

Roz: ... 22, 2008. Oral History. Today we are interviewing a very lovely lady who has a wonderful story to tell about her father and her family who were all fishermen and all buried at sea and has a wonderful legacy to her father, but first let her introduce herself. What is your name please?

Evelyn: Evelyn Rosemarie Parker Boyle.

Roz: Okay. Who were your parents?

Evelyn: My parents were Steadman Anthony Parker, Jr. and Denise Bianca De Giovanni Parker.

Roz: Okay and when was that picture taken? Approximately.

Evelyn: This was taken when they were married 27 years in Miami, Florida.

Roz: Okay.

Evelyn: They were married in 1919 in London, England just after the war.

Roz: Okay. Tell me something about your grandmother, what did she do in London?

Evelyn: That was my mother.

Roz: Oh! That was your mother. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Evelyn: She was a ballerina on the London stage. Then my father met her, fell in love with her and married her and brought her to the United States.

Roz: Oh wonderful. Do you have a photograph of your mother and father when they were young? Oh, excuse me. That's your mother and father when they were young. I'm sorry.

Evelyn: This is them. When they were married [00:02:00] 27 years also.

Roz: Okay. Wonderful. Who are your grandparents?

Evelyn: My grandparents are John Henry Parker and Hedy Melinda Foch Parker.

Roz: So you're of kin to the Foch's?

Evelyn: Foch's, yes.

Roz: Okay and when were they born? Their era?

Evelyn: My grandfather was born September 19th 1875 in Milledgeville-

Roz: Oh Milledgeville, yes.

Evelyn: Milledgeville in Hancock County, Georgia and he married Melinda, Hedy Melinda Foch on May the 30th 1895 at City Point, Brevard County, Florida and he died January 3rd 1944, Port Orange, Volusia County, Florida.

Roz: Okay. Hedy?

Evelyn: Hedy was born July 26th 1878 in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. She married on May 30th 1895 to John Henry at City Point, Brevard County, Florida. She died February 21st 1945, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida.

Roz: Can you tell me something about ... [00:04:00] you have another photograph of them when they were much younger.

Evelyn: This is my grandfather and my grandmother.

Roz: How handsome! John Henry.

Evelyn: They were young.

Roz: This is what she looked like. They were a beautiful couple. Tell me something about them. Did they live here in Brevard County?

Evelyn: They lived in Port Orange when I was a child and I don't remember before that.

Roz: Okay.

Evelyn: Cause I moved to Miami, Florida when I was about 3 or 4 years old so I don't remember much about this area.

Roz: Now you have something else that's just wonderful and that is about your family. You have another wonderful photograph of some of the relatives that was taken, I believe, in Sebastian. From left to right could you tell me who they are?

Evelyn: Jenna Coleson Parker, my uncle, I mean my father's brother, John Louis Parker and then John Henry Parker is my grandfather. He married Hedy Melinda Foch Parker and then the other person is Ida William Parker Finley.

Roz: Finley, okay.

Evelyn: Mrs. William Andrew Finley and next is Archie Louis Parker and his wife [00:06:00] Brenda Brown Parker, sorry.

Roz: That's okay. Then you have a wonderful collection that you have made of your family members on this board. Let's start on the top with that beautiful smiling face that's up on your left hand side there. Tell us who that is and what that says underneath.

Evelyn: That's my mother coming from London, England with my father after they were married and they were on the U.S.S. Louisville and it was a windy day so the expression was quite genuine because she was taken by surprise. Then the next picture is her later on when we lived in Miami. My next picture is my grandmother, Rosa De Giovanni Maloney. She died in 1949 and she was my grandmother.

Roz: Okay.

Evelyn: The next picture is my sister, Linda and myself and my other sister Gloria. This was when, I guess 50's? 40's? Probably the 60's.

Roz: 1974 it says on the top.

Evelyn: Okay. I'm not a good reader

Roz: That's okay. Then?

Evelyn: My uncle Pas, that was my mother's brother.

Roz: Okay, that says 1930, so that's good.

Evelyn: Then my, a picture of us standing in front of the school we went to. We lived on 24th street, I [00:08:00] think it was, in 1939. That's Gloria, myself and my sister Linda and my brother Ted.

Roz: Let's drop down there.

Evelyn: This is another picture in Miami. I guess this was ... Oh, here it is.

Roz: 1967.

Evelyn: ... 1967. Myself, my sister Gloria, my mother, and my sister Linda. Then we went to our 50th anniversary of the high school we went to, Miami Edison, one of the guys was dressed up like a cheerleader.

Roz: (laughs) Okay and then the one next to that, up at the top, next to it. Yeah, Mmm-hmm.

Evelyn: This was Miami in 1970, my brother Ted, my mother, my sister Linda and her husband Tommy and Gloria. It was my mother's birthday celebration.

Roz: Okay. Then we're going over to the, yeah to that one there.

Evelyn: This is the one that was taken of my daddy and mother in 1919 when they came from London to the United States. After that these two smaller pictures, they were married 27 years and that's my father and my mother later.

Roz: Now let's go over here. This is a lovely photograph too. This is on their wedding day.

Evelyn: This is their wedding day.

Roz: What a beautiful photograph. That's February 15th 1919.

Evelyn: Yes.

Roz: Very Nice. Then this when they were, he was in the service.

Evelyn: This is the Merchant Marine uniform, now. [00:10:00]

Roz: Ah-ha.

Evelyn: In between the first world war, he was in the first world war and then he was in the second world war, but in between he was a merchant Marine and there he is the captain of the Merchant Marine. This was 1942.

Roz: Okay. Now who is this lovely lady with the two children in front of the doorway there?

Evelyn: That's my mother and my sister Linda, she was just born in London, England on March 4th 1932 and that's me at 2 years old.

Roz: That's adorable and then the next one is your beautiful mother again.

Evelyn: Mother when she was holding Anita, she only lived 9 months.

Roz: That was 1920. Then the next one is-

Evelyn: 1942, Captain Steadman Parker and Denise Parker.

Roz: Let's go down to the bottom there, who's that right there?

Evelyn: These?

Roz: That's the family!

Evelyn: My husband Frank, my brother-in-law Tom, my son Francis, my brother Ted and Michael, my brother's son and this down here is my daughter, Linda and my other son, Neil.

Roz: Very nice.

Evelyn: Then over here is my brother and his wife, Doris. This is Doris here and Doris there. This is their three children, Denise, Karen , and Michael. Then we have a group picture here of my sister Linda, my son Neil, her daughter Coleen, my son Francis and Mike, [00:12:00] my sister's son, there's my mother and that's me. This is Aileen, Linda's youngest daughter and there's my youngest daughter, Linda and this is Pat holding the dog.

Roz: (laughs)

Evelyn: My sister's. She had four children, I had three and my brother had three so my mother called it her "Ten grand".

Roz: (laughs) Now let's go all the way over here and right there, the little children right there.

Evelyn: This is 1935. Gloria and Ted and that's me and my sister Linda in Daytona where we lived then.

Roz: The next one is you as a young lady.

Evelyn: In high school.

Roz: How sweet. That's adorable.

Evelyn: 1942. Then my dad.

Roz: Then here comes your dad.

Evelyn: He was ferrying planes over to Africa for the, to fight in the second world war and they were B25's I think, no B24's he was ferrying over to Africa.

Roz: Well that's a lovely family portrait that you have there. Our next subject is, We're going to have the wonderful story about your father and the wonderful contribution that he made to the state of Florida and also for all of us to enjoy today.

Okay! We are going to talk about your father now, which I know is just absolutely wonderful story. Tell me what this board represents.

Evelyn: This board represents the history of my father when he was a young boy and he discovered the [00:14:00] galleon at the-

Roz: Sebastian Inlet.

Evelyn: ... Sebastian Inlet, the old Sebastian Inlet. This is the map that he had, I don't know how he got it, but anyways he had this of the Florida and this is him at 14 years old when he first saw the old galleon at the old Sebastian Inlet rotting away. Then this one is him in the air force ferrying the B24's over to Africa. This is his captain's licensed mariner. He was a captain in the Merchant Marines and this shows him looking for the treasures at the different places the galleons went down-

Roz: On the beach at Sebastian.

Evelyn: ... At different places, yes, Sebastian was one of them. This is him in the first world war when he was a pilot over in France, fighting the Germans. Here is my uncle Pete with one of the cannons that they brought out of the ocean that daddy, they discovered.

Roz: Wow.

Evelyn: Up here is him looking at his old charts and looking at the treasure hunting that he did and his story, it's all about him and how he went through the different places trying to retrieve the treasures but they eluded him. Anyway, he needed funds to help him get the treasures out. Down here you can see the big machines that they used to have to bring upon the edge of the water where the ships went down. This took finances and the chain link men was one of the financiers and Fisher

Roz: Mel Fisher?

Evelyn: Fisher was also one of the financiers. He was able [00:16:00] to get the treasures out and find them and put them in his place that he has down in Sebastian.

Roz: This is in 1951?

Evelyn: '51. Yes.

Roz: Okay, that's extraordinary. He was actually, did he go, you had told me that he had gone over to-

Evelyn: Spain.

Roz: ... Spain and got a lot of records and everything else, so he knew where they were and what was on them.

Evelyn: Yes. Most of the Spanish had come back and retrieved most of the treasures, they got them back themselves but there was a few of them that they did have some coins. I have a couple of coins.

Roz: Oh, wonderful. This is absolutely extraordinary, this is a wonderful coin and you-

Evelyn: Piece of 8.

Roz: ... Piece of 8 and made a piece of jewelry out of it. Absolutely extraordinary. Look at that, beautiful. You also have another one?

Evelyn: This is a piece of 4.

Roz: Piece of 4. Look at that, that's absolutely wonderful. Let's see where it is. There it is. That's a piece of 4 and that's actually gold.

Evelyn: Mmm-hmm.

Roz: [00:18:00] Isn't that beautiful? Very, very nice. Beautiful piece. Some other things that you have that are true treasures of your father are these watches. Tell me what each one is.

Evelyn: This is how he would mount it on the ship so that it wouldn't shake around or move and be jostled. It's always set on the Greenwich time which is 5 hours earlier than our time and it was always set on that time for him to keep the navigational information he needed. Then when he would shoot the stars with his sextant, he had the, the second hand would go around how many times to bring the star to the horizon and that would tell him exactly where he was in the ocean. He was quite a navigator.

Roz: Fantastic and it's amazing that these were preserved all these years. What do we have underneath this, this map?

Evelyn: This is a navigational map, which I have quite a few of them. This particular one is St. Augustine to Titusville and it has three different sections that shows the shoreline.

Roz: Fantastic and it's quite large, also. Isn't it? This is beautiful photograph of your father, when was this taken?

Evelyn: This was in 1942 when he was ferrying the B24's over to Africa. He told the pilot, "In 8 minutes and 20 seconds you're going to see the coast of Africa". That's how correct he could measure something down to the second [00:20:00] when he was navigating.

Roz: That's fantastic. You also have a yearbook from Fort Pierce elementary. What is this relative too?

Evelyn: Well this is where he went to high school, they had advanced it also to include a high school section. He went to high school there in 19, it think it was '17. I'm not sure exactly the date but he went to high school in Fort Pierce. Then went into the Army, which that picture over there is the first picture, no this one-

Roz: This one here.

Evelyn: This one here.

Roz: Ah-ha.

Evelyn: When he first went into the Army.

Roz: Tell us what this photograph represents.

Evelyn: This is the beginning stage of working with the magnet to discover the coins on the beaches and the watches and all the kind of jewelry that you could find. This is the first stage of it where it was on a pole and had something at either end to make a magnet to the coins. But then they got to the stage to where it was just a little round thing at the end of a pole and now of course it's even smaller, what they've come out with. This was the first, beginning of that, this was in 1960. Yes, this is 1960.

Roz: Also we have a very interesting article that tells about the lost and found Florida's space coast-

Evelyn: Cape Canaveral.

Roz: Cape Canaveral.

Evelyn: They printed that picture and I said, [00:22:00] "I have it on my wall".

Roz: This that was printed in here is actually the map that your father had that is on your wall that is part of your wonderful display that you have about your father. It's the actual map. Where did he get this? This map?

Evelyn: I don't remember that part of the story, I don't know when he obtained it. He did, he had the whole side but my cousin got the other half of it and I don't know where he is now. (laughs)

Roz: (laughs) So this is half of it, actually it shows all the degrees-

Evelyn: It was called the Gulf of Florida.

Roz: Right, and some of the ships that were on here. Most likely he got this when he went to Spain and it is in 1774 it's the part of east Florida and right there it says that it's 1774. This is beautiful.

You also told me about this gentleman that is in this photograph right here which is a tremendous photograph. He was the first ranger at Pelican Island I believe.

Evelyn: Yes.

Roz: What was his name?

Evelyn: Paul Kroegel, March 14th 1903, he was the first ranger for Pelican Island.

Roz: That is him with your father.

Evelyn: Right here.

Roz: Yeah, right there and that was taken in '51 when they [inaudible 00:23:57] [00:24:00] Your father was also a commercial fisherman and we understand that he lived down in Sebastian when he was a commercial fisherman and you have this book that has him listed as-

Evelyn: This is father and his brother, Cecil.

Roz: Cecil.

Evelyn: Yes.

Roz: They're both listed in this book. What is the title of this book? There it is, "Tales of Sebastian", "More Tales of Sebastian". He is listed in there as one of the first

fisherman. Then we also have over here, Captain Steadman Clark- [Audio ends  
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