

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

Roz Foster: Today is the 25th of July 2007, and we're talking to descendants of the families that lived in Cape Canaveral and a place called Artesia. Today we have this gentleman with us to tell his story. What is your name please?

Charles Terryn: My name is Charles Terryn. I was born 1939 on the [00:00:30] Cape and I lived here until 1950 when they moved everybody away.

Roz Foster: Okay, and what is your mother and father's name?

Charles Terryn: My mother's name was Aline Mask before she was married.

Roz Foster: Mask?

Charles Terryn: Mask.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: Then my father is Charlie Terryn.

Roz Foster: Okay. And did you have any brothers and sisters?

Charles Terryn: I had three sisters, one a year older than me, [00:01:00] one three years younger, and four years younger than me.

Roz Foster: Okay. And who--Did they marry people in the same vicinity that lived out here at the Cape?

Charles Terryn: No, we didn't grow up until we moved out to the city of Cape Canaveral.

Roz Foster: Okay. What year were you born?

Charles Terryn: 1939.

Roz Foster: Okay. As I understand, it was a very different [00:01:30] life out here back then. And what was the name of the little town here, it was called Artesia?

Charles Terryn: All I knew was Canaveral.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: But Artesia was a little further south.

Roz Foster: Okay, because people get the boundaries of what was Canaveral and what was named Artesia mixed up, and I don't think there was any real division line there, [00:02:00] was there?

Charles Terryn: I didn't know of any.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: But I thought it was just where the old post office used to be, where that Artesia started. That's where I thought.

Roz Foster: Okay. And most of the people that lived out here during the time that you lived out here, what type of work did they do? What were their vocations?

Charles Terryn: We had the people that worked down at the fishing [00:02:30] pier, fishing. My grandfather did that.

Roz Foster: Who was your grandfather?

Charles Terryn: Robert Mask.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: And my father was a berry farmer, palmetto berries. And that's what he did for a living.

Roz Foster: Okay. And where were-- Let's talk about that a little bit. Where were the palmetto [00:03:00] berry business ... did it have a name? Or?

Charles Terryn: No, not that I know of.

Roz Foster: Okay, it was just like a processing ... tell me what they did with the palmetto berries. They gathered them and then what happened to them?

Charles Terryn: My father built trays, I guess about four foot off the ground, three or four foot. And they got the berries and they put them on the trays and they dried 'em out. [00:03:30] Then we culled them when they got dried out. We sent samples to different companies, pharmaceutical companies. And they'd put their orders in and we'd take all the berries in a certain place and we would cull 'em out. Take all of the bad berries out and put them in the sacks.

Roz Foster: Now, these berries that we're talking about, [00:04:00] they came off of the palmetto bushes?

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: The little green nut-looking things, were they? Or?

Charles Terryn: Well, they were green then they turned kind of an orange color, then they turned black when they're ripe.

Roz Foster: When they're ripe?

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: And that's what they did when they were in these drying bins? They're dried by the sun?

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Okay, and then they were taken out of the drying racks and taken to a process plant or something?

Charles Terryn: We processed them ourselves. I mean, [00:04:30] we cull 'em out and put them in sacks and took them to the railroad yard in Cocoa.

Roz Foster: Okay, and then they were shipped to different manufacturers.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What did they use this palmetto berries for?

Charles Terryn: They said for medicine, making medicines.

Roz Foster: Okay, and I understand today it's still used.

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: How long was your dad in the palmetto berry business?

Charles Terryn: [00:05:00] I remember all my life, when I was born. I can remember that. He died in 1949, he was still in the business.

Roz Foster: Still in the business.

Charles Terryn: My cousins were Whiddens, Woodrow Whidden. When he was sick they'd pick the palmetto berries and they would put them out in the trays. [00:05:30] He took care of us for a while, before we got moved off the Cape.

Roz Foster: So what happened to that industry? How come it just dissipated? Do you know?

Charles Terryn: No, I don't. There was another man that was in the business at that time, was Robert Burns, there was two of them, [00:06:00] competitors.

Roz Foster: Where was your dad's operation located out here? Approximately where was it?

Charles Terryn: It was on the ... I forget the name of the road that goes by the river, goes by the hangars.

Roz Foster: I don't know what that road is.

Charles Terryn: Industry road ... there was a regular road that goes from the south gate all the way down to the hangars.

Roz Foster: Okay, and it was on that road?

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: [00:06:30] Okay. And they truck ... when they put them in burlap bags, is that what they did? Like in burlap bags and then trucked them over to Cocoa?

Charles Terryn: Yes. We took 'em over to Cocoa.

Roz Foster: Okay. Was there a season for palmetto berries? Was that seasonal or was that ...?

Charles Terryn: Yes. They get ripe around September/October.

Roz Foster: In the fall.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, in the fall.

Roz Foster: Thank heavens it was cool. [00:07:00] How were these picked? By hand?

Charles Terryn: We had clippers. They'd be on a long bush and we'd have hampers, and you clip the bush off and then take 'em and shake 'em in the hampers until they got full. That was really heavy, carrying them things around.

Roz Foster: I can imagine.

Charles Terryn: We had to carry 'em back to the car or the trailer where we're at.

Roz Foster: Now, from the time that they [00:07:30] were picked, say September, October, something like that ... the time they were picked until the time they were dried and shipped, how long did that usually take?

Charles Terryn: I would think until the end of spring, probably.

Roz Foster: That long? That's quite a long time.

Charles Terryn: From fall- spring, sometimes a little bit in the summer.

Roz Foster: That was quite a long time. So then the summer, nothing went on, and then [00:08:00] was anything done at the processing area during the summertime at all? Like for instance, redoing the racks or anything like that?

Charles Terryn: My father took care of it. He was a carpenter, he built both our house and my grandmother's house, which was a store.

Roz Foster: Okay. So that's what they did in the summertime, when they weren't doing the palmetto berries?

Charles Terryn: And I said, during [00:08:30] the summer they'd go down to the pier and they'd head shrimp, for money, you know.

Roz Foster: Okay. So that was the other season. You mentioned that your dad built a house out here, and where was that house located?

Charles Terryn: That was where our berry business was.

Roz Foster: Oh, okay, right by the berry business.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. Were the racks for instance, like in your backyard or on the side [00:09:00] yard?

Charles Terryn: It was to the north of us.

Roz Foster: To the north of you.

Charles Terryn: And it--we had 25 acres.

Roz Foster: Oh!

Charles Terryn: We only have about 5 acres cleared.

Roz Foster: Of oceanfront property, almost?

Charles Terryn: No, it was close to the river.

Roz Foster: Close to the river.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Wow, wish you still had that today, huh? Okay, this is a photograph of your mother and two children, is this-

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Who are the two children?

Charles Terryn: [00:09:30] I think it's my sister and my cousin, which was a Tucker.

Roz Foster: Okay. And this was on the side of the house out here that your father had built, with the two little children and your mother. Okay. And it looks like a fine house, too. And this is the other portion of the house-

Charles Terryn: That's the front of the house.

Roz Foster: This is the front of the house, and who are these two little children?

Charles Terryn: It's my sister Myrtis and myself.

Roz Foster: [00:10:00] And this looks like you might be maybe three years old or so.

Charles Terryn: Two or three.

Roz Foster: Two or three, yeah. And that's a fine house. It has concrete steps and lattice work and nice, big windows. And I see that it's a typical Florida up on piers. There's a reason for that, isn't there? Why do they put houses on piers in Florida?

Charles Terryn: Up on cement blocks, we had.

Roz Foster: On concrete blocks.

Charles Terryn: [00:10:30] Yeah. I don't know.

Roz Foster: Well, it was to keep the fleas out, and also to have the wind circulate around them, water rising, that type of thing.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: So it was a wise ... You also had in your backyard some goats. And this is a photograph of the goats with the goat shed, and what did you do ... why did you have goats?

Charles Terryn: [00:11:00] We used to milk them, and we'd drink the goat milk sometimes, when we didn't get milk from Cocoa.

Roz Foster: And did you also have other farm animals?

Charles Terryn: I think my mother said something about a cow, but I don't remember the cow. That's before I could remember.

Roz Foster: Okay. [00:11:30] How about chickens? Did you have chickens?

Charles Terryn: Oh yeah, we had chickens all the time. We used to raise chickens and we'd use ... have to kill the chickens. I hated to do that. My mother had to get somebody to hold them. My sister would always hold them. I'd run down to the road when they did that.

Roz Foster: And I bet you had a chicken dinner on Sundays.

Charles Terryn: Well, Sundays or any other day.

Roz Foster: [00:12:00] Lots of chicken.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Did you eat a lot of fish also?

Charles Terryn: Not too much fish.

Roz Foster: Not too much fish, oh. This is a photograph of you and what are you doing there? What is that?

Charles Terryn: That looks like a hamper that we used to pick the berries in.

Roz Foster: Oh.

Charles Terryn: And It was in front of the chicken yard, that was in the backyard.

Roz Foster: It's sort of like a large rimmed [00:12:30] basket, heavy-duty type.

Charles Terryn: Yeah. It's smaller at the bottom and larger at the top.

Roz Foster: It has metal rings around it. I bet that was heavy to carry.

Charles Terryn: Yeah. Especially when you had it full of berries.

Roz Foster: Yeah. And then you would empty the berries onto the trays, is that where it went from this basket ... onto the trays for drying?

Charles Terryn: Usually they had boxes on the truck or trailer, we'd get them to the boxes and they we'd [00:13:00] carry them to the trays, and then empty them in the tray.

Roz Foster: That sounds like that was labor intensified work, and hard work.

Charles Terryn: Well I didn't do too much of that work then, but I picked berries later for somebody, and it was hard work. I don't know how my father did it.

Roz Foster: Yeah, you're right. And thank heavens harvest time was in the winter time when it was much cooler.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: You mentioned that the Terryn's had [00:13:30] a store. This is a photograph of the store, and where was that located?

Charles Terryn: That was located just at the start of Pier Road.

Roz Foster: Okay. And did people live in the back of the store and just the little bump-out in the front was where the-

Charles Terryn: Yes, that's the way it was.

Roz Foster: And what was carried in the store?

Charles Terryn: Coca-Colas mostly, the drinks. [00:14:00] They had peanut butter crackers and candy.

Roz Foster: Snacks?

Charles Terryn: Snacks.

Roz Foster: --type things...Who would stop at the store? People going to the pier?

Charles Terryn: People going to the pier and when they already moved out here, before they took over, a lot of the army personnel stopped there. And we had a gas pump there, so we sold gas.

Roz Foster: Okay. I can see crates of Coco-cola sitting outside. Did you have a way [00:14:30] to ice them, to get them cold?

Charles Terryn: I don't remember. I think it must have been a gas refrigerator they had at that time.

Roz Foster: Okay, and these probably are the empties that were returned afterward.

Charles Terryn: Okay.

Roz Foster: Who was in this photograph? There are three women.

Charles Terryn: I'm thinking it was my aunt, my grandmother, and I think it was a friend from Chicago that used to come down and visit us. [00:15:00] Hazel Erickson. I'm not sure, I don't see the picture.

Roz Foster: Right there. Yeah, it looks like there's a strong wind blowing because their dresses are blowing.

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: Probably coming from the ocean. At this time, this is about what, 1940s?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, in the 40s.

Roz Foster: 1950, something like that.

Charles Terryn: 40s.

Roz Foster: 1940s, okay. And you had a photograph standing [00:15:30] in front of the store, of your relatives. Who were the ... this is a wonderful family photograph in front of the store and it looks like everyone is just about here. Starting with the lady in the checkered dress, who were these people?

Charles Terryn: That was my mother Aline. That was her father beside her. Robert Mask.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: That's me in front of him. [00:16:00] Hazel Erickson was next to him, my grandfather. That was my little sister hiding behind my other sister-

Roz Foster: I see her peeking out.

Charles Terryn: And that was my aunt Lottie, that was George Erickson going to your left in the back. That was my grandmother in front of him. That was ... I [00:16:30] think it's [Fred Shack 00:16:31], he was the brother-in-law to Hazel Erickson. My older sister is right in front there. All the way to the right was Woodrow Whidden, I think.

Roz Foster: Ah-ha. Well that's a wonderful photograph of everyone standing in front of the store. Has a lot of the family plus some of the other people who lived in the area.

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Great photo. [00:17:00] What was it like living out here as a youngster? Tell me about that, what did you do?

Charles Terryn: Well, my three sisters, we played different things. Some trees to climb, we had goats we played with. I used to butt heads with the goats.

Roz Foster: Oh my! How did the goats survive?

Charles Terryn: I don't know, but they were pretty gentle. They [00:17:30] would come up to you and they would push on it, they wouldn't try to budge you.

Roz Foster: Did you work at the store when you were younger?

Charles Terryn: No, when I was living down here I was too young to work.

Roz Foster: Oh, okay. You were just a young boy.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, I moved out of here when I was 11.

Roz Foster: Oh, so you were very young then. Okay. What do you remember about life out here, and about going to the pier? [00:18:00] Do you remember going to the pier?

Charles Terryn: Yes, when Hazel and George Erickson used to come down from Chicago they'd take us out to the pier and we'd go swimming out in the pier. Yeah.

Roz Foster: How about the lighthouse? Do you remember visiting anyone at the lighthouse?

Charles Terryn: Not very often. I used to go by there on the school bus all the time.

Roz Foster: Okay. Now you didn't go to school here in Cape Canaveral?

Charles Terryn: No, I didn't

Roz Foster: Okay, you went to where?

Charles Terryn: I went to Cocoa.

Roz Foster: Okay, [00:18:30] and who were your school teachers? Do you remember any of their names?

Charles Terryn: I remember my first grade teacher was Mrs. Waller. Second grade teacher, Mrs. Haney. Mrs. Walary the next. Mrs. Jackson. I can remember their names.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: I think about it too long ... I have to think about it.

Roz Foster: Okay. Who was the bus driver?

Charles Terryn: Mostly it was ... first it was Dixie and Ben Lewis. They'd pick up everybody [00:19:00] in Cape Canaveral and they'd drive them over to Cocoa. They'd pick up people at the ... South Banana River Drive, which was where [Jerry Warlee 00:19:20] lived.

Roz Foster: Okay. When you lived out here, what were some of the activities that you did on the weekends? [00:19:30] Do you remember? Like, did you have a lot of company come from the mainland to go fishing or did you go on picnics for special holidays like the Fourth of July? Or? What did you do for entertainment? As a young boy, what did you do for entertainment?

Charles Terryn: Not too much. We lived quite a ways from anybody where we lived. I had three sisters, we [00:20:00] played together. That's about all we did.

Roz Foster: Okay. Do you remember your dad working in the palmettos, how long of a day did he usually have in season? Was it like from dusk to dawn or-

Charles Terryn: Yes it was.

Roz Foster: It was very hard work. How about your granddad? Did he work that also?

Charles Terryn: Not much of that, no.

Roz Foster: [00:20:30] What did he do for a living?

Charles Terryn: He worked out at the pier, mostly fishing and I think he might have worked at the hotel some.

Roz Foster: Okay. Do you remember what the hotel looked like?

Charles Terryn: Just barely. I remember going inside it once or twice.

Roz Foster: Okay. Okay. Was it big?

Charles Terryn: It was big at that time, for me. I was young.

Roz Foster: Okay. Did a lot of people who lived out here ... did they have their own boats?  
[00:21:00] Do you remember?

Charles Terryn: No, I can't remember.

Roz Foster: Okay. Did your family own an automobile?

Charles Terryn: Yes, we owned a 37 Chevrolet.

Roz Foster: Oh.

Charles Terryn: We could drive to Cocoa. I think they built the causeway from the Banana River side to Merritt Island about 1942. I just barely remember that. Mother used to say that. They used to [00:21:30] go down to Minuteman Causeway in Cocoa Beach and go over the wooden bridge.

Roz Foster: That was a long way around.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, but I don't remember that bridge. I don't remember it.

Roz Foster: At the store, how did they get the supplies from the store? Did they have people come bring it in over here? It was such a remote area to come to. Were you the only store [00:22:00] here?

Charles Terryn: The Whidden store was about a mile east of where we lived, closer to the pier.

Roz Foster: The Whidden store was closer to the pier.

Charles Terryn: Yeah. Yeah. It's about halfway up on the road.

Roz Foster: Okay. And what did they ... do you remember what the Whidden store used to have at that?

Charles Terryn: Used to have just about everything. I remember old canned goods and stuff like that.

Roz Foster: Okay, so they had more. Yours was more like [00:22:30] a snack bar, soda pop and that type of thing, where they had the staples like canned goods and probably bread and milk or something like that.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. What was Tolly Whidden's garden? Do you remember anything about that?

Charles Terryn: I don't remember anything about that. All I remember is it kind of a savanna to the west of his store. Benji Lewis, [00:23:00] he had a horse and he put that horse out in that savanna and he'd run up and down that savanna.

Roz Foster: Oh my goodness. So that was right next to the Whidden's garden?

Charles Terryn: I don't know where the garden was.

Roz Foster: Oh, oh, it was next to the Whidden's store.

Charles Terryn: The store, yeah.

Roz Foster: Next to the Whidden store. Okay.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, they had just a hedge in between them.

Roz Foster: Okay. Who are some of the other people that you remembered [00:23:30] that lived out here?

Charles Terryn: I remember Mrs. Makoske, remember where the Quartermans lived, I don't remember too much about him. Remember the Pratoriuses. Remember the Boggs and Mr. Burns lived about a mile south of where we lived on the same road.

Roz Foster: [00:24:00] Okay, what was his first name?

Charles Terryn: Robert.

Roz Foster: Robert Burns. Do you remember him being doing anything with switch-grass brooms or anything? Do you remember-

Charles Terryn: I heard a little bit about it but I think they must have cut the grass out here and took it somewhere else to be put together.

Roz Foster: Okay, because I remember reading something about [00:24:30] ... I think you're right, I think what he did, he'd harvest the grass for the broom maker in Titusville, I believe.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: And what was so great about it is that he would cut it and another 90 days it was up again, so he had a full supply of it all the time. So he made quite a living out of that, and that's called scrub land industries, which everybody during the 30s had to do what they had to do.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: [00:25:00] What do you remember out here about the beekeeping?

Charles Terryn: Oh, I remember Woodrow, my cousin, Woodrow Whidden. He had some beehives he always kept in front of the old Whidden house, which was right next door to us. Right near the road. And he had beehives all over the cape.

Roz Foster: Okay, and in [00:25:30] this photograph, this was the kids that were taking a wonderful little photograph with the old car, and in the background you can see Mr. Whidden's beehives.

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: One of the things ... that there were a lot of different kinds of honey. And do you suppose that what he was collecting in these, as I understand, [00:26:00] his royal jelly that he used was used a lot for medicinal purposes-

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Tell me something, do you know something about that at all?

Charles Terryn: Not too much, no.

Roz Foster: Okay. I understand that it was used for like arthritis, but it was also used for beauty, a moisturizing beauty type of thing also, [00:26:30] and that it was very popular during the 40s and 50s in this area.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: And I was often wondered whether the honey was gotten from the palmetto berries, from the palmetto blossoms.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, they had the hives out here at the Cape, mostly to get the palmetto ... when the palmetto bush was in blossom, that's when the bees got the pollen from there. His business was in Titusville, [00:27:00] and he had his bees out in the orange grove for the orange blossom honey, you know.

Roz Foster: So there is a possibility that some of that honey for medicinal purposes, for the arthritis et cetera, would have come from the palmetto blossom and not the orange blossom.

Charles Terryn: Yes. Well I don't think it came from the honey itself, I think it came from the queen bee itself.

Roz Foster: From [00:27:30] the queen bee itself, yes.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Yes. Yes.

Charles Terryn: No matter what they were harvesting.

Roz Foster: Okay. I don't know, as you can see I don't know too much about that. What do you remember about some of the families that were out here and who went on the school bus with you to school in Cocoa? What were some of the children that attended school with you in Cocoa?

Charles Terryn: Well some people [00:28:00] we picked up from the lighthouse. The children of lighthouse keepers. And it was different ones at different times. Didn't always stay here, you know, different people came. And they'd pick up ... [W.A. Tucker 00:28:19], they lived on the same road about a quarter or a half a mile up north of me. And the Scotts lived next to them. [00:28:30] They had a daughter named Patty, Patty Scott. The three boys that W. had, Melvin, Kelvin, and [Vern?]. They rode the bus. There weren't too many people, about a dozen, half a dozen out here at that time that got on the bus from Cape Canaveral.

Roz Foster: Actually there were quite a few children though [00:29:00] it sounds like.

Charles Terryn: Yeah I remember about six people.

Roz Foster: About six children.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: So that came from this area. What do you remember about the mosquitoes out here when you were little? How did you take care of them, from not getting in the house?

Charles Terryn: We had screens on our windows and everything. And we always had screen [00:29:30] doors.

Roz Foster: And how about during bad weather? How was that? Like for instance, if you had a hurricane?

Charles Terryn: We just sort of close all the doors and windows.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: I remember they had a lot of rain.

Roz Foster: A lot of rain.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. Did you ever have flooding?

Charles Terryn: We lived up on a hill so we had flooding in back of our house.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: We used to go down and play in the puddles after [00:30:00] the hurricanes and after rain storms.

Roz Foster: Okay. If you wanted to leave something about your family and living at Canaveral, what would you say was one of your most wonderful memories about living out here?

Charles Terryn: Probably be ... It [00:30:30] wasn't too crowded. We could do anything, just about, what we wanted. Had some drawbacks, we had to go a long ways to play with other children and something, but I had sisters of my own. So that's all I can remember about it.

Roz Foster: Okay. Is there anything about your family that you would like to [00:31:00] let people know?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, I don't remember what year my father came here, but he said he used to call square dances, he used to dance a jig out here or something for entertainment. He [00:31:30] used to sing.

Roz Foster: Oh, wonderful.

Charles Terryn: And my grandfather and my mother ... Robert Mask. They moved down for Convington Georgia. [00:32:00] My mother said she was about 12 years old so it'd been about 1933. They lived in a old place behind where we lived before ... I can't think of the street.

Roz Foster: [00:32:30] Okay. Okay. So they came during the depression then. In the 30s.

Charles Terryn: I guess '33.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Yeah.

Charles Terryn: The Knowles had a homestead behind where we had the homestead. And they lived there before my father married my mother.

Roz Foster: Okay, okay. Then you all left when the Cape took over, right? When the Air Force took over.

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: You [00:33:00] moved to Cocoa?

Charles Terryn: We moved to the city of Cape Canaveral. My grandmother's store is still there.

Roz Foster: Where is it located?

Charles Terryn: 313 East Madison Avenue.

Roz Foster: Okay. And is it a private resident now?

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: Okay. Can you still see what it used to look like, and does it look basically what it used to look like?

Charles Terryn: Yes. Yes it does.

Roz Foster: Wonderful. And that was moved when the air force came in, in the 1940s?

Charles Terryn: 1950s.

Roz Foster: 1950 it [00:33:30] was moved, so it's been recycled and used as a house.

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: Wonderful, we'll have to go check that out. Is there anything else that you can think that you would like to say today?

Charles Terryn: I can't think of anything right now.

Roz Foster: Okay, well we certainly thank you for coming and participating in our oral history [00:34:00] program. And I'm looking forward to talking with you again.

Charles Terryn: Okay, thank you.

Roz Foster: Thank you.

Okay, we're in Cape Canaveral and this is Charles Terryn at the location of the store and house that was moved from Canaveral in 1950. Charles, would you like to describe the house to us?

Charles Terryn: Yes, this is my grandmother's store. [00:34:30] The front part of the house used to be the store, the small part there. It went all the way to the ground, and the rest of the house was up.

Roz Foster: Okay, now the store was in the front, and what did they sell at the store?

Charles Terryn: They sold Cokes, crackers, and candy. They had a gas pump. They had kerosene.

Roz Foster: All the necessities and snacks.

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: They sold snacks like Cokes and that type of thing.

Charles Terryn: Cokes, crackers. Them little peanut butter crackers, [00:35:00] they still got 'em today.

Roz Foster: Okay. Who were most of your customers?

Charles Terryn: At first I guess it was just everybody that lived up there, and the fisherman that went down to the pier stopped by. When they started taking over the Cape she had a lot of customers from the Army.

Roz Foster: Okay. And then the back of the structure, that was your living quarters, your house. And talk about what that looked like inside, the house portion. [00:35:30] How many rooms were in it?

Charles Terryn: There were five rooms. That got changed over the time, the inside of it.

Roz Foster: Okay. What were the rooms? How many bedrooms?

Charles Terryn: There was two bedrooms, two baths in the back, and kitchen, and the back porch, and the living room.

Roz Foster: Okay. On [00:36:00] the side there where those two windows are, what were those rooms?

Charles Terryn: They were the two bedrooms.

Roz Foster: Okay, and the little window in the back?

Charles Terryn: That's the bathroom now.

Roz Foster: Bathroom now, but it wasn't before.

Charles Terryn: It was a part of the bathroom, it didn't have a window or nothing.

Roz Foster: Okay, and it was always up on concrete blocks when it was out there?

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: And when was the whole [00:36:30] structure moved?

Charles Terryn: It was moved in 1950.

Roz Foster: In 1950, okay. So does it still sort of appear as it did back then? What's the difference?

Charles Terryn: Difference is I guess the ... they've got paneling on the outside. I mean the aluminum paneling.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: [00:37:00] The front part of it's changed.

Roz Foster: Okay. Did it have ... Originally, what type of roof did it have on it?

Charles Terryn: It had a tin roof. Metal roof.

Roz Foster: Okay, and now it has shingles on top of it. But basically, it's just about the same configuration, correct?

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: Okay. [00:37:30] When they moved this in 1950, how old were you?

Charles Terryn: I was 11 years old.

Roz Foster: 11 years old, and you continued to live in the house with your family until approximately how long?

Charles Terryn: Until I was 30 years old.

Roz Foster: Okay, so that was in let's see ...

Charles Terryn: 1969.

Roz Foster: 1969. And then you got married and [00:38:00] moved.

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Okay. Did the family still remain in the house?

Charles Terryn: Yes they did.

Roz Foster: Okay. Until about what time period, do you know? Do you remember?

Charles Terryn: [inaudible 00:38:14]. It was about ... in the late 90s.

Roz Foster: The late 90s. And then the house was [00:38:30] sold?

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Okay, and now it's used as a rental.

Charles Terryn: The house was sold after my mother died.

Roz Foster: Okay, okay, but it still looks in great shape.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. You want to go take a look inside?

Charles Terryn: She invited us inside.

Roz Foster: Okay, let's go take a look.

Charles Terryn: I don't know-

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: They didn't have any windows, just a door. It had a bathroom here, another bathroom there, for the house.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: The other one was for the customers.

Roz Foster: All right, [00:39:00] and that's where the door was?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, right at the end of the house. They fixed this thing up.

Roz Foster: Yeah. And the back porch would have been out here?

Charles Terryn: This was the back porch right here.

Roz Foster: Right here. Okay.

Charles Terryn: That's a nice back porch on it.

Roz Foster: Yeah, that is nice. Okay. And that's the back porch, very nice.

Speaker 3: That is nice! It's a nice [00:39:30] porch.

Roz Foster: Very nice.

Charles Terryn: -in the doors right here.

Roz Foster: Okay, this was the store portion and you can see where the wall was and it went all the way across to this room here. This was the store. That's good. Yeah, okay. Okay. And then was there a door or something that went in here [00:40:00] to the other room?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, the door was over here and the wall went all the way across here. The door was on this side.

Roz Foster: Okay. Okay, so approximately right here was a door.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, they had a counter right here for the store. it went around it, right here, and the door ... they had a wall all the way over to here, to get over into the house.

Roz Foster: Okay. Okay. And then we went through and then this was the house portion and you can see-

Charles Terryn: This was the living room right here.

Roz Foster: This was the living [00:40:30] room.

Charles Terryn: I don't know, this was a little smaller than it was.

Roz Foster: Okay. That was one of the bedrooms.

Charles Terryn: This is the bedroom right here.

Roz Foster: Okay. Which has the ... Was the ceiling always like that?

Charles Terryn: No, that was a paper ceiling too.

Roz Foster: That was a paper ceiling, okay.

Charles Terryn: The paper went down to here.

Roz Foster: Okay. [00:41:00] And is this original to the house, this beam across here? Is this original?

Charles Terryn: My mind is a little-

Roz Foster: This is the living room.

Charles Terryn: They had a wall that came over here and they had another door, went to this next room.

Roz Foster: Oh, okay, so there was a wall.

Charles Terryn: This is the living room right here.

Roz Foster: This is the little living room, okay. And then-

Charles Terryn: This was the kitchen here.

Roz Foster: That was the kitchen.

Charles Terryn: Used to [00:41:30] have an old gas stove right here.

Roz Foster: Okay. So that was the little kitchen and then we went through and this here ...

Charles Terryn: This was the bedroom.

Roz Foster: That was another bedroom. Okay. That was a small bedroom in there. Okay.

Charles Terryn: You want the light on?

Roz Foster: No, I think that's where the [00:42:00] whatchamacallit is.

Charles Terryn: Our bathroom used to be right here.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: Used to be right here, to here.

Roz Foster: Okay, and that was where the little bathroom was, and then the other back bathroom was back there, and that was the one that was used outside, right?

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. And then was this part of the house also? This is now the kitchen?

Charles Terryn: They just made the kitchen ... this is now the kitchen, it used to be the porch.

Roz Foster: This used to be the porch. Okay.

Charles Terryn: [00:42:30] It came up to here, then they had screened in all the way around in the top.

Roz Foster: Okay, so this used to be the porch and now it is a kitchen. Beautiful little kitchen. And that goes out onto a porch. Very nice. Now this was ... Was it in this configuration when you lived in it as it is now?

Charles Terryn: Up until 1962.

Roz Foster: Okay, and [00:43:00] then it was changed?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, they added this ... put the bathroom back here and then the kitchen back here.

Roz Foster: Okay, and then put a porch out there and that goes into the other bathroom, which would have been the bathroom that the customers used originally, with it outside.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, it was narrower than that.

Roz Foster: Okay, a little tiny one.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, so that took part of the two bathrooms, [00:43:30] through there.

Roz Foster: Okay, and your family continued to live in here until your mother passed away and it was sold in, when? 2001? 2000?

Charles Terryn: She was 80 years old, yeah, 2001.

Roz Foster: 2001, so your family owned it from 1942 when they built it, to 2001.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: That's quite a span of time. And this was your home.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: Very nice. [00:44:00] But you said that these ceilings are not original, did you put those in when you lived here?

Charles Terryn: We put this ceiling in.

Roz Foster: Yeah, okay. And that's tongue and groove it looks like, tongue and groove heart pine.

Charles Terryn: Yeah. Pine, yeah.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Heart pine. Yeah. Wonderful little house. How many-

Charles Terryn: I don't see any paper ceilings left.

Roz Foster: No, they're all gone. How about this boards that are up here? That's part of the paneling that you were discussing, that was on here?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, it might [00:44:30] have been. I don't know.

Roz Foster: Okay. It looks like it's original because it's the same type of tongue and groove.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, that was the original.

Roz Foster: Yeah. So that looks like that's what it was. Tongue and groove heart pine paneling.

Charles Terryn: We've had ... it was lacquered. Varnish.

Roz Foster: Lacquer. Yeah, varnished. Yeah. Okay, that's what it looks like.

Charles Terryn: This right here [00:45:00] used to be where the ironing board went back into the-

Roz Foster: Oh! A built-in ironing board, okay. Excellent. And now they utilized the space for knick knacks. Okay, wonderful. Very good use of space. Ironing board. Okay, you had to make all kinds of little concessions for space.

Charles Terryn: Yeah, that panel back there ... There's two panels. Electrical panel, that-

Roz Foster: Okay, still have [00:45:30] the electrical panel. Okay, good.

Charles Terryn: They just added the panel on the outside.

Roz Foster: How many square footage do you think is in this house approximately, total?

Charles Terryn: I have no idea. I do not.

Roz Foster: I say it's probably about 900 and something? Yeah. That's what it appears to ... maybe 900 something. Well, you've came and you've seen what it looks like so many [00:46:00] years after this, does it bring back a lot of memories?

Charles Terryn: Oh yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: That window used to be about that wide, how wide that window was.

Roz Foster: That window there?

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: So they widened that window. And this was all the little store here, which is ... Oh, I'd say it's-- the whole house is approximately maybe 10 foot wide if that, 10 foot wide [00:46:30] in the little store area by ... it's almost square. About 10 by 10. And then it goes out into the other section.

Charles Terryn: That and then the two bedrooms are out there.

Roz Foster: Yeah. Very nice.

Charles Terryn: The bathroom.

Roz Foster: Very nice.

Charles, tell me what this little structure is?

Charles Terryn: This is-

Roz Foster: Wait a minute.

Charles Terryn: -the old [00:47:00] Seventh Adventist church. Ben Lewis donated the property and they had a-

Roz Foster: Okay, when was this church built, Charles?

Charles Terryn: This was built in the 19 ... oh, I forgot.

Roz Foster: Okay. It was built sometime in the 1970s maybe?

Charles Terryn: 60s, probably.

Roz Foster: 60s, 70s.

Charles Terryn: In the 60s.

Roz Foster: Okay, and this replaced [00:47:30] the original little Seventh Day Adventist church that was moved from the Cape?

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Okay. Who owned most of this property?

Charles Terryn: Ben Lewis.

Roz Foster: Okay. And where was he from?

Charles Terryn: He lived up at the Cape on Pier Road, it was next to the old Whidden store, where he lived.

Roz Foster: Okay. And approximately in this location back in woods back there was where they [00:48:00] brought the other old Seventh Day Adventist church and placed it?

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: Now, about what time was that? Was that in the 50s also?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, 1950.

Roz Foster: Okay. And that was used until you built this other church?

Charles Terryn: That's right.

Roz Foster: Okay. And what is this little shed over here that's located on the property?

Charles Terryn: Ben Lewis, after he moved his house out to the location [00:48:30] in front of the shed, he built the shed out here for his work.

Roz Foster: Okay. Okay. What happened to his house? Did it burn down or did they just take it down?

Charles Terryn: After he moved over to St. Pete, they took the building down. They tore it down.

Roz Foster: Okay, but the little shed ... But he owned all this property?

Charles Terryn: Yeah, all the way up to the A1-A

Roz Foster: Okay, and then we're on, by the way, this property [00:49:00] is located on the corner of A1A and church street in city of Cape Canaveral. And then when they built this other small church here to replace the original Seventh Day Adventist, then who did they sell this to? They sold it to the-

Charles Terryn: The Presbyterian Bible--Presbyterian [00:49:30] church.

Roz Foster: Church. And then they built the large structure over there and used this one as a chapel. What happened--where is the Seventh Day Adventist church now? Where did you move to?

Charles Terryn: To on Cox road in Cocoa.

Roz Foster: Okay, so it's still operating.

Charles Terryn: Yes.

Roz Foster: How many of the original members still attend church there?

Charles Terryn: From the Cape?

Roz Foster: Yeah.

Charles Terryn: [00:50:00] There's none of them left except me.

Roz Foster: Except you. You still belong to the same church, that's wonderful. Who was the pastor that pastored here at this church? Do you remember?

Charles Terryn: We had several pastors.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: It was Pastor Roy, Pastor ... I can't think of them all.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: Pastor Blaine.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: DuBose. [00:50:30]

Roz Foster: Okay. Did the pastor that came from Canaveral, did he also come over in 50 when you moved the church?

Charles Terryn: We didn't have a regular pastor out there at the Cape. We had the elders that had service... take turns for the service.

Roz Foster: Okay. And did most of those people come when you moved in the 50s?

Charles Terryn: The original ones, yes.

Roz Foster: Yes, okay. And do you remember some of their names?

Charles Terryn: There was [00:51:00] Judith Whidden and Lena Whidden. They lived at the old Whidden store. They brought it over here.

Roz Foster: Oh, they brought the Whidden store over here also?

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: On the same property, okay.

Charles Terryn: Same property as the church was, it's only a little north of there.

Roz Foster: Okay. And what happened to the store? Did that-

Charles Terryn: They tore that down too.

Roz Foster: Okay. [00:51:30] And who were some of the other people? The Whiddens, the ...?

Charles Terryn: Ivan Crowder and I forget ... Mrs. Crowder.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: Iva May, I think. Iva May was her name.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: They brought properties just across the other side of A1-A over here on Washington.

Roz Foster: On Washington.

Charles Terryn: They had a big piece of property over there too.

Roz Foster: Okay, and did they move their house also?

Charles Terryn: Yes, [00:52:00] they did.

Roz Foster: Okay, to that piece of property. So actually quite a few people moved here to the city of Cape Canaveral and moved their houses here.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: And how many are in existence today?

Charles Terryn: The houses?

Roz Foster: Yes, the houses.

Charles Terryn: I think my grandmother's old store and two Praetorius houses.

Roz Foster: Okay.

Charles Terryn: The rest of them are torn down.

Roz Foster: And all the rest of them are no longer here. Okay.

Charles Terryn: [00:52:30] Yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay. We're going into where the old Seventh Day Adventist church was located originally.

Charles Terryn: I think it's right in this area somewhere, right in here. There was some big oak trees here.

Roz Foster: These are some big oak trees that are located here.

Charles Terryn: It's probably on this side.

Roz Foster: Probably on this side, okay.

Charles Terryn: [00:53:00] The old Whidden store was back in there quite a way, on the other side of the trees.

Roz Foster: Okay, so it's all grown up now. You'd never know anything was here.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: What beautiful old oak trees. Gorgeous. Okay.

What are these houses [00:53:30] from, Charles?

Charles Terryn: This house used to be on Pier road. It belong to the Praetorius, this belongs to their son now. Albert Praetorius.

Roz Foster: And these were moved also in the 1950s?

Charles Terryn: They were moved in 1950, yeah.

Roz Foster: Okay, and we're in the city of Cape Canaveral. [00:54:00] And there's another one done the road, let's walk down there and see what that one looks like.

Charles Terryn: [inaudible 00:54:09].

Roz Foster: This is the back of the structure, same structure. And there's a lot of pretty interesting detail on it. [00:54:30] There's an opening to the back ... it appears that it doesn't have a roof on that section.

Charles Terryn: [inaudible 00:54:46].

Roz Foster: It's a lower roof.

Not too far from that house, this is another house. [00:55:00] Same style, not quite as fancy. Tell me something about this house.

Charles Terryn: Well all I know about this house is Albert told me it belonged to his grandmother and that it was located near the river. It had a royal palm right beside it. I think they took that royal palm and put it in the [00:55:30] middle of the road where they've now got the Cape, and it died.

Roz Foster: Oh. Do you know anything about this fence that's in here? That looks like old tabby type of concrete block, did that possibly come from out there also?

Charles Terryn: I'm not sure, I don't know.

Roz Foster: Okay, we'll have to ask Mr. Praetorius.

Charles Terryn: Yeah.

Roz Foster: It's very interesting, actually. [00:56:00] It is tabby concrete block.

Charles Terryn: Stuccoed. All stuccoed that color.

Roz Foster: And then it's stuccoed down the way there. Okay.

Charles Terryn: See those holes up there? I think that's where the water comes off the roof.

Roz Foster: They're made as drain holes. Interesting that it comes off ... they're roofs [00:56:30] in the inside, they're flat roofs. Yeah. Interesting. It's actually in pretty good shape. It looks like it has the original windows and screens. And the possibility is that these may be torn down?

Charles Terryn: Yes. Uh huh.

Roz Foster: This is the front porch. It's pretty well grown up so you can't see too much of the west side of the house, but there is [00:57:00] an interesting little bump out area here, that could possibly be part of a dining room. Oh-- Interesting.