of that ... Oh, okay, off of Banana Creek? Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Just south of us.

Roz Foster: South of you.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Just south of our place.

Roz Foster: South of you. Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: Now, would you say where the old ... Off of Banana Creek, you're talking about over where in relationship to where State Road 3 is now?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay and you're talking about over in that area. Was the [00:39:00] barge canal there? Up on the ... That's-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay. The barge canal was down at Merritt.

Roz Foster: More south?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah, down at Merritt.

Roz Foster: Okay, so you're talking up near Orsino, up in that area?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, we were four miles.

Roz Foster: Four miles?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, Banana Creek is about four miles north of Orsino.

Roz Foster: Okay, okay, and do you remember when they put the bridge in up there? Or was there always a bridge, over Banana Creek?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well, I don't remember, no it was put in, I guess, before I was born. Now [00:39:30] I remember the second bridge they built, yeah. The first one was an old humpback bridge and then they built the other one.

Roz Foster: Okay and do you remember about what time that was?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Gee, I couldn't tell you what? No I couldn't tell you what year that was, at all.

Roz Foster: Okay. When you lived on North Merritt Island, do you remember anything about the ... Was the Allenhurst [00:40:00] Hotel still there, over at the Haulover, or ...

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I have been up there, and what not all, but I remember there was one, but I don't really remember that much about that area. I know if the bridge was out at Titusville, to go to school, we had to go all the way through there and on up, just this side of ... Just south of Oak Hill, and then go back to Titusville. And then we-

Roz Foster: That was long way back.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: We had to [00:40:30] pick up kids around the outskirts of Titusville too, when we got over there, so we had a good distance to go.

Roz Foster: And who was the bus driver?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Selby Bailey was a bus driver to begin with, then Barney Barnes-

Roz Foster: Barney Barnes.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And both of them were wonderful.

Roz Foster: Do you remember a guy named Carl Battle? Or was that before that?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:41:00] Mrs. Battle, I don't know whether that's his wife or what?

Roz Foster: Yes.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: She was a school teacher of mine.

Roz Foster: Yes.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: She was a very good school teacher, but she made me a lot of times, wish the floor would open up and take me. She taught my oldest brother and other brothers, you know, but yes she was a good teacher and all.

Roz Foster: What about the holidays? Was Fourth of July a big thing? Do you remember the Fourth of July? [00:41:30] Do you remember the parades, or anything, in Titusville? Did you come to? Or did you watch-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No. Sometimes ... We didn't always have a way to get over here to Titusville, but on Halloween, when they had doings at school, sometimes we would go to that. I would like to have gone out for basketball, but of course, no way to get over here.

Roz Foster: So it was actually pretty isolated living on the island?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:42:00] Yeah, we were pretty isolated. Now, my kid brother, he's Leland Briggs, he's about nine years younger than I. Well he had an old jalopy that he drove and went out for football. And he somehow could keep it running, or whatnot all, but he got back and forth.

Roz Foster: Did they have beach buggy's back then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes, my one brother, he always had a beach buggy [00:42:30] and always working on it. And they used to go out and get sea turtles, yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah. I understand that was fun, riding the beach?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes, oh we used to love to ride the fender, and sit on the back of the thing, and hang our feet down. You had to be careful or you'd hit something with your feet. That didn't feel good. Ride the running board, oh that was all fun. Kids don't get that these days. Of course, you'd get thrown in jail if you did.

Roz Foster: Did [00:43:00] you ever swim in the ocean at night? Over on the beach or-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yeah, I've been in the ocean.

Roz Foster: Do you remember the efflorescence?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes.

Roz Foster: Tell me about that, what was that like?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh you can kick your feet and it just sparkles and even in the creek. See when you go at night, on the boat, in the skiff, or anything, yeah, there'd be a lot of sparkles. I don't know whether there still is or not, because I don't go over there anymore like that.

Roz Foster: [00:43:30] Yeah, in the lagoon. In the lagoon, there's still efflorescence.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: How about the water? Wasn't it just beautiful and clear back then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, it was nice. Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: Yeah and-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And fireflies. Oh there was fireflies everywhere. We used to catch them and put them in jars.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Make little lanterns.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yeah, that was fun.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Did you ever make rings and earrings?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No.

Roz Foster: We did. How about [00:44:00] on the beach. Was the water always warm in the summer time, and the winter time, or do you remember when you went swimming in the river, in the river? Was it always clear and warm, or-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: It wasn't always clear. I learned to swim in Banana Creek.

Roz Foster: In Banana Creek?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, but there was a lot of stingray's around, where we ... Daddy had built a fish house, [00:44:30] down by the creek, and of course, he built a dock. And there was a lot of stingrays, and I learned to swim there, but the water wasn't clear, no.

Roz Foster: It wasn't real clear?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Not, no, the water there is just not that clear, like you have at some places.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Is there anything that you can remember later on? Say what was it like in The Depression? [00:45:00] Do you remember? You were young, I know, but do you remember what your mama did, and Lena did, during The Depression?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well we always grew everything we ate, and we canned every year, you know, from the garden. And Mama used to take vegetables and all to Titusville and there was the Dixie Diner there. It was an old box car, I think you call it, on an old [00:45:30] train.

Roz Foster: I think the Nelson's had that?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Nelson, yes. She ... And my grandmother, Harriett Briggs, used to work there with her a lot. So she made, my mama, made a little money that way. But my mama could make a meal, take nothing and make a meal out of it. I've eaten much biscuit and gravy, and things like that, but ...

Roz Foster: Potato soup?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, potato soup, and tomato soup, with crackers in it, and [00:46:00] just all kind of things.

Roz Foster: How about the war years? What were the war years like? Do you remember that? The boys going off to war?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, Daddy of course, went to Orlando and got a job in a foundry and that summer, we all went over to Orlando and lived. And I worked at Grant's, W.T. Grant, that summer. Her ... We had a little old trailer [00:46:30] that her dad, Barbara's dad, had gone to college in. He built it, him and Daddy built it, for him to college up at Gainesville.

Roz Foster: So you lived there during-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: We lived in that little old thing. In the back yard. I slept in it, but we had rented a house there. It was on Virginia Drive. It's strange how I remember that.

Roz Foster: Isn't that something? When did you get married?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:47:00] 1948. June the 8th, 1948.

Roz Foster: And where did you get married?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: In Pennsylvania.

Roz Foster: In Pennsylvania?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Roz Foster: Punxsutawney, Phil.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yep.

Roz Foster: Right? That's the claim to fame in Punxsutawney, Phil. And then where did you go off to live? Did you live-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: We lived there about two years.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Beautiful place there in Punxsutawney. [00:47:30] And then we came back to Florida.

Roz Foster: Okay. When did you all get notice that the family had to leave the island? When NASA took over?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I don't remember.

Speaker 3: 60.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mama died in 1956, and she ... Yeah, Daddy [00:48:00] was 1953, and Mama 1956, and so she had moved, built that little Walter Construction house, down at Merritt. It was called Merritt then, on McLeod Street, wasn't it?

Speaker 3: I think so.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I think it was McLeod and she lived down there. She died in 1956 so ... [00:48:30]  
What year she ...

Speaker 3: Was Floyd living on the island then?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I can't remember. I can't remember.

Speaker 3: Ray and June were living there.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Ray and June, living up on Bellwood, you mean?

Speaker 3: No they were living in Happy Creek.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh, they were still at Happy Creek? Yeah I guess so. Yeah, I don't know.

Speaker 4: But yeah, your mother had not, was not living there?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: [00:49:00] No. I can't remember exactly.

Roz Foster: Okay, so you don't remember what happened when they had to move off of the island?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh, well Mama sold the place, when she moved, after Daddy died, but I can't remember whether it was maybe a year after, or two years, but it had to be pretty soon, because it wasn't that many years after he died, that she died. So, yeah, dad had a big [00:49:30] old flatbed truck, and that's what we moved everything from there, down to my house.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: On Lucas, there at Merritt.

Roz Foster: So when NASA bought the property, in 61-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: No NASA ... Well, she sold it to ...

Roz Foster: Oh, she sold it to somebody else, not to NASA?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, she sold it to Lollie, [00:50:00] Arthur Lollie, I think.

Roz Foster: Okay, so they-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: They painted it red and I think they sold liquor and whatnot there. I don't know when it was.

Roz Foster: Do you remember the fish camp that was out there?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, that was Oscar Futch, had a fish camp on the north end of the bridge there. North west corner of the bridge.

Roz Foster: Yeah, yeah.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, Oscar Futch.

Roz Foster: Oscar Futch, [00:50:30] yeah, and there was another fish camp out, I think, out at Haulover too. I mean, excuse me, at Clifton, over at Beacon 42. Do you remember a fish camp being up there at Beacon 42?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I don't know much about that, up there.

Roz Foster: Okay, that was too far up?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, that ... Was that out at Playalinda, out?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, I think that's after I left home, yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: Well is there anything else that you would like to tell me about your family [00:51:00] that would be important as a legacy to the family of Briggs, to your grandparents, or to Lena, or to Lillie? Anything?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well ...

Roz Foster: To any of the boys?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Can't think of a lot, but my mama and I used to ... Of course, you wore your boots, took a shotgun, we took our buckets, we [00:51:30] went out to Flatboat Creek. You reach up under the bank and you get those, we called them clams, mussels. That's what they really are. And take 'em home. Of course, you always took your shotgun. You never know when there's a rattlesnake, or a wild cat, or something gonna come around you now. But you couldn't pay me to reach my hand up under there now, but that was our way of life.

Roz Foster: And it was pretty hardy and you lived [00:52:00] to tell about it, didn't you?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, really.

Roz Foster: Yeah, so in your memories about Happy Creek and living over on the island, what would you say in summary about that? They were happy times, good times?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh yes. They were happy times, good times, bad times, lonely times, and times [00:52:30] when you would want to go somewhere and how do you go? You either walk or stay home, so when we got to go to a movie, it was a big treat.

Roz Foster: Did you go to Magnolia Theater, in Titusville?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: In Titusville. That's where we went, when we got to go.

Roz Foster: Do you remember what that looked like, by any chance, inside? Can you remember? Mr. Johnson had that. Burt Johnson.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: oh I don't know who owned it even.

Roz Foster: Burt Johnson. Burt Johnson.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, I don't know. No it's just a big-

Roz Foster: You [00:53:00] can't remember. Do you remember any of the movies that you saw in there?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oh Lyn. Of course, I think it's The Lone Ranger, and ... No, I couldn't tell you the names of them.

Roz Foster: Yeah. That was a long time ago.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Do you ever remember going to ... Coming to Titusville and some of the stores that were in town?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yes.

Roz Foster: And your favorite ones?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: A&P. I think the A&P is where the [00:53:30] museum is now. And of course, the Davis Drug Store, and the bank is still where it was. The Pirtle Garage, I remember it being across there. Our school bus, when I went to high school, we would catch the bus down by the Titusville Causeway, Garden Street.

Roz Foster: Garden Street.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: The bus would go out [00:54:00] around town, and take kids, you know, and drop them off. And then we'd meet the bus as it came down there and go on. If you had to buy anything from the store, or just wanted to do that. And my cousin,

Johnny Sauter, he worked at the Coca-Cola plant and we'd stop there. You know, back in them days, they had bottles and they'd look at them, and do it, and if they didn't look just right, they wouldn't put them up there, or whatever. I don't know what it was, but anyhow, [00:54:30] sometimes, he'd give us a bottle.

Roz Foster: Do you have any now?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And that was a big-

Roz Foster: That was a big-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Treat to have that bottle of coke. Believe me.

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Do you have any bottles? The old bottles?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Not really. So many things I've thought, I hated the old flat irons, and everything, you know? And now I think, you know, I should have kept them.

Roz Foster: Some of that could be worth some money today.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Well I want to thank you very much for coming [00:55:00] today and sharing your stories about living on the island. And what it was like at Happy Creek, and Orsino, and Wilson, and your wonderful family of Briggs and Benecke.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Well thank you and I certainly have enjoyed it.

Roz Foster: Okay. One thing we forgot. List of your brothers' and sisters' names?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay, I had, I think there was seven of us. There was Everett [00:55:30] Briggs, he had ... Well I'll just skip all of their kids. There were Gail, and Cecilia, and Barbara, and Leslie, is that all of them?

Speaker 3: Shirley.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Shirley, she was ... Shirley was the oldest.

Roz Foster: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Okay, there was Everett, and then there was Leslie and he was killed in an auto accident, they were on the beach turtle hunting, and this drunk came along and hit them. Anyhow, [00:56:00] then there was Floyd and Lloyd, they were twins. Then there was Harvey, and then there was me, and then nine years later, then came my brother, Leland Briggs.

Roz Foster: Oh and what ... Leland. Okay.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: And he and I are the only ones left.

Roz Foster: Okay and where does Leland live?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: He lives in Port Orange now. He's worked all over the world.

Roz Foster: Okay and where do you live?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: I live in Cocoa.

Roz Foster: Okay. Okay and where are all your siblings [00:56:30] buried? Are they buried in the area, or-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, on Garden Street. What's the name of that cemetery, I can't remember now?

Roz Foster: Oak Lawn.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Oak Lawn on Memorial Gardens, yes.

Roz Foster: Okay and how about your grandparents?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: They are buried there also, all of them I think.

Roz Foster: All of them?

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Roz Foster: Okay. In a family plot, or are they scattered-

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Yeah, there's a family plot there. I have my plot there, and my kids do, and I have aunts buried there, and ... Even up at [00:57:00] Mims area, that little tiny church up there, I have-

Roz Foster: LaGrange.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Some kin folks buried there.

Roz Foster: Okay, that's one of the oldest churches on the East Coast too.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Is it?

Roz Foster: Yes, a very historic place. Well thank you again and we'll be talking to you again sometime.

Evelyn Briggs Smith: Thank you. I enjoyed it.