

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

Nancy Yasecko: Interview with Elizabeth Scobie. Copyright Brevard County Historical Commission 1992. Tell us when and where you were born?

M.E. Scobie: I was born at Sharpes, Florida on December the 6th, 1907. My mother was the only daughter of Dr. Holmes, and I was the first granddaughter, so I sort of suppose that maybe that's [00:00:30] why, and no hospitals around that she went home, and her mother could take care of us.

Nancy Yasecko: When did your family first come to the Brevard area?

M.E. Scobie: Well, my grandfather said that he came in the fall and winter of 1974. And--

Nancy Yasecko: It was in 1874.

M.E. Scobie: I mean 1874. I wasn't really thinking. [00:01:00] So, they said they needed a doctor down there. I think they'd had several doctors in the area, but need a doctor, and several cousins had died they said of consumption in Ohio. And he moved down with his three sons then, and to get into the milder climate, and-- but that didn't save them [00:01:30] 'cause years later there was a big forest fire down there, and the two older sons Ed and Frank fought that fire, and you know one of 'em died the following April, and the other one the following May. I guess too much inhaling of smoke. And they had hardly I guess anything to do for it.

Nancy Yasecko: And your mother's family?

M.E. Scobie: That was my mother's. She was the only daughter, [00:02:00] and she was born after they came down here in the same house, but it was City Point when she was born, and when I was born it was Sharpes. And they didn't record birth certificates way back then, you know, so my mother was working for the telephone company during the war, and you had to know who you were, so there was an administrator there that had been there at the home when [00:02:30] she was born, and she could give affidavit and Bible records, so she got a birth certificate. And my grandfather had registered me, and he was the second doctor to record his certificate in Brevard County. Dr. Wilson was one of the early doctors, he was the first.

Nancy Yasecko: So your grandfather's [00:03:00] name was George.

M.E. Scobie: George W. Holmes.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me a little bit about how he did his doctoring. I understand it was unusual.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, he had an office there inside the house. And I know we could walk through, and there was bottles and bottles, pills, and you didn't--you weren't allowed to touch anything. He could fill his own prescriptions. And sometimes, I think when he was out, and not [00:03:30] going to be home soon my grandmother did it. And he was also soon as the railroad was extended down he was made surgeon of the Florida East Coast Railroad, but he didn't like surgery. And unless it was an emergency he sent 'em to the Florida East Coast Hospital in St. Augustine, and my sister told me he was still getting passes on the railroad [00:04:00] when he died in December of 1926.

Nancy Yasecko: Would he travel on the train?

M.E. Scobie: He did. There was a story I mentioned that he went to Sebastian to see people he went on the train, and they said, "They would spread the word around that the good doctor was there," and everybody that needed to see him would come in. And then [00:04:30] they told me about L.C. Crofton, attorney, one time, he said, "Your grandfather walked through palmettos to get to one patient." I thought, "Well, that was easy to do 'cause there was a lot of palmettos," but he didn't tell me then, but I talked to another man in Coc-- Melbourne that had written a lot of history the Indian River steamboats.

[00:05:00] And he told me that it was in 1891, and they were moving the lighthouse back because the sea was getting too near, and this man fell from about 25 feet, and drove his bones into the planks." Well, they said, "They started out from Canaveral and knew grandfather lived in Sharpes, and they got over [00:05:30] to Georgiana, and then across the river and up there. And when they got up and found out he was back in Georgiana, so they had to retrace their steps," so that was when he walked through the palmettos. I never learned whether the man lived or not.

Nancy Yasecko: Wow, it must have been hard to get along by yourself out in the woods the way most people did.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, he had a sailboat, he traveled up [00:06:00] and down the river. And one time they said he got becalmed at Eau Gallie, and spent the night with Dr. Creel. My mother used to take him to the trains and meet him, and they would say it was time for us to come down, and visit there, and the conductors knew my grandfather, and everybody. They put us on the train here, and my grandfather would meet us [00:06:30] down there, and, but it wasn't--travelin' wasn't very good back then. The roads usually followed the river.

Nancy Yasecko: What were the roads made out of?

M.E. Scobie: Well, lots of times they were just sand, and you know, like that. It was just a short time ago there was an article in the Star-Advocate they put the 100 years and 50 years. [00:07:00] It said, "My grandfather had given oyster shells to pave

Washington Avenue from down to A.A. Stewart's property," and that's where the Florida Power and Light office is now, but I know early it was just sand.

Nancy Yasecko: When your grandfather took the boat south for his practice how far south would he go?

M.E. Scobie: Well, [00:07:30] I don't know. I don't think he went maybe farther than Melbourne, and up here and across the river. I know Mr. Godbey told me one time he said, "I used to meet your grandfather over on Merritt Island, and take him to see his patients." He said, "I don't know what he charged them." He said, "I charged him \$5 to do it." So over the years I've heard stories from people about [00:08:00] it.

Nancy Yasecko: The early businesses around Titusville, I guess, industries there was a fishing industry I understand.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, well, it was my grandfather Scobie, George W. Scobie Sr. came from Connecticut, and it was 1882 or '83 I think they came down, and I believe they said they came in the oyster boat. And I don't know just what [00:08:30] that was. And they settled here, and were credited with starting the fishing industry. It was my uncle George Scobie Jr., and my father Frederick Scobie and came down, and my grandmother, and it was an aunt that was born down here, and so we always- [00:09:00] that's it. Daddy brought all kinds of fish home, crabs home, you know. And they'd get caught in the nets, and so when there wasn't anything else we-- there was always mullet because they didn't have closed season on that.

Nancy Yasecko: How did they do the fishing?

M.E. Scobie: It was with nets, and they said that this man that wrote about [00:09:30] the Scobie's, too, and my grandfather, said, "It seems they had a special net that they used."

Nancy Yasecko: They'd take one or two boats out.

M.E. Scobie: Well, they had a skiff that they put the nets in. They put 'em on these--they had rails, and they put them up to dry them. And then they had to take them down, and put them in the back of the [00:10:00] boat of the skiff, so they could then row, and let it run out the back and set it early I guess in the evening, and take them up early morning. I don't know whether it was--they had a motorboat with a motor that pulled the skiff.

Nancy Yasecko: It probably came later the motors.

M.E. Scobie: And they had--my grandfather had a [00:10:30] fish house out there, and they always had a man in there to look after them. It was a big vat that they put the fish in, in water. Water they dipped out of the Indian River I would think. And then it was the trout, they couldn't ship them whole. They had, they called it gutting

'em. They had to [00:11:00] slit 'em and take the insides out. And when they tossed 'em out, oh you should see the catfish that would be there. My sister said it looked like you could walk on them they'd be so many, but they had bottom fish, and then, of course, they'd catch others, too, but it was mostly mullet and trout, and bass, and the pan fish, bottom fish. But oh they went--

And then my grandfather saw the need [00:11:30] for the barrels to ship 'em in, so they, out on the end of the city wharf there was a big warehouse where the steamers used to leave their products, well, he had a, they call 'em coopers, and I watched 'em make the barrels. They'd had the forms and stand and staves in them, and then shape 'em into a barrel, and put the head on. And my sister used to drive my grandfather [00:12:00] down to, south I think as far as Salerno and take orders for barrels. They shipped 'em out, too, to other people 'cause they'd ice 'em down in that, you know, and then ship 'em. And one time daddy brought when the addressograph came out, it was a hand operated one, he brought it home, and we had the fun of running those cards. They printed with quotations, [00:12:30] and we ran them off the kids did it.

Nancy Yasecko: I don't think I know what an addressograph is.

M.E. Scobie: Well, they had the address on cards on metal slips, and they went through, and you put the card there, and the card would be stamped with the address.

Nancy Yasecko: Kind of like they do credit cards now.

M.E. Scobie: I guess so.

Nancy Yasecko: So you had a big plant making barrels.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, and then after [00:13:00] many storms the wharf finally had to be torn down. And there was about four houses out there, and my uncle had a marine supply because they needed for the boats and the men fishing, and so there was my grandfather had a fish house, and my father had one, and my uncle had one. I think my uncles was a Seaboard, [00:13:30] and I believe the one daddy had was the Star. And I don't remember what my grandfathers was.

Nancy Yasecko: Where would they ship the fish?

M.E. Scobie: Well, I never saw so many small places in Georgia in that group that they went to small towns up there mostly.

Nancy Yasecko: So you saw all those addresses when you were playing with the machine.

M.E. Scobie: Yes. Yes, Daddy brought it home, and put it on the table. Of course, we could run 'em off [00:14:00] in no time.

Nancy Yasecko: That's interesting people in Georgia eating Indian River fish.

M.E. Scobie: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: There must have been an ice house here then.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, they have from early, pretty early days it was Southern Electric, or something before the Florida Power and Light.

Nancy Yasecko: Mhmm. Do you recall the steamboats that used to come on the river, or were they a little before your time?

M.E. Scobie: They were before my time.

Nancy Yasecko: You [00:14:30] probably heard stories about 'em.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes. I've got the book that this man in Melbourne. Hopgood is it?

Nancy Yasecko: Hopwood.

M.E. Scobie: Hopwood, and when I wrote to him for it he had seen mentions of both Scobie and Holmes' family, and he remarked about it.

Nancy Yasecko: Mhmm. What do you remember about the citrus industry coming in? That was--

M.E. Scobie: Well, that was always a large thing, and I know they [00:15:00] wrote that my grandfather Holmes was the first doctor that they'd ever heard of that raised his seedlings, and did the budding. And he had a grove, and he had a packing house and shipped.

Nancy Yasecko: So he did all kinds of things.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, back in those days because grandpa didn't turn anybody down whether they had the money or not. And I know my sister took her son to Dr. [00:15:30] LaRoche, I've forgotten which one, one time, and he said, mentioned, he said, "Your doctor delivered me and I don't know if he got paid for it or not." So--

Nancy Yasecko: So they were just starting to put in a lot of groves around here in the '20's.

M.E. Scobie: Well, yes, and see the big one was Nevins Fruit Company that Mr. J.J. Parrish was in. [00:16:00] And of course, that was about the only thing except working in a grocery store, or something like that. Denham's Dry Goods, but they were either working in the grove 'cause then they just had to hoe, and you know, and keep the weeds down, and picking the fruit and shipping 'em. And then I think every fish house down on the dock [00:16:30] had several outfits that went out fishing.

Nancy Yasecko: Mhmm. What other businesses were there in town? Were there any other-- You mentioned Denham's Store.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, department store. They had shoes and dry goods. And they didn't carry any women's clothes early days. I had clerked in there during Saturdays during school, and also helped do [00:17:00] the inventory. And then later I worked in there with Mrs. Denham. And then we had Watters and they carried men's clothing, and women's shoes. And there was, of course, a garage always from the time I remember, and lawyers, and surveyors, and [00:17:30] being the county seat I guess we had more than maybe some other places.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, I understand you worked in the courthouse for some years.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, I went to work in '33 for Mr. H.C. Morgan. He was tax collector, and he had just come into office. And they passed this Futch Act. [00:18:00] See, most of the property wasn't being taxed on the roll there was delinquent taxes on it, and they just accumulated 'til they paid 'em off or they came back on, so that's when I first started to work there. We had to put all that property extend the tax on it, and then have a tax sale on it when it wasn't paid so it was-- We wrote all the tax [00:18:30] receipts by hand. Mr. Morgan took the last part of the book, and gave me the first part. I guess he thought I'd recognize more of them and this H.J. Waters he always paid his tax, and his name wasn't on the check, and I couldn't read it. I always had to ask him to be sure who it was.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember [00:19:00] any colorful characters there around the courthouse?

M.E. Scobie: Well, you know we always--the jail was upstairs, you know, over at the old courthouse, and so you had people coming and going. You didn't know always who they were, and I think they tried to take the backdoor rather, and out the backstairs instead of [00:19:30] the front part. Of course, there would be famous courts up there. And Colonel Butt from Cocoa he was quite an orator, and you could hear him from quite a ways 'cause I, too, worked for the city in '29 and '30 for a year with Mr. J.P. Wilson. See we had bonded all these streets, [00:20:00] and they couldn't pay the bonds, the interest on the bonds so people weren't paying taxes.

All we were getting were some water bills. Now the Florida East Coast might have, and telephone company, and somethin' like that, but the city just wasn't getting any money in, so Mr. Wilson tried to help the people with his street paving and taxes. He would get a bond, and he always kept that money in [00:20:30] a cigar box separate. And he let people take a coupon or bond, whatever they needed 'cause I think at that time it was just about 20 cents on the dollar. And they were trying to refund 'em. I know after the city thought they couldn't pay me anymore, and Mr. Wilson had it by himself, well, I went back a time or two while he had to go to Sanford on the [00:21:00] refunding the bonds.

Nancy Yasecko: You're talking about during the Depression when a lot of things were closing down.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, I know it. The bank did see my grandfather Scobie was president of the Bank of Titusville, and it stayed open after most of the others had closed, but it was either cashier, or assistant cashier. It never--the assistant left town because I think he thought he would [00:21:30] be blamed anyway. Some of them told that the cashier was living in Orlando with a Japanese butler, and his girlfriend had a fur coat. And they were telling all kinds of stories.

Nancy Yasecko: Those were pretty hard times there.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, they were. I know lots of times I thought "Well, I won't worry, and [00:22:00] get upset about it," but you were able to pay rent, and buy groceries, and dress yourself, and that was the way it was. Well, you wouldn't believe it, but I was working for \$15 a week in the tax collector's office. The girls back in the clerk's office they were only making \$55 a month, so I was making a little bit more.

Nancy Yasecko: I hear from some people that was a lot of people they would trade [00:22:30] out things. There wasn't as much cash around.

M.E. Scobie: I guess there wasn't, but then later I worked a year for the Piggly Wiggly. And I had been then doing bookkeeping in between the time I graduated and went to business college, so that was something because you're on your feet. I [00:23:00] sometimes thought I couldn't walk home and it wasn't but a couple of blocks, but all groceries were unbelievably cheap then. I think you could probably get 10 pounds of potatoes for a quarter, and probably five pounds of rice and grits and all those things. I'd never known much about some of the things we hadn't used, but [00:23:30] other people did because my mother, of course, grew up here, but her family were all from Ohio, and had come originally from New Jersey. And the Scobie's had lived in New Haven, so they were mostly cooking northern style, but I liked rice, and we begged the cook to fix rice for us.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you have home gardens?

M.E. Scobie: [00:24:00] No, where we lived in town we didn't 'til later. Now during World War II my mother had a special bed made for a rose bed. Well, she turned it into tomatoes, and you know we canned tomatoes. We gave tomatoes to the neighbors, and it really helped out a lot.

Nancy Yasecko: What was it like around here during World War [00:24:30] II?

M.E. Scobie: Well it was-- the gasoline, you know, was rationed. And even--we had originally in the house there was a kerosene hot water heater, and then, you know, with us away working all day there wasn't anybody to keep the fireplace going so we put in a heater and connected, and then you could leave it on low, otherwise, you go home at night, and you wouldn't get the house [00:25:00] warm 'til bedtime. They made it, oh, they were so close with it. I walked to work most of the time so I could save some gasoline maybe to go someplace because I had-- it wasn't too far. I usually allowed myself 15 minutes to walk to the courthouse, and hope

somebody wouldn't stop me. There were several ladies [00:25:30] that might stop me, and see me on the way. Then the attorneys they lived south of me so Mr. Crofton would often pick me up, and then there was a banker here that started the Citizens Bank, and he would pick me up on the way to work.

Nancy Yasecko: You must have gone to school here.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, I went the first and second grade, and then we lived [00:26:00] in Indian River City, which is part of Titusville now while I was in the third grade, so I went to a one room school there, but the next year I was back here in the fourth grade. Yes, went all through the 12th grade.

Nancy Yasecko: What would a school day be like for a little girl in second grade?

M.E. Scobie: Well, you know, we walked to school, and we went home for noon to eat. I know my little sister was, [00:26:30] she just had to go to school because her two older sisters were going. Well, there was a little park across the street from the school, and my sister my mother had to get two, three sets of books for her because she'd leave them in the park, and then they couldn't be found, but it was everybody, you know, from the grades. We usually lined up to march in with them. Nowadays, no [00:27:00] prayer, and some of 'em afraid to salute the flag. We always had the flag flying. And of course, we went in we had Bible reading, and prayer, and music.

Nancy Yasecko: You pledge allegiance?

M.E. Scobie: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: What was your desk like?

M.E. Scobie: Well it was-- They've improved on them a lot, but they weren't very comfortable back in those days.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:27:30] Did you have an inkwell on your desk?

M.E. Scobie: Well, later after we were up I guess in the eight grade.

Nancy Yasecko: I've heard stories about pigtails in inkwells.

M.E. Scobie: I had to have long hair, and my mother couldn't get my two sisters to stand still, so they had bobbed hair, but I either had it braided, or long in curls. I've forgotten when it was that she finally [00:28:00] told me I could have it cut, and it was a Wednesday and the barbershop was closed, so she cut it the first time it was cut. I only let it grow once after that.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us about the speech.

M.E. Scobie: Well, I was scheduled to get up, and make a speech in class, and I don't remember how many minutes it was, or what the subject was, but I just thought I couldn't do that I couldn't do it, and so I told my mother [00:28:30] I wasn't going to school that day. Well, I got slapped. The only time I remember getting slapped, and I didn't go to school, but you know the teacher just called on me a day or two later, and I got up and made it, of course, but I thought I just couldn't. I thought I was going to get out of it, but it didn't work. And I didn't like compositions too much, and we had to write they called 'em compositions.

And [00:29:00] I know one time I had to it was something about Titusville, or Brevard Country, so I had written my grandfather, and he wrote me this letter. I think it was dated 1921, and he had had an accident and fractured a rib, and was in bed, so he wrote it all in pencil, and told me about the first sawmill that was here that Inick had, [00:29:30] and said, "The son was trying to develop a whistle, but of course, he couldn't test it while they were sawing the wood because there wasn't no steam for that, so when it was shut down at noon he would practice on his whistle.

Nancy Yasecko: What sort of pageants and plays did the schools put on?

M.E. Scobie: Well, [00:30:00] always the graduating class did, and I remember our year it was--there was only six members, and we had been a big class in eighth grade, and when we came to the ninth people moved away, and dropped out, so they had a-- Mrs. Lovie Pritchard always directed most of the plays, and we had a time finding a play [00:30:30] that had a small enough number. I think we had to use a few from the junior class, and I didn't much think I wanted to be in that, but I had a part that didn't have much to say. But it was--our class was so small. They hadn't been small earlier years, but I think they were larger after that.

Nancy Yasecko: The [00:31:00] community had different events on different holidays.

M.E. Scobie: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell me a little bit about what happened on the 4th of July?

M.E. Scobie: Well, we had I tell you lots of times my father hired Wagers had a Studebaker agency, and he hired one of them to drive us to Daytona to see the fireworks and all like that, but in real early years I think they said [00:31:30] that they traded around. Cocoa would have something. And I remember back when I was working in the courthouse Eau Gaille had one on Washington's birthday. And it was sort of political I think then, and everybody tried to go. And of course, there were different organizations putting on plays, and they usually used either the high school, [00:32:00] or sometimes we had 'em in the theater. I know the Fortnightly Club I believe it was that put on a sort of musical. I 'member I was in that. It was--we were on stage and singing, and something like that, but there were different ones. I know I found quite a few of the programs the musicals and things that they had [00:32:30] put on over the years.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you have May Day celebrations?

M.E. Scobie: I can remember one we were--that they had out in front of the school house the maypole, and the children.

Nancy Yasecko: And I understand you used to have some sailboat regattas on the river occasionally.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, my grandfather wrote about that, and then I think Conkling's I think [00:33:00] had boats, and they'd been in 'em. And then speedboats, you know, later I know Mr. Wilson the city clerk, although, he was up in years he was enthused about speedboats, and I often worked for him when he wanted to be off and when he had vacations when they wouldn't, you know, give him any extra help.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:33:30] Did circuses and the like come to town?

M.E. Scobie: Well, we usually went to Orlando. They came there, and maybe they'd be late, and you'd get to see all the elephants and things parade in. I remember one time they were several hours late.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's see, I bet you remember when the first [00:34:00] radio stations were around here, and people started listening to radio.

M.E. Scobie: Well, see, we had one out here that was I guess the state started operating weather for years, and then when Melbourne got an airport, well, they got the radio station, and then there were some that started up and local, too, just regular news and music.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:34:30] Do you remember when that was?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, let me see how many years ago was it? You know, I said I wasn't very good on dates.

Nancy Yasecko: I won't press you. Did you ever go see movies in town? Was there a movie theater?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, you know, a Bert Johnson operated the theater here, and he called us the Dutchmen, and we were some Dutch [00:35:00] descent, and maybe he was, too. I guess he knew my mother's people, and father, too, and so you know we'd go sometimes, and he wouldn't even charge us. And he tried to keep the children I found out, out of there, let the grown people go and sit, you know, and be seated, and then let us go in, and then he wouldn't charge, you see. He kept them out. He figured that out, but oh yes, it was [00:35:30] and it was safe.

We could walk several blocks there, and mother and daddy never worried about us at all, but we were only allowed to go on Friday night because school night you

stayed home, and studied, and went to bed early, and Saturday night everybody went to town. And some of them would go and park the car early to have a parking [00:36:00] place and 'cause you'd see people you didn't see all week come to town, and shop around, and walk around, visit around, and that was quite something to do.

Nancy Yasecko: Where there places to get ice cream?

M.E. Scobie: Yes, it was a Banner Drug Store for a long, long time, and then there was Davis. Different ones operated. There was one where the museum is now [00:36:30] at one time, and then in the block, and one across the street, but people just did a little shopping, and visited. The grocery stores would stay open, and hardware.

Nancy Yasecko: What about were there dances?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, we used to have street dances, you know, there it is Washington Avenue is the main drag, but there was a light [00:37:00] fixture in the middle of Julia and Washington Avenue, and they just rope it off, and I guess they went around. We'd have street dances, and that was when I was growing up. And then later there was dances, of course, down at Clark's Corner, and there was dances upstairs over down the corner of Julia and Washington Avenue there was quite a [00:37:30] large room up there, and they'd have dances. And yes, they had dances around.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you like to dance?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, I did. I think—whether I liked eatin' better or dacin' better; I love music.

Nancy Yasecko: What kind of bands were there around? Did bands come in from out of town to play?

M.E. Scobie: Well, they mostly, I know we had a family Campbell and we had a city band, and then different [00:38:00] people played. I know there was Mr. Linder I think played the drums, and somebody else would play the piano, and they'd just get a group up like that most of the time. My mother liked to dance, but she could only dance when she was away from home. You know, the Methodist church didn't approve of dancin' [00:38:30] years and years ago, and I think that's why she liked the Episcopal Church they were a little more lenient.

Nancy Yasecko: How would your family celebrate the holidays like Christmas?

M.E. Scobie: We always had a tree. Usually, Daddy would go out with the truck, and take us all with him to cut down a cedar tree. He always preferred cedar, and then usually later years [00:39:00] it was my job. I remember decorating a tree on Christmas Eve before I went to midnight mass at the Episcopal Church.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us about how you got your drinking water back then?

M.E. Scobie: Well, while I was working for the city I was real familiar with it. I sent out the water bills. Then we had a meter reader. And once a month he brought the water in a case it went to [00:39:30] I guess the Board of Health to be tested, and they told me they're only 20 foot wells, and we really at that time had the best water on the East Coast because it didn't have salt or sulfur in it. Then everybody had to have rainwater tanks, or either a cistern that they could depend on for water.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:40:00] Well, I guess back in those days there were quite a few mosquitoes.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, where they, and it was either smudges, you know that you-- I know I visited my grandfather after he remarried. My first grandmother Holmes died, and she had a place on Merritt Island, and went over to visit them, and they had a large [00:40:30] brush made out of palmettos. I think it hung by the door, and you were to brush all the mosquitoes off before you went in the house, and they were thick at times.

Nancy Yasecko: How would you deal with them everywhere you went there were mosquitoes?

M.E. Scobie: Well, you just expected that I guess in those days.

Nancy Yasecko: Where would you put the smudge pots around?

M.E. Scobie: Well, if the woman was [00:41:00] washing you know she'd have it near there, or if you put it near the door to keep 'em away because they like to get around doorways, and then some people used citronella I think. Then later, of course, they got was it Bee Brand some kind of powder that you burned, too, [00:41:30] but they'd been just as bad as that at times along the river. I know I called the mosquito control every once in a while because see they come across the river. I used to couldn't believe that, but we had a walker bridge that had a turnout, and you could park out there in the evening, and there'd be mosquitoes out there, and so people that lived along [00:42:00] the river got the mosquitoes the first at it.

Nancy Yasecko: Would you ever go over to the beach for something to do?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, before the bridge, you know, my father had a houseboat. And he'd take us we'd go to Oceanus, and I have forgotten just where that was, but I think it's about where Patrick is now. He had seven [00:42:30] acres there, and he sold it during the boom to a man in Jacksonville. Well, he fell down on it, didn't pay it all, and Daddy gave it to him. I thought, "Oh, should have kept one lot. He ought to have kept a corner of it," but he didn't, but we had traveled on the houseboat up to Klondike, and it drops off there. You couldn't swim or anything it was real steep, but I remember going [00:43:00] up there. See, he'd go across the river and through the Banana Creek in the Banana River.

And then, of course, we'd go across, and go over to the beach across the way, and we finally got the bridge. We had a good beach at the De Soto Beach. Playalinda

is wide and nice, and liable to drop off. One time I found myself on the edge and I was scared to [00:43:30] try to move, and somebody realized I was, and they came out and got me. I was careful after that not to get on the edge of a hole or somethin' because I didn't think I was a very strong swimmer. Yes, we'd go and spend the day, and Daddy always would go in over Banana River. He'd take a skiff along and oyster tongs, and he knew where all the oysters were, and he'd [00:44:00] open up the oysters for us real fresh.

Nancy Yasecko: Sounds like the food was pretty good around.

M.E. Scobie: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's see, what else...You mentioned a couple of different jobs you've had. Maybe you can tell us the kind of jobs that you had coming up. First you went to high school, and then you went to a business college.

M.E. Scobie: In Jacksonville, and then I came home, [00:44:30] and I had--I was a bookkeeper with I think was Smith and Gruber. They bought out Watters. During the lunch hour I usually waited on customers, but the rest of the time I was bookkeeper. And then after I think they closed out, and sold out, and then there was a garage Wilder's Garage, and I was a bookkeeper there, so I learned all about the parts. I had to order parts for cars, and check 'em out, to 'em. [00:45:00] It was during Prohibition there was a man here that had all these big Studebakers, and they picked up the liquor over on the beach, and took it around to the different places around Florida I guess, and maybe out of state, so Wilder's serviced all those cars before they'd go out again, so they had a good business besides the local business.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:45:30] After you worked at the the repair shop?

M.E. Scobie: Well, let me see, then I think it was after the City that I worked Piggly Wiggly a year, and then they wanted to transfer me to Cocoa. Well, the salary wasn't much, and with all my mother and brother and I living together we shared in expenses, and I thought "Well, I wouldn't be having much that way if I had [00:46:00] to board and room," so I didn't. I gave up that job. I didn't want to go, and maybe then it was, oh, I clerked in the drug store for a while. And it was, let me see, one day Mr. Holton had a cleaning shop, and he wanted to go fishing, and he wanted me to stay in the cleaning shop that day. I thought, "Well, [00:46:30] I hope I didn't mix up anybody's clothes."

Then there was a little better food store, and they had a couple running that. Well, something, they had to give it up, so they were after me. I was manager, buyer, and salesperson, and everything. I did that for a while. Then there was Mr. Gould from Cocoa bought out a store here. I think it was Walkers and they [00:47:00] had a little bit of everything. Seemed like there was vases, and I don't know what all they didn't have. Well, he was after me, and I worked in that a while. I don't know--

Nancy Yasecko: You probably got to know everybody in town.

M.E. Scobie: Well, and Mims, too, you know, working in the grocery store, and people came in from Shiloh, and Allenhurst, you know, and you did, and Scottsmoor [00:47:30] people that later moved into Titusville. Of course, they had small schools, but the high school students from Mims, and all around came into Titusville.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us a little bit about what's happened with land value since your family first came here?

M.E. Scobie: Well, it was--when you read it seemed impossible that they could buy land for that price it was--[00:48:00] I remember even up to '41 I think it was they raised the values because there had been state taxes prior to '41, and then from '41 on it would just be county taxes. And you know, some of the lots were valued at \$10 on the roll and they put them \$40. And some of these subdivisions [00:48:30] way out you probably couldn't find the lot without a surveyor, and it was a lot of them over on the island that way. And I know the place we were in I think when we bought it in '48 I believe it was only assessed at \$2,000 and now, my goodness, I think they've got it up to about \$70,000. At one time the lots before the [00:49:00] Depression before the boom broke those lots along the river there on Riverside Drive were \$10,000.

In '48 when we were living there the woman had expected to come back she was teaching in Jacksonville, and she got rheumatoid arthritis, and bedridden, so her brother said, "Cheaper to sell it when you're alive and it goes through the state," so he offered [00:49:30] it to us for \$8,000 a 2-1/2 story house. Of course, it needed painting. It needed a new roof. And now the house next door to us, of course, it had had some improvement, but I think it sold for \$200,000. And the painter years ago said, "We could probably get \$175,000 for ours." Well, I sort of doubted it then, but [00:50:00] when some of them they wanted \$400,000 for them. I think they came down before they sold 'em. We have three on Riverside Drive and a woman called me not long ago and wanted to put ours up for sale. I said, "Well, we're not ready to do that yet," but I would like to be on one story all on one floor.

Nancy Yasecko: It's amazing I guess there was [00:50:30] a time there during the boom when a lot of northerners came down here.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, and bought, and you know, because our town had gone default on the bonds it was years and years that no one could build in Titusville unless you had the money you couldn't borrow they wouldn't. And even when they said, "There was two houses built [00:51:00] over a period of about 20 years." That was the Hennessy's came here with a lot of money, and there was a Dr. Rose that retired and built a house, but you just couldn't do it.

Nancy Yasecko: I hadn't heard that part of the story, but it makes sense.

M.E. Scobie: See, when I went to work in the courthouse that was they were trying to get the property back on the tax roll with that Futch Act, and then [00:51:30] when that didn't work too well they passed the Murphy Act they call it. Well, you can buy those certificates up practically at cost, and after you held them two years you could apply for a tax deed, or if people were the owner they could buy them up, and then cancel them, and they'd see the Futch Act, and put everything back on the tax roll, and gave them a chance [00:52:00] to pick it up, and pay on, and when they didn't do that then they passed the other, so it made a lot of work.

But of course, property got valuable, and people didn't let it go like they did, but I saw the tax list this last year. I don't where it was I got a hold of a paper anyway. It may be in here, and I couldn't believe [00:52:30] the length of the tax list. I didn't see very much in Titusville, but oh it was tremendous. I'm glad I'm out of the courthouse before they started subdividing and subdividing. I had to--Mr. Simmons ... Sometimes, they'd forget to pay the taxes on the property the acreage they were subdividing, and then it was hard [00:53:00] to pay off of one lot in a big subdivision, so he used to insist that I check every plat that was being filed, and be sure they had to state if there was mortgage, and had to have the taxes paid, so I used to be familiar with all of them that were being filed.

Nancy Yasecko: When did you leave the courthouse?

M.E. Scobie: In June of '67. Some of the attorneys said I couldn't do it because they had depended [00:53:30] on me looking up information for them. I said, "Oh, yes, but I was." Because that wasn't the easiest job. See, the County could foreclose on those certificates after two years old that were still unpaid, so they had Brevard foreclosures. Then some of the property that hadn't been taken up in the Murphy Act and the Futch Act that title reverted to trustees [00:54:00] Internal Improvement Fund, and we had a great list of those, and that's where lots of time the lot was \$10 and the cost of advertising. Of course, they could run the bid up somebody else could. But we had—and then we had the tax deeds, too, that people applied for, so we had about four kinds of deeds that we had to search. They did one time have the tax deeds [00:54:30] searched by an abstract company, but the trustee's deeds I had to chase it back to the subdivision to find the owner. And you know-- It's surprising, sometimes, they went to the owner.

Nancy Yasecko: You were here when the Space Program began--

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, I remember that. It was--they call it Joint Long Range Proving Ground. You know, I had to go through the tax list, and mark [00:55:00] every one of those certificates. And I was glad I didn't have to write the whole name. I'd just write the Joint Long Range Proving Ground. I went on vacation about that time, and Mr. Simmons' secretary was taking over that, and it wasn't too busy then. And I was so afraid she'd miss and sell one to somebody. And oh, I had to go up to George Young's [00:55:30] court. There was one parcel that was being closed, and had a tax deed on it, so I was supposed to be custodian of those, so I had to go over there and I was a little bit nervous about it. But they were--See the lawyers knew me by "Beth", but I always signed the tax receipts M. Elizabeth, I think, my bank

account was that way, so [00:56:00] they summoned me as Beth Scobie, and I thought "What should I do? Keep my mouth shut." So I did, I said, "Yes, my name is Beth Scobie." And I guess everything--

I didn't want to mess things up, but Mr. Ruark, Francis G., I think, had come up from Miami, and he was in charge of it. He'd call over and want me to make a tax statement if there was any, [00:56:30] and get any mortgage thing out. And I always went to the post office after five o'clock anyway, and I'd always see they got in, so he said--when he heard I was retiring he said, "He was going to try to close out everything I left." Because some of the others didn't think it was so important that he should get them, but they had set the case up, and then he had to get all that information, and he didn't like to run [00:57:00] over for it.

Nancy Yasecko: How many people were living out there on the Cape when they first brought in the Proving Ground?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, I don't know, but there was a lot of people up at Allenhurst and Shiloh, you know. Then there were people over here at Wilson or Orsino, so I don't know just how many moved out, but I heard how many families. They let some [00:57:30] people keep their groves I think and maintain them, but they were just about to get a road up the coast, and people they were headed over there along the beach they had it zoned for this and that and the other, and people from Palm Beach and around had property over there. And here came that that cleared it all for them. We lost our beaches [00:58:00] except for certain times, and the De Soto was a nice wide beach, and had a casino, and houses there.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us a little bit about what happened to Titusville when the Space Program came in.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, we had an influx of people. I know I was teaching Sunday School at St. Gabriel's, and they had all these young couples with children come in. It really [00:58:30] was crowded for a while, and so many coming in. We grew it seemed like by leaps and bounds. First we knew, you know, there was some came from Washington looking around for property, buying up property cheap, and before we really knew [00:59:00] what was happening. And then when they started foreclosures and things, well, it was really busy.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you know what was going on when those first rockets went up?

M.E. Scobie: No, see they wouldn't tell you about them. Now, if somebody's husband didn't come home from work they usually figured there was going to be put up a rocket, and they'd turn on the search [00:59:30] lights. We lived along the river, so many evening I walked up and down the Riverside Drive looking, and when the lights went off well then you knew and the shot hadn't gone it was postponed, but sometimes I'd be hanging up clothes in the backyard, and see one go up, but it was so secretive at first, but there were [01:00:00] a lot of families here.

Nancy Yasecko: Mhmm. It must have changed the town a little bit.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, it did. They wanted more, you know. Of course, we finally got the malls. Everything was in the downtown area until they started building. They built the Searstown Mall, and then the Miracle City Mall. And then, they were the first ones, [01:00:30] but now the stores are so scattered they moved farther out and farther out.

Nancy Yasecko: At the end of the '60's the Apollo Program was finished, and a lot of people left I guess.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, they did, and then they were sort of anxious about it that there wouldn't be anymore work.

Nancy Yasecko: You were telling us [01:01:00] a little bit before tell us again about that summer when you spent your holiday over on that part of the world.

M.E. Scobie: Yeah, well, it was my first experience, and no refrigeration, no electric lights. It was a great big two story house, and I know one day I diced potatoes and I was going to cream them. Well, my uncle came in while we were out, and he mashed 'em up, so we had potato [01:01:30] soup that day it changed our plans for dinner, but you could have no fresh meat, you know.

Nancy Yasecko: Where was it that you were staying?

M.E. Scobie: At my uncles place on the east bank of the Banana River at Cape Canaveral, and there was a Whidden family over there, and they're here now. When I was in the hospital in Melbourne he and his wife came to see me, and they didn't [01:02:00] tell me the name, but said, "The man said he knew you 68 years ago." I said, "Well, that must be Woodrow Whidden," and they remembered. See, he got his start in honey. My uncle had bees and they used them to pollinate the blossoms, and have better fruit crops, so he got his start. I think he bought the equipment [01:02:30] from my uncle, but the Eberwien boys, and Eberweins lived up at Artesia. I think their mother had been postmaster there for years, so Phillip and Bill and Elizabeth would come up, and Phil took me up to the casino one night, and we had to go up with the tides, you know [01:03:00] and go over the sand dunes just certain places to cross, so you had to know your tides real well to be sure to get there and get back.

Nancy Yasecko: You would go there by boat.

M.E. Scobie: No, by car, but see that's why we had to drive the beach. There wasn't any roads then. And I remember years later there was this Wager family that had the Studebaker's, and this [01:03:30] one son had a [inaudible 01:03:33] I don't know there must have been six of us, or eight of us maybe on that thing. Well, I don't know whether we told my mother what we were going to do or not, but we went across the beach, and we went the Savannahs, mind you, up to Cape Canaveral

up to the light, and I believe they persuaded the caretaker to let us go in. Of course, he wasn't [01:04:00] supposed to, and then coming back we drove the beach, and I thought, "I hope they see that crossover when we get to Playalinda." I sure didn't want to go all the way up to New Smyrna that night, but that was a ride, but he knew his way and we had a safe trip there and back again, but that's the way people had [01:04:30] to drive before there was and they depended on the tides.

Nancy Yasecko: It must have taken a little longer to get places.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, it did. I remember when we went to Daytona it was sort of a sand road thrown up through the hammock, and there were just certain places you passed it was just one way, so it took quite a long time, but [01:05:00] it would take most all day to drive to Jacksonville where they go up in a few hours now.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you ever see any of the big turtles that would come up the beach over in Cape Canaveral?

M.E. Scobie: Well, we've had I think years ago where they would lay their eggs and see the-- Daddy let us bring some small alligators home one time. [01:05:30] He put a tub down in the sand and built a pen. And I don't know how long we kept them, or what happened to 'em, but I think we had three or four alligators small ones in the backyard, and I used to swim in the pool over at Canaveral Club they had a-- it was artesian water and we'd swim in there.

Nancy Yasecko: Guess [01:06:00] there were quite a few different kinds of wildlife we don't see so much here anymore.

M.E. Scobie: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you ever hear any stories about bears out on the Cape?

M.E. Scobie: Well, I've eaten bear meat when I had dinner one time at Artesia they had killed a bear and canned it. Yes, they had bear meat.

Nancy Yasecko: How was it?

M.E. Scobie: It was fine. They knew how I guess to do it. I've even eaten [01:06:30] armadillo. My brother had seen somebody kill one, and cook one, so he had to bring one home and fix it. And I guess it was all right. I--

Nancy Yasecko: Did you ever run into any big snakes out there?

M.E. Scobie: No, you know, over the years we picked huckleberries and blackberries, and they said, "You better watch out." And we used to pick them down [01:07:00] in the Indian River City area, and then blackberries up north, and I think Loretto, or someplace called that, and never saw a snake. For years the only rattlesnake I had

seen was one in a cage on the river front down at Sharpes somebody had one in a cage. One time there was one down our backstreet, and somebody killed it, but all my [01:07:30] years I never had walked up one. I was always afraid I'd be frozen on the spot.

Nancy Yasecko: I've heard some tales of panthers out there. I don't know have you ever hear about any out there?

M.E. Scobie: No. My brother liked to hunt ducks. Now he hunted over on the Merritt Island, but after they put up those shelters and everything, and they cut the [01:08:00] amounts you can get down, well, he didn't think it was worth it. He was a real good shot, and I'd sit down on the back porch with him, and pick ducks, and skin coots after he brought them in, and we'd freeze them. But he didn't go into the-- After he came back from the service World War II he decided to go squirrel hunting, but neither one of us [01:08:30] like squirrels, so he didn't go squirrel hunting anymore, but he had a friend that had a garden and the rabbits were getting in. He did bring some rabbits home. They were young and they were good. And I have eaten turtle years and years ago, and gopher I think some.

Nancy Yasecko: And [01:09:00] everything that came out of the river I guess.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, we had shrimp and oysters and all kinds of fish.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you have clams back then? Or was it--?

M.E. Scobie: I guess they did, but I think Daddy preferred the oysters and shrimp, so that's what we had most of the time. Slumber parties, and I know there was Miss Osmond [Osbourne?] that had a big house, and a large family, [01:09:30] so that was a great place. Miss Osmond [Osbourne?] would be around to supervise, and keep an eye on everybody, and keep 'em straight, but it was great at one time having slumber parties. And then, of course, I had a friend Eleanor Smith, and she lived with her grandfather, and it was a large house. And she used to have several of us in [01:10:00] to dance just a few couples. And her mother was real strict on them going anywhere. It used to be we'd maybe get a group in the car, and ride around. We'd have a hard time talkin' Eleanor and Ann out, but her mother was there and had the children, and [01:10:30] the father was working in the north, and the grandfather they were living with them, so Ann and Eleanor usually had a hard time getting out. Our mother we told her where we went and she trusted us, but they didn't. But it was--

And then our churches had card parties, and I know there a porch, a nice porch all around Captain Knight's house, [01:11:00] and they often would have the card parties there. Then Mrs. Parrish would have card parties. There was Miss Mandible here that her husband had a jewelry store and she thought every girl should learn to play bridge. Well, it was while I was working in that garage and Monday I had all the Saturday's business. And I really didn't feel like sitting around [01:11:30] the card table, and learnin' bridge. And I did it, but I wasn't too happy,

and then I went to some of the card parties, but I was always happy when somebody else got the bid, and I could sit back and watch. I didn't enjoy that. And then of course, I belonged to the auxiliary, veterans, and there one [01:12:00] time. And they had the auxiliary-- They had card parties, but mostly it was some of the simpler games that I enjoyed.

Then one time the church they thought every time we had a meeting we had to play bingo. We--soon some of that wore off and we split up and the older women they didn't like it when the younger women split up, so they [01:12:30] were trying to get us back, but I think the main thing was the younger ones got tired of playing bingo. And of course, one time we had suppers to make money. There was a large building that sat across on the corner across from city hall now, and it was a woman's club got it, and they had a library upstairs, but there was a kitchen and large room downstairs they had dances there, too, [01:13:00] and then the church put on suppers. And they kept pretty busy with things back there one kind of entertainment and the other.

Nancy Yasecko: What would the men do? Were there pool halls?

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, there were always those in town.

Nancy Yasecko: And were there any saloons?

M.E. Scobie: Oh yes, there was. I know when our Episcopal minister came [01:13:30] here we had new--he thought there were too many saloons in town, too many temptations. But there was--you know, the saloons and things have always been on the west side of Washington Avenue, and you just didn't feel right going down that side of the street. I'd go across if I had to, but you always went down the east side that's where [01:14:00] most of the shops were because there was benches out there, and sometimes there would be some of them sitting around, and people usually dodged the west side of the street unless they had some special business over there.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, there was a time when liquor was not readily available. What happened to the saloons during that period?

M.E. Scobie: Well, they still sold it, and my mother used to get real mad because [01:14:30] there was one that would deliver it also. And my father there for a while was drinking. And he would have to have his certain times of day, and it made her real mad when she saw this particular man coming.

Nancy Yasecko: You mentioned that there was a particular group of people who had some real good cars, and they would pick up [01:15:00] some of this on the beach. What was going on? What was the whole story?

M.E. Scobie: Well, he, evidently was-- I don't know whether he had it shipped over from Bimini, and then he had all these people to drive these cars around. It was Paul White,

and he served some time in Atlanta for it, and I think learned to make ice. That's one thing he learned while he was there [01:15:30] I heard. And of course, everybody knew Paul and his wife, and his daughter, and didn't think any less of him. And one time we had some of the group of prohis living next door to us, you know. Of course, I knew all this was going on and wondered when they were going to get caught.

Nancy Yasecko: The big ships came over from the Bahamas, and they'd meet them on the shore somewhere?

M.E. Scobie: Yes, well, they landed over on the beach [01:16:00] I understood.

Nancy Yasecko: I guess that was happening all along the coast.

M.E. Scobie: Oh, yes, I guess.

Nancy Yasecko: I heard stories down in Sebastian, same kind of thing.

M.E. Scobie: Yes, and a lot of it was over here. He had those heavy cars, and I guess the springs were reinforced, and everything, so they can carry quite a load.

Nancy Yasecko: But didn't shut down all the saloons.

M.E. Scobie: No, and then of course, they were [01:16:30] making moonshine around, and if they'd get a still and break it up well they'd just get a new one, and keep going.

Nancy Yasecko: Let's see, can you remember the first airplanes that came through here?

M.E. Scobie: Well, you know, we were in school, and we were on the second floor, [01:17:00] and on the river side, and there used to be small planes, you know, the biplanes I guess they call them, and would fly around. That's when they'd get the teacher off on the subject of flying, and get off the subject we were supposed to be on. And of course, we had Dunn Field out here in early years before we got [01:17:30] Tico.

Nancy Yasecko: Did they use planes for crop dusting in the citrus fields?

M.E. Scobie: No, they didn't use it for that, they don't-- Most of their's was spraying, and I think they did that in the groves with a tank in that way. I don't believe they ever sprayed them that way. I think they did it south in those big farms more the [01:18:00] crop dusting.

Nancy Yasecko: And did you ever get a ride on one of the planes?

M.E. Scobie: See, the County commissioner took me up one time, and we flew over Merritt Island and around, and stopped by Tico, and then came up to Dunn Field. I didn't think I cared too much for the little planes. We went to Panama [01:18:30] while

my niece was down there her husband was stationed. And my mother and sister and I she said, "Her daughter was so homesick couldn't come home." And so, we just had to go down and visit her, so we drove to Miami and got a plane there and went down. It was a nice ride over the water it wasn't rough, and then I had a nephew that was in [01:19:00] Chelsea Mass the hospital there, and he was living in Malden I think it was, and I went up and spent some time about nine days with him. I never thought I'd ever get around Cape Cod, and Plymouth, and all those places, but he took me all around to see all the places of interest in Boston and [01:19:30] around. That was a nice flight took it from Orlando.

Nancy Yasecko: When you went up in the little plane and saw the area where you'd been living how did it look different than from the ground?

M.E. Scobie: Well, you see most of it we were over Merritt Island mostly, and I didn't realize there was so much water over there.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember any hurricanes that ever came through?

M.E. Scobie: [01:20:00] Yes, the one in '26 we just arrived in Titusville from my aunts in Washington. And of course, Daddy couldn't meet us. They were there trying to get the boats out of the water, and everything safe. We got home and of course everybody tied down everything they thought would blow away. [01:20:30] And then my sister had started from Miami with a friend, and they got down there, and they had a time getting into Miami, but they finally convinced them that they would help with, you know, the relief effort, so they did get in. We were a little bit anxious knowing they were on the way down there in that storm, but they got in and got back safely.

Nancy Yasecko: Did [01:21:00] the winds blow up here?

M.E. Scobie: Yes, I think blew fruit off the trees, you know, and whipped things pretty bad. The river, you know, rose quite high, but we didn't have I don't think too much damage really.

Nancy Yasecko: How did they know the hurricane was coming?

M.E. Scobie: Well, they had a warning. See, we had a Western Union office years [01:21:30] ago, and they got the weather. And then, of course, the post office, you know, watches the weather. And the kept—then of course, with the fishing and the boats they were--they had to keep up on that, too.

Nancy Yasecko: Were you here when any of the other storms came through?

M.E. Scobie: Yes, I think one night I spent most of the night getting up. We had screens, you know, that locked, [01:22:00] and water would blow in, and get between the windows and the screens. And of course, I spent most of the evening I think going around, and unhooking them and getting the water out. And one time they

threatened to come right in at Canaveral. Well, we didn't believe it, but we knew that we had to do something. My brother went out and bought all the plywood he could [01:22:30] find and because we have 20 windows I think in that house, and in the attic, too, and so he went and got all this plywood. And of course, it didn't do any damage. He left it on for a while, but we did have one time I was sitting in the house there alone, and the window up in the attic blew out. It wasn't all floored, but I had [01:23:00] located pieces of plywood and a hammer and some nails in case something did happen, and so I did get it nailed up, and we got that window.

And we had some screens in the front porch upstairs instead of screening in the whole thing they'd have it in panels. Well, we had some of those blow out and never did find one, so I've had it screened solid now so we don't have [01:23:30] to bother with that, but if we had anything like they've had in Homestead and Miami I don't know whether there would have been anything left. I sure was thankful when I heard there was a high pressure area that was turning it away. That saved us.

Nancy Yasecko: From Hurricane Andrew.

M.E. Scobie: Yes.

Nancy Yasecko: It looked like it was going [01:24:00] to come here didn't it?

M.E. Scobie: Yes. They said--I said, "Where is the high pressure area?" Then when my nephew the one that lives in Chesapeake and there was that high pressure area was up there, too. And he has a beach house at New Smyrna Beach. It's not right on the bluff it's back on Atlantic Avenue. And of course, he watches the weather all the time, too, and we were all relieved [01:24:30] when that kept it out. I was hoping it would either go out to sea, or go up the Gulf one or the other.

Nancy Yasecko: That was a tough one.

M.E. Scobie: We've lived through scares of them, but you know, none have really ever hit here. We just--it just either went west of us, or east of us.