

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

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us first, when were you born, and where?

Roy Wall: I was born just out of a little town of Ellaville, Georgia, on the [Americus Road 00:00:29], [00:00:30] just off the road, March the 1st, 1889.

Nancy Yasecko: When did you come to Florida?

Roy Wall: In 1916. 1916.

Nancy Yasecko: Where did you come when you first came here?

Roy Wall: Eau Gallie. I came [00:01:00] to Eau Gallie as cashier of the bank down there. Came from Atlanta, Georgia down there.

Nancy Yasecko: What was Eau Gallie like then? What do you remember it being like when you first came?

Roy Wall: Well, it was just a little old country town. It was—On [00:01:30] the main street they had a grocery store, dry goods store, post office, there wasn't any bank, a school, and they had a yacht club down there on the Eau Gallie Creek that was a winter attraction. They had all of the [doodads? 00:02:00] [00:02:00] going down there on that, off Eau Gallie Creek.

Eau Gallie Creek is known for the manatees that go up the creek. I saw my first manatee. Johnny J. Jones [00:02:30] used to winter there. He had a little old traveling show. And he wanted a manatee to be one of the attractions. So he got one of the old fishermen go out and get him a manatee. So he went out and got a old [00:03:00] mammy and a little calf and built a water tank and shipped them in that. The little old calf was about two feet long. So they had to gather marsh from the river and ship to wherever they were going to feed the [00:03:30] manatee. So--

Eau Gallie at one time, far as traveling is concerned, during the boom, they had 18 passenger trains a day going each way. Some of 'em were a second section. [00:04:00] Florida East Coast railroad was, the Gleasons were the big landowners down there, so in order to get the right of way, they had it agreed that every passenger train would be flagged for the Gleason family could go on [00:04:30] it. So--

Nancy Yasecko: Well, you saw the Florida boom in the '20s, lot of people coming down. Were they building houses? What were they doin'?

Roy Wall: They what?

Nancy Yasecko: In the 1920s, all these people came to Florida. Were they building houses, they're moving here?

Roy Wall: Oh, 1920, I moved to Cocoa in 1920. Yeah, so--

Nancy Yasecko: [00:05:00] You were working at the bank when the-

Roy Wall: I was cashier of that bank for four years there, and then I moved to Cocoa, and there was a bank up here, and I worked in the bank until it closed in 1928.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell us about when the bank closed.

Roy Wall: Well, the [00:05:30] bank that I was in, the Cocoa Bank and Trust Company, it was in ... I forget what time of the year it was, but anyhow, I helped the bank examiner make the inventory of the Cocoa Bank and Trust Company. So he said, "Well, Roy, they are wound up." [00:06:00] I said, "I haven't got appointed and a receiver yet."

So I came home. I'm a member of the Rockledge Fire Department. I came home the next morning, I went down to the fire station, and the bank examiner came down there and he said, "Roy, the Indian River State Bank in Titusville [00:06:30] closed last night, and I have made an appointment for the receiver [inaudible 00:06:37]. I want you to go up there and make the inventory of that."

So I went up there and I stayed on with the receiver, and finally the three banks closed, one in Daytona, [00:07:00] one in Daytona Beach, and one in Ormond Beach. They all closed at one time. So the examiner came down and got me. He said, "I want you to make the inventory of that bank." And in the meantime, those banks in Daytona closed, and I made the [00:07:30] inventory of the Ormond State Bank. So--

Nancy Yasecko: There wasn't very much cash money around.

Roy Wall: There wasn't any money hardly around. No. I was born and raised on the farm 'til I was 22 years old. I spent 20 [00:08:00] years banking, five years in hard times, and then I spent 20 ... June the 1st, 1936, I went to work with Travis Hardware, and there I worked 'til I was 80 years old.

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell us [00:08:30] about the hard times? What was it like here?

Roy Wall: Oh, the hard times in those five years, I did whatever I could get. I packed fruit [inaudible 00:08:43]. My wife taught school for 31 years, and when we were married she quit teaching. So when the hard times came on, she went back to teaching, so she had to go and renew her [00:09:00] certificate. So for three years, six weeks out of the summer she'd go to summer school. I had two daughters, Harriette and Jane. While she was going to school, we went to my farm home in Georgia for the six weeks.

[00:09:30] And so she went back to teaching in Florida. She had taught for 31 years. And during the meantime she was kinda poetic kind, and she would think of a little subject, she'd make a note, put it in a box. [00:10:00] So when she quit teaching, she got that box out and wrote a book of poems. So that was what wound up. When I retired, I still go up there on the first of the month and help them with their statements. Now I've doing that ever since.

Nancy Yasecko: What [00:10:30] did you do for a social life back in--when you first came down here? What did people do for fun?

Roy Wall: Well, there wasn't much but going to the beach. When we was in Eau Gallie we used to go by boat down to Melbourne Beach. The peninsula there was narrow. They had some cottages there. We'd rent a cottage for the weekend, and the wife and I and friends, and get the boat and go down there. The mailman in Melbourne carried the mail by boat to Melbourne Beach. [00:11:00] And some people will ride that boat down there and back. So when we moved to Cocoa, we used to, in order to get to the beach, we'd have to go down around that point of the Island and come up to where the military, and that place, it was narrow, and there weren't any palmettos there, so [00:11:30] we'd go down there instead of the beach.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:12:00] Were there Mayday picnics and things like that?

Roy Wall: Yeah. Well, holidays. Eau Gallie would have the 4th of July. Cocoa would have the Orange Jubilee. And let's see. [00:12:30] There's three. Anyhow, that would be the holidays. Where the Brevard Hotel is now used to be Sand Point¹, and they'd have picnics down there.

And down here in Eau Gallie, finally they got together and cut a path from the point of that Island over to [00:13:00] the beach. Sebastian Inlet was started by the local people. It took wheelbarrows and shovels and go down there and they'd gut it where water will go from one place to the other. So--

They rode from here to the beach, [00:13:30] at that filling station there by the bank, years ago when they called it Old Humpback Bridge. That used to go down to what was ... What do they call this? I would go down that part of the Island of sand, there used to be a gun club there², and then they built [00:14:00] a causeway under the gun club over to Cocoa Beach. That was the first. It used to be you go down Sand Point, go down the island, and you go over, and there was a big pine tree there when it turned, and a eagle had a nest in that area. And--

Nancy Yasecko: [00:14:30] You mentioned that they delivered the mail by boat. Do you remember the early postmasters and how they delivered the mail?

¹ Roy means Oleander Point, not "Sand Point"

² Thousand Island Club

Roy Wall: Well, the postmaster in Melbourne that'd carry the boat was Don Beaujean. He's in Melbourne. And Eau Gallie and the island, the mail [00:15:00] was dropped off in Eau Gallie, in Lotus, Banyan, Georgiana and Merritt Island. He'd bring it, put it in the post office at Cocoa. He'd pick up the mail going south in Cocoa, and reverse it and put it in Eau Gallie Post Office. So, the island had two mails a day.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:15:30] Let's see. Do you remember any hurricanes coming through here?

Roy Wall: Any what?

Nancy Yasecko: Hurricanes.

Roy Wall: 1926. That was a hurricane of the hurricanes in Miami. It took boats out of the water, put 'em up on the street. [00:16:00] So that was a hurricane. An offside, that's when my youngest daughter was born. She was in--My wife had a aunt in [Juliana 00:16:18]. She went up there to have the babies. And on that spectacular one when Jane was born [inaudible 00:16:26] was in [00:16:30] Jacksonville. Harriette and I, in order to kill the time while she was in the hospital, we went to Georgia and visited my home, and it rained on us all day long up there. We spent the night in Albany, Georgia with my uncle Will. [inaudible 00:16:52].

Nancy Yasecko: Let's see. [00:17:00] During the hard times here, people didn't have much cash. Did they trade things? How'd you get along?

Roy Wall: Well, everything was cheap too. You could take \$5 and go to the grocery store and fill up the backseat of [00:17:30] the car with groceries. Groceries were cheaper. But we got by.

Nancy Yasecko: You worked at Travis Hardware for a long time.

Roy Wall: 32 and a half years, and I still go up on the 1st of the month and help them out with their statements. [00:18:00] Fred Travis is the best man that I ever knew. He helped people. That lady that taught the, not underprivileged, but under-learning, what is it? Teacher. She came in the store one morning to get something. Mr. Travis had [00:18:30] just happened to wait on her, so she was telling him about the trustees of this school wouldn't let her spend money to do this, that, and the other. So on Christmas Eve Day, he called her up and asked her to come down to the store. He gave her a check for \$1,000.

[00:19:00] And another one of the things that he did, when 520 was put in there, the street from Delannoy East was narrow, so he gave I don't know how many feet it was on the south side his property to this County for widen the road.

[00:19:30] Well, you know, when I went to work there, the river came right up to the back door before that fill was in. And when the fill came in, he gave his riparian rights to the county to build a park there. And he helped people, kids going to

school, [00:20:00] and those colored people. They'd buy stuff and pay him \$2 a week [inaudible 00:20:10]. He was a wonderful, wonderful man.

Nancy Yasecko: How did the Travis Hardware Store begin?

Roy Wall: Huh?

Nancy Yasecko: I understand when they first started the Travis Store, it was on a boat.

Roy Wall: [00:20:30] Well, Travis Store came from Sanford over here. And you know those condominiums just north of 520, there used to be a little wooden building there? That's where Travis went in business in Florida. And eventually he had a rudder boat. It was for hardware boat. And he'd stop down [00:21:00] at Eau Gallie and all the places down to Jupiter and serve the people on the river.

In Cocoa, the railroad, the freight office used to be right across the street on the corner where [inaudible 00:21:26]. The branch [00:21:30] ran down to that. And I was going to work in the mornings twice, and it'd be a freight car over in the street. And the school was up there where that tire service is back up there, you know. The schoolhouse used to be there. So--

Nancy Yasecko: [00:22:00] What kind of things did Travis sell in his store?

Roy Wall: Well, most everything. But, roofing and nails of all type, every kind of nail, hammers, and any paint. He sold Benjamin Moore, Sherwin Williams paint. Then [00:22:30] on the south side, it used to be a clothing store. His brother Gator had a clothing store there, and then when the clothing store quit put dishes and stuff like that in there. So--

Nancy Yasecko: [00:23:00] Travis is still there. You think it's gonna be there-

Roy Wall: Huh?

Nancy Yasecko: Travis Hardware's still there.

Roy Wall: It's still there, yeah. Let's see, it's about 105 years old. He came from the North down here I think.

Nancy Yasecko: Were there any other hardware stores around here?

Roy Wall: Fiske. Fiske [00:23:30] had a hardware store. He had it in that concrete building just a little bit south and on the north side, you know, where that secondhand store is down there.

Nancy Yasecko: Tell me about the bridge.

Roy Wall: Well, they started the bridge in 1916 and finished in 1917. [00:24:00] Dorothy Daniel was the first person to cross the bridge. And the cattle used to have no fence at all. The cows could just roam everywhere. So when they made the law, the fence law, they rounded up all of the cattle on the island and drove them across the bridge. And some [00:24:30] of them jumped over the rail into the [inaudible 00:24:33], and they had cows scattered all over the city of Cocoa. Yeah.

And going to Jacksonville by car, you'd leave here 7:00 in the morning, get to Jacksonville at 6:00 that day. [00:25:00] I was 14 years old before ever I saw an automobile. I saw the Kitty Hawk fly in 1912 in Atlanta, Georgia. And I have flown in a plane piloted by astronaut Wally Schirra. And I [00:25:30] have made a movie commercial in Silver Dollar City, Missouri. They were having their annual celebration, and they wanted some old [pics (?) 00:25:48] so I went over there and participated in that.

Nancy Yasecko: About that first house on Cocoa Beach?

Roy Wall: Well, from [00:26:00] the lighthouse to Melbourne Beach, with the exception of maybe one or two homesteaders up around the lighthouse to Melbourne Beach, there was only one house. Roy Packard was a transfer man, got wind of the storm. And a boat loaded [00:26:30] with lumber had wrecked over there, and the lumber had washed ashore. So he goes over there and salvaged enough lumber to build a house, and he named it Driftwood. It is located where the south freight transfer and [00:27:00] the north come together, just north of the old Navy base, just on the beach over there.

And the next one is Dr. Kenaston, served the people around the lighthouse. Of course the roads up there were just [00:27:30] wide enough for a car, palmettos on either side of the road. So he was going up one night to visit a patient, and from one side of the road, out of the palmettos, a deer jumped out of there and landed on his car.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:28:00] What were the roads like?

Roy Wall: The roads, just sand ruts. There wasn't any roads. Just wide enough for ... The palmetto fronds would brush your car as you went by. Another, while we are on this, Hub [00:28:30] Williams, one of the old families up at City Point, and the old man got crippled or something, and he couldn't walk around. They went to the beach one afternoon and took him and sat him down on the beach. While they were enjoying the beach, [00:29:00] here come this black bear out of the palmettos. He got up and went running.

That was the days of the shrimp. They had a pier over there, and at night when these shrimp boats [00:29:30] would come it'd look like a city. There'd be 50 or 75 shrimp boats, having shipped shrimp out of here by the carload. You could eat all the shrimp you want for nothing hardly. The home port would be St. Augustine,

[00:30:00] but when they built this port over there, they had the shrimp boats from all over.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you like to fish?

Roy Wall: No. I don't fish. No.

Nancy Yasecko: I heard the fishing used to be pretty good.

Roy Wall: Yeah, it used to, yeah. [00:30:30] Down at Eau Gallie one time, the fishermen down there, they had a good fisherman. They used to come up on the Banana River, catch mullet this time of the year, all like that. They'd have a run boat. They had a runner boat, and they had several fishermen around. They had a camp there. These fellows would catch their fish and put them on the run [00:31:00] boat, bring them into Eau Gallie and ship them that way. So one night--

A fisherman came in one morning with a boatload of spot-tailed bass. And they had their nets around I don't know how many tons. They put the net around them, and they came in and wired the market [00:31:30] how much that they could use. So they could use only about 5,000 pounds, so they had to go up there and take the nets around and let them go.

Nancy Yasecko: Used to be a lot of Yankee visitors.

Roy Wall: Hmm?

Nancy Yasecko: Used to be a lot of Yankee visitors would come down here.

Roy Wall: Who?

Nancy Yasecko: People from the North. Back in the '20s and '30s [00:32:00] this was quite the place.

Roy Wall: Yeah, yeah. They had this Indian River Hotel, the Rockledge Hotel, and the Plaza. Right where the Presbyterian church is now used to be the Plaza over on ... What is that street south of ... Anyhow, Rockledge and [00:32:30] the Plaza was down further. Used to be three. So I've seen three different buildings on that lot were the condos are now. You know, that is the nicest place for a condo that you can find anywhere.

Nancy Yasecko: Mosquitoes pretty bad then?

Roy Wall: [00:33:00] I came here down and landed in Eau Gallie on the 8th day of September. Well, for the first few days everything was all right. Wake up one morning and gone out and legs of mosquitoes. [inaudible 00:33:25] they said that you could take a quart cup and swing [00:33:30] it around and catch a gallon.

And I built that house over there in '26. And we'd drive up there. We had these mosquito beaters, you know, those palmetto switches. And we'd drive up. The kids would run to the door, get in, scoot in. [00:34:00] They couldn't play outdoors. They had to play inside. Goodness.

When the County started spraying for the mosquitoes, when the Navy came in, they didn't like that little spot spraying, so they converted [00:34:30] one of their bombers into a mosquito sprayer. So they'd fly over in the morning, and your car parked out there, it looked like a little shower had come along. But that got rid of the mosquitoes. Oh my goodness.

I was out there working on the screen door here a little while ago, several days, a month ago. [00:35:00] One morning about 11:00 o'clock I was out there doodling around with the screen. All of a sudden a bunch of mosquitoes came in. About nine days after it quit raining and rainwater puddled around, that's when they come.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember how to make one of [00:35:30] those mosquito beaters? Do you remember how they were made? Do you remember how those mosquito beaters were made?

Roy Wall: Yeah. Take a palmetto, go out there and cut off a ... And take a fork, strip it, just rake it, and leave about that much for a handle. You take that handle, and then you just flick, [00:36:00] like a switch, you know so-- They have a Mosquito Beaters Organization. They have an annual ... They're people who are in here up to 1950. That's a big organization. We have a big time. People get together, haven't seen each other in a long time. So--

Nancy Yasecko: [00:36:30] On a new subject, you were telling us you saw the Kitty Hawk fly. You were telling us that you saw the Kitty Hawk fly, and you've seen some rockets as well I guess.

Roy Wall: Huh?

Nancy Yasecko: You've seen the spaceships go up too.

Roy Wall: Sometimes [00:37:00] we'd go down to the river and watch them go up. This other time I just walked right out there and see it. There's so many of them that comes in. Yeah, I saw the Kitty Hawk fly in Atlanta, Georgia in 1912. The State was having a fair, and they had a racetrack. They had that there. They'd put a shock [00:37:30] under the wheels, and they'd rev it up and jerk the stocks out, off he'd go to circle and come back. I seen it hanging in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Yeah when, the day that I flew [00:38:00] with Wally Schirra, he belongs to the Masons, and he had just returned from one of his Moon trips. And the Masons were having a annual meeting in Jacksonville, so he stopped off there and

attended the meeting. The State furnished him a plane. Howard Bennett and myself [00:38:30] were attending the Masonic [inaudible 00:38:34] and he was on his way there, so he picked us up and flew us down to Ti-Co.

Nancy Yasecko: You've seen the whole history of aviation.

Roy Wall: The whole history of the very first beginning. [00:39:00] And I was 14 years old before ever I saw an automobile. Yeah, I've seen the whole history of aviation.

Nancy Yasecko: When did you get your first car?

Roy Wall: Well you [00:39:30] might say the first car, I did have a Ford for a little while. And when I built that house over there, when I lived in Cocoa I walked to work. When I built that, I had to have a car. So I got a four-cylinder, two-door Chevrolet, 1926. And that car, I know it [00:40:00] had 150,000 miles on it. I quit driving about three or four years ago.

Nancy Yasecko: Before there were cars around here, there were a lot of boats on the river.

Roy Wall: Huh?

Nancy Yasecko: Before there were cars around here, there were a lot of boats on the river.

Roy Wall: Well everybody [00:40:30] that lived on the island had a boat, and a lot of people on this side had a boat. A lot of people that had orange groves on the island that lived over here.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember the steamboats?

Roy Wall: Yeah.

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell [00:41:00] us?

Roy Wall: The steamboat used to land right out here west of Rockledge, come down St. Johns River, Rockledge Creek, load and unload the freight. You take where the hospital is, down to the fire station, that area all, it used to be a nine-hole golf [00:41:30] course. President Harding got a boat down from Jacksonville to the Indian River Hotel, and he played golf on the golf course.

Robert Gilbert: What about steamboats coming down the Indian River?

Nancy Yasecko: Do you recall the steamboats that were on the Indian River?

Roy Wall: [00:42:00] Well I don't know that I remember a steamboat. Gasoline was coming in. As I have told you, Travis Hardware used to have a freight boat down to Jupiter and back. And he used to be a dentist on the boat, had his office on the boat. He'd

[00:42:30] go to Titusville and to different places, Eau Gallie and Melbourne, so many days here, so many days there.

Nancy Yasecko: Did you ever visit that dentist?

Roy Wall: Did I ever? No, I don't think I did. No, I don't think I did. The River Road used to be [00:43:00] U.S. 1, and then it came up to where Florida Avenue is, and then it went over to where it is now.

Nancy Yasecko: I understand that they helped build the roads with some old shells. They used to use the old shell mounds for when they were building the roads.

Roy Wall: Do what?

Nancy Yasecko: [00:43:30] When they were building the roads they used some shell that they found, the Indian shell mounds. Do you remember about that?

Roy Wall: No, I don't remember. I know it used to be just a Indian trail go down, and then people rode horseback, and then they had a path [inaudible 00:43:51] they made the pavement. I think it was about, let's see, 1920 when [00:44:00] they paved the road that went on the island.

Nancy Yasecko: What can you tell us about what it was like here during World War II?

Roy Wall: [00:44:30] Well, World War II, there was so much going on, all that building and things going on like that. It was heck trying to get things that you wanted in shortage. I know Mr. Travis, certain items were allocated you could only buy so many, [00:45:00] so Mr. Travis would order what he could, he'd put it out, at his regular price. And somebody came in there one day and they said, "Mr. Travis, you're selling this too cheap. So-and-so down the street is selling it for so." He said, " [00:45:30] I buy what I buy. I mark up my regular price, and when that's gone, it's gone." He didn't take advantage of it. He's the best man I've ever known.

When I went to work for him, I said, "Mr. Travis, how much bond do [00:46:00] you want me to put up?" Looked at me and, "Bond? If I got to bond you, I don't want you." I said, "Mr. Travis, I worked for banks for 20 years and I was under a bond and I thought maybe you were."

I said, "What hours do you want me to keep?" He said, "You make your own hours. [00:46:30] All I ask of you is you keep up your work." So from then on I knew exactly where I stood. I made my own hours and everything.

And we got to where I know one day I was over at my desk and he was over at his, I said, "Mr. Travis," and it was a item in connection [00:47:00] with the business, he says, "You know, Roy, I was thinking about the same thing." He walked in one morning, he said, "Roy, on the way down here," and he named the

items that he was talking about. I said, "Mr. Travis, you know, I was thinking about the same thing." [00:47:30] Oh goodness.

I spent 32 and one half years as a happy employee. I wouldn't worry about anything. I knew I had to do what I had to do. No criticism whatever. You [00:48:00] can't imagine working 32 years you might say as your own boss. If I get jammed up with doing more work than I could do in the daytime, I'd go down at night and on Sundays and do my work, before I got some help.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:48:30] Your children went to school around here. What were the schools like around here?

Roy Wall: Harriette was born in '21, and they went to school here. The school building was up there where Scotty's and that area up there. And the old school, when I first came, they [00:49:00] had a wooden building over there where that tire on 520, and then they built that school up there, grammar school [inaudible 00:49:16]. Then they built the other two-story and tore that one down.

Robert Gilbert: Why don't you [00:49:30] lean forward so he doesn't have to?

Nancy Yasecko: Why don't you lean back here? I'll lean in too so you can hear me. Which church did you go to, and what kind of events did the church have?

Roy Wall: Well, I think we went to the Methodist church in Eau Gallie. And we moved to Cocoa, some of Harriette's friends belonged to [00:50:00] the Presbyterian Church, so we joined the Presbyterian Church right here. She was very active in the Presbyterian Church. I quit going to the lodge and church because I can't hear, can't understand. I hear the voice, but I can't tell ya what they're saying. So--

Nancy Yasecko: In your younger [00:50:30] days, do you recall the kind of church socials that used to happen?

Roy Wall: Hmm? What?

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember the church socials when you were a younger man?

Roy Wall: Well, I know one time the men's bible class and the women's bible class had a race to see which one could increase their membership the most. [00:51:00] and the one that lost had a banquet over at Indian River Hotel. The men lost. Oh goodness.

Nancy Yasecko: Do you recall the traveling shows that would come through, the circuses and the tent shows that would come through this area? [00:51:30] Here, sit on back.

Roy Wall: What?

Nancy Yasecko: Do you remember when the circuses and the tent shows used to come through this area?

Roy Wall: Oh yeah.

Nancy Yasecko: Sit on back.

Roy Wall: Oh yeah. I know up in Cocoa there was this little traveling show. And one thing that I remember, they had this horse, trained horse, he lied down on the ground, he'd get on top of him and stand on top. I remember that. [00:52:00] Oh goodness.

Nancy Yasecko: You met a lot of people working at Travis. Can you tell us about some of the black people that you knew?

Roy Wall: Oh goodness. If you hadn't asked me I could tell you. Sidney Winn, S-I-D-N-E-Y W-I-double [00:52:30] N, he is a nice old boy. He calls me every once in a while. I haven't heard him in long enough, so I'll have to call him. He is a--Norman Scott was our truck driver. [00:53:00] He worked for a long time at Travis Hardware. I think he was about 105 years old.

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell us a little bit about [00:53:30] the relationship between the races, between the black people and the white people back in the early days here?

Roy Wall: Well, back in the early days before [inaudible 00:53:46] the black people stayed across the track, and the whites, they never had any trouble [00:54:00] or anything, and they never had any trouble when they changed to a ... No, it never had any trouble. Mr. Travis, he was a very, very cooperative.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:54:30] I understand that at the theater in Cocoa they used to have bingo games.

Roy Wall: Bingo games. Well, I know what that's in reference to-- back during the Depression they would have a bingo game in the middle of the show. [00:55:00] So, it came a picture that my wife wanted the girls to see. I said, "Mother, you take the girls and go and see the show." She said, "No, I have something that I want to do, so you take them."

So we went in and got our tickets and sat [00:55:30] down, come midsection. So we got to playing bingo, bingo. A man says, "Bingo!" They had prizes. Up on the stage and all that, they had prizes that you got. They checked him. He was wrong. Got back again, and I [00:56:00] says, "Bingo!" I went up, and he says, "You win. Which one of those prizes you want?" I said, "I don't know what makes any difference; I'll take this one." He says, "You lucky dog. \$50." That was just before Christmas. And that \$50 was our Christmas. Who [00:56:30] says the good Lord wouldn't provide?

Nancy Yasecko: Do you recall the livery stable in Cocoa?

Roy Wall: Hmm?

Nancy Yasecko: The livery stable, O.K. Key.

Roy Wall: O.K. Key, that's where the theater is now. That's where the livery stable was. It went from a livery [00:57:00] stable until Ford Automobile Sweet Smith put in. And that days a five pain, a tap, you could let them down were \$360.

Nancy Yasecko: [inaudible 00:57:28]. [00:57:30] I know the prices have changed on a lot of things. What about property around here?

Roy Wall: Oh well, that all depends on where it is located and the surroundings and so forth. I don't know, I think we paid ... During the boom, we bought 50 feet by 120 feet on the corner there. [00:58:00] I think that was \$1,100. It all depends on where it is and what it is, because the River Road that, you can't tell what some of ... It all depends on how bad a fellow wants the property and how bad the fellow wants the sale.

Nancy Yasecko: [00:58:30] A lot of the people that live around here for a long, long time wish they had bought more when they could.

Roy Wall: Yeah. Had I had two dimes to rub together, I'd have been a millionaire today. Yes, I had interest in [00:59:00] a mile oceanfront during the boom. Oh goodness.

I could've bought that mile very, very cheap when it went down. Let's [00:59:30] see. Yeah, this lot here ... No, it was this one. The big one's 50. It was one, two, three 50-foot lots. I bought this one for taxes for \$70. I gave a man \$25 for a quitclaim deed [01:00:00] to the 50 feet that runs all that way north of that house.

This lot here, had it up for sale, and I applied for it and all like that. So when time comes for sale, you had to bid on it and all like that. So I had two people bidding on [01:00:30] it against me. I think I had \$75 in it. So there was two people, one next door, up there, and I asked 'em if they were going to bid against it. So I made a deal with one of the fellows that if I give him \$100 he wouldn't bid against me. The one [01:01:00] next door got together and we split the lot. He got 25 and I got 25. So that's the way it stayed.

Nancy Yasecko: [01:01:30] Where was that beach property that you had an interest in?

Roy Wall: Beach property? It's north and south, south of the lighthouse, in that area up that way, north at [Barlow Mile 01:01:55]. If I [01:02:00] had about \$2,500 for the tax sale, I'd have been a millionaire today. Take that poetry book, about the fourth page, fourth or fifth, it'll be a "Little Black Boy", about [01:02:30] the fourth. That, read it.

Nancy Yasecko: [inaudible 01:02:40]. Can you read it?

Roy Wall: No, you read it.

Nancy Yasecko: Okay. "Little black boy, do not despair. You are [01:03:00] young and the world is fair. Sometime in the eons to come, you shall have your place in the sun. You will ride in the front of the car and be accepted for what you are. Your kind shall know the joy of others in the new world where men are brothers."

Roy Wall: It was written in '28.

Nancy Yasecko: Who wrote this?

Roy Wall: My wife. [01:03:30] She wrote all those in there. Look in there, there's one in there--- Spider Web. If you don't want take up time ... yeah. That is that she saw ahead of time that the whites and the blacks were gonna be the same.

Nancy Yasecko: [01:04:00] It was very different in the '20s.

Roy Wall: Yeah, yeah. I forgot when that law passed.

Nancy Yasecko: Most of the integration happened in the mid-'60s, in the middle of the '60s.

Roy Wall: I don't remember.

Nancy Yasecko: How long have you been a member of the Mason's Lodge?

Roy Wall: 1919, [01:04:30] March the 7th.

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell us about what y'all were doing in the early days of the Lodge?

Roy Wall: Hmm?

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell us what the group was doing in the early days?

Roy Wall: I didn't understand what you said.

Nancy Yasecko: What kind of activities?

Roy Wall: Oh, it's a [01:05:00] history of a group of people organized way back. It's worldwide. It's called a Masonic Lodge. We have three degrees. There's the levels. We meet on the level, [01:05:30] act by the laws, and part upon the square. There's three principles. That's the principles of their word. We don't solicit membership. You have to ask, and you are accepted. [01:06:00] And then they have two rites, Scottish rite and the York rite, different parts of history of the Bible. All of it is based on the Bible. You might say it's a Bible class.

Nancy Yasecko: What are the other old-timers around [01:06:30] here that belong to that Lodge?

Roy Wall: Oh, there's so many. There's Howard Bennett.

Nancy Yasecko: [John Black 01:06:41].

Roy Wall: I think we've got 300 and some odd members at this lodge, in the lodge here, one on Merritt Island, one on the peninsula, one down at Melbourne, one in Eau Gallie, and one in Melbourne, Titusville. [01:07:00] We visit backwards and forwards.

Nancy Yasecko: Was there a lodge here when you arrived?

Roy Wall: Oh yeah. Let's see. This Lodge was, I forgot when ...

Nancy Yasecko: I'm gonna sit you back for a second here. There we go. Tell me about some of the famous people that visited Brevard.

Roy Wall: What?

Nancy Yasecko: [01:07:30] Some of the famous people that came here. You mentioned President Harding came.

Roy Wall: I don't understand any.

Nancy Yasecko: Can you tell me some of the famous people who came to this area?

Roy Wall: Oh, I don't [01:08:00] know, you know. Back maybe 25, 20 years ago, I had a brain hemorrhage, and every now and then it clicks off. I can't remember. Like the other day, [01:08:30] about a month ago, I was at a part in the initiation of a candidate, bingo, it just ... I lost everything. That's the way it goes.

Nancy Yasecko: Well, I think we're about done. Is there any other story you'd [01:09:00] like to tell us?

Roy Wall: I'll think of something one day and will go, "Why didn't I think of that?"