



Newport Historical Society

Guide to the Oral Histories, 1930 – 1987

Newport Historical Society
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Descriptive Summary

<i>Collection Identifier</i>	MS.127
<i>Title</i>	Oral Histories
<i>Date</i>	1930 – 1987
<i>Extent</i>	Three bankers boxes of cassette tapes.
<i>Abstract</i>	The Newport Historical Society's Oral History Collection consists of cassette tape recordings focusing on the Fishing Industry in Newport (1930-1987), Neighborhoods of Newport, the John G. Winslow Winter Series, and the U. S. Naval Torpedo Station (1937-1951).

Scope and Content

The Newport Historical Society's Oral History Collection consists of cassette tape recordings focusing on the Fishing Industry in Newport (1930-1987), Neighborhoods of Newport, the John G. Winslow Winter Series, and the U. S. Naval Torpedo Station (1937-1951).

"The Newport Historical Society's Oral History Project has as its goals not only to record personal reminiscences but also to explore the ways in which the parts of the city work together to form a whole."
- Newport History Journal, Issue 197, Article 2, 1985.

Subject Access

Access and Use

Physical Access

This collection is housed on site at the Newport Historical Society. Researchers can be seen by appointment during operating hours.

Reproduction & Use

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Citation

Oral Histories, MS.127, Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island

Administrative Information

Descriptive Rules

Finding aid based on *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS)

Inventory

Series 01: The Fishing Industry in Newport, 1930 – 1987

Tapes include:

The Fishing Industry in Newport - Allen, Richard
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Bennett, Hedy
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Bennett, Paul
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Bucolo, Anthony
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Caminiti, John
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Fatulli, Ronald
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Fougere, S.
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Galligan, Marilyn
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Garcia, Jose
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Gray, Manly
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Harvey, Paul
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Kaplan, Ellen
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Lutyens, Christopher
The Fishing Industry in Newport - McDonald, John
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Mendosa, George
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Mendosa, Ronald
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Palombo, Jean
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Palombo, Raymond
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Parascandolo, James
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Ruhle, Philip
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Silvia, Manuel
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Tuttle, Kevin

The Fishing Industry in Newport - Tuttle, Susan
The Fishing Industry in Newport - Violet, James
Munroe, James - F.R. Line Shops
Munroe, James - Newport

Series 02: The Neighborhoods of Newport, circa 1985

Tapes include:

Neighborhoods of Newport - Barter, James
Neighborhoods of Newport - Benson, Esther
Neighborhoods of Newport - Berry, Richard
Neighborhoods of Newport - Bolhouse, Gladys
Neighborhoods of Newport - Booth, Allan
Neighborhoods of Newport - Bozyan, Edith
Neighborhoods of Newport - Canavan, Elizabeth
Neighborhoods of Newport - Carry, Marion
Neighborhoods of Newport - Chartier, Louis
Neighborhoods of Newport - Collins, John
Neighborhoods of Newport - Crocker, Helen
Neighborhoods of Newport - Flannery, Francis
Neighborhoods of Newport - Gilmore, Roy
Neighborhoods of Newport - Haire, Grace
Neighborhoods of Newport - Harpin, Helen
Neighborhoods of Newport - Hayes, Patrick
Neighborhoods of Newport - Henry, Elsie
Neighborhoods of Newport - Keys, Eleanor
Neighborhoods of Newport - Kusinitz, Bernard
Neighborhoods of Newport - Leys, Aline
Neighborhoods of Newport - Limmer, Edward
Neighborhoods of Newport - Lord, Esther
Neighborhoods of Newport - Manuel, Elton
Neighborhoods of Newport - McAskill, Norman
Neighborhoods of Newport - McCarthy, Rita
Neighborhoods of Newport - McPoland, Roy
Neighborhoods of Newport - Niles, Sarah
Neighborhoods of Newport - North, Amabel
Neighborhoods of Newport - Pannagio, Leonard
Neighborhoods of Newport - Parsons, Olive
Neighborhoods of Newport - Plumb, Sarah

Neighborhoods of Newport - Prince, E. Lawson
Neighborhoods of Newport - Shea, Robert
Neighborhoods of Newport - Sherman, William
Neighborhoods of Newport - Steel, James
Neighborhoods of Newport - Sullivan, Gladys
Neighborhoods of Newport - Triplett, Ernest
Neighborhoods of Newport - Barker, Anne
Neighborhoods of Newport - Corcoran, William [Edward J. Corcoran]

File 02.001: James Barter

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbj3Xi-w5Vc>

File 02.002: Esther Benson

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yJAwoKWT5M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eIf4vLzvg&feature=youtu.be>

File 02.003: Richard Berry

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKwEbGSwyZo>

File 02.004: Gladys Bolhouse

File 02.005: Allan Booth

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETAFkh-9Yk8>

File 02.006: Edith Bozyan

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT8bkefPY-8>

File 02.007: Elizabeth Canavan

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SDv2z4YdGM>

File 02.008: Marion Carry

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-NUW-QrFkM>

File 02.009: Louis Chartier

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZVJ93D1_a0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGQM5ZitSWM>

File 02.010: John Collins

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7fFfrnAlis>

File 02.011: Helen Crocker

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbdJOlaGA2E>

File 02.012: Francis Flannery

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWumkiDOnQE>

File 02.013: Roy Gilmore

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMHoEnbxmEU>

File 02.014: Grace Haire

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71aYxNOhNpA>

File 02.015: Helen Harpin

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8nI5PBFYwo>

File 02.016: Patrick Hayes

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJurHFdFmXU>

File 02.017: Elsie Henry

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxZAvmuP1xo>

File 02.018: Eleanor Keys

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42E-Y3kszM>

File 02.019: Bernard Kusinitz

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5Vw4r8L23I>

File 02.020: Aline Leys

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3cOTn3534E>

File 02.021: Edward Limmer

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU1YdaHScVY>

File 02.022: Esther Lord

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aahXhrzIMQ4>

File 02.023: Elton Manuel

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEVcZ6bSYil>

File 02.024: Norman McAskill

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3Hl4ZxTcow>

File 02.025: Rita McCarthy

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLb5EOwjro>

File 02.026: Roy McPoland

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31TKdx4hMqo>

File 02.027: Sarah Niles

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C2m2zCE26o>

File 02.028: Amabel North

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5b-KvFiqZi8>

File 02.029: Leonard Pannagio

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTNYklrczwU>

File 02.030: Olive Parsons

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqPunnJZCPE>

File 02.031: Sarah Plumb

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJzkin6_wVA

File 02.032: Prince E. Lawson

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2HMQmfCdG4>

File 02.033: Robert Shea

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM-VC-BI5Jo>

File 02.034: William Sherman

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCQvRjG2Zh8>

File 02.035: James Steel

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8VnbBaJVOA>

File 02.036: Gladys Sullivan

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIx-veSXHO8>

File 02.037: Ernest Triplett

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Zy73mucX2E

File 02.038: Anne Barker

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAftk9I2ic>

File 02.039: Edward Cocoran

This tape has been digitized and is available on YouTube
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFbEJRiETRw>

Series 03: John G. Winslow, 1990 – 1996

Tapes include:

Winslow, John G. 1996

Winter Series - Architecture 1990

Winter Series - Families 1991

Winter Series - Furniture 1995

- Margaretta Lovell
- Richard Bushman
- Antoinette Downing
- Michael Moss
- Ralph E. Carpenter
- Roger Kenedy

Series 04: U.S. Naval Torpedo Station, 1937 – 1951

Tapes include:

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Bartlett, William, Dr.

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Bradford, William

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Bradford, Martha

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Caine, Raymond

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Collart, Julien

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Fitzpatrick, William

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Fritz, J. Raymond

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Gilman, Stephen

U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Jackson, Elsie
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Jenkins, Robert
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Kenney, James
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - MacKinnon, Elizabeth
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - McNulty, Isabella
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Morgan, Manuel
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Mulholland, Dana
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Robbins, Francis, Captain
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Robbins, Francis, Captain
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Rosapepe, Frank, Dr.
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Sullivan, Mary
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Walton, William
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - West, George
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Winnick, Robert
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Bartlett, William, Dr.
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - MacKinnon, Elizabeth
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Sullivan, Mary
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Robbins, Francis, Captain
Corcoran
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Bradford, William
U.S. Naval Torpedo Station - Bradford, William

File 04.001: Isabella P. McNulty, June 18 1985

In this oral history interview, Isabella P. McNulty describes how she got her job at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station (NTS) in Jamestown, Rhode Island, the work environment, and her background. She gives some detail about her work but little information about other activities of NTS, her personal life, or what she did after the war. In the 1930s McNulty came to stay at Holiday House in Saunderstown, and she describes how she investigated the area to decide to live there. She knew some women working at the NTS and applied for a job prior to the war but was not hired until the work went to three shifts. McNulty had a brief training period, after which her work entailed assembling parts and loading explosive powder into tracers. She worked at the same job throughout her employment at NTS. McNulty worked with about twenty to twenty-five women, and she talks a little about the discrepancies between the men and women at NTS, both in work and pay. She gives some descriptions of the building she worked in and taking the Jamestown Ferry to get there. Other than getting information about the war from the newspaper, there was no information shared by the NTS about the war and its progress. There was no notice when the job was over, and no benefits were provided. It was a job at a time when jobs were scarce, and the pay was good.

File 04.002: Julien Collart, July 3 1985

In this oral history interview, Julien Collart describes his work at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Jamestown, Rhode Island (NTS) with detail and clarity. He discusses his qualifications as an established journey machinist in the aircraft industry. This experience gave Collart an advantage when he applied to work at NTS, where he started in 1935. He describes the torpedo components that he machined and the various areas of production in which he worked, including light turning, afterbody, and research. Collart recalls the growth of the station as the war progressed, with construction of additional buildings and hiring of more workers. He describes briefly the impact of the 1938 Hurricane on ferry crossings and flood destruction to the NTS. He recounts the role of the Union at NTS and its influence on some of the work effort, and he attributes the eventual closing of the station to Union policies. Unhappy with the influence of the Union, he eventually left the NTS, and went on to work at Republic Aircraft in New York and, later, at the Quonset Point Naval Air Station.

File 04.003: Stephen Gilman, April 23 1985

In this oral history interview, Stephen Gilman provides detailed recollections of his work at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station (NTS) in Jamestown, Rhode Island, and the apprenticeships that were part of the training program. He describes the types of torpedoes built at NTS, including "Navol", a hydrogen peroxide torpedo, aerial torpedoes used by the Germans, magnetic field torpedoes and prototypes of battery torpedoes. He gives very detailed descriptions about the construction of torpedo components and how testing was conducted. He recollects some problems with insufficient testing on the magnetic and contact exploders. He mentions the role of the Union and the work ethic of some of the torpedo station workers. He discusses his work on Gould Island and Goat Island, and describes some of the first building on Goat Island and changes made during the war. He briefly recounts the 1938 Hurricane and the destruction to Newport and the Jamestown ferries. A significant portion of the narrative describes Gilman's childhood growing up in the Point Section of Newport, what life was like living near the docks, and the large presence of naval vessels and dirigibles in the harbor during the 1930s. He collected penny arcade cards from the Newport Beach Arcade. He was a self-taught coronet player, and he collected old phonograph and gramophone records in order to learn how to play the instrument. He was involved with the 1933 Newport music festival of high school bands, which ultimately led to the formation of the Rogers High School band, and he recalls in great detail many of the local music professionals.

File 04.004: Robert Jenkins, May 24 1985

In this oral history interview, Robert Jenkins describes working at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Jamestown, Rhode Island, and his life leading up to employment there. He discusses his early education in Jamestown and his one year at Rogers High School, before he dropped out to help support his mother in 1931. Prior to apprenticing at NTS, Jenkins worked for the Works Progress Administration, the Civil Works Administration, and the Jamestown Golf Course. He describes the Civil Service Exam taken in order to be admitted into the NTS apprenticeship program and challenges he faced due to lack of a high school education. He initially qualified as a machinist and in later years became a planner and estimator. Jenkins describes security measures at NTS, including color coded badges for employees who had to stay in their assigned departments. In 1942 he enlisted in the Seabees which assured him a one year job at the NTS after the war. He talks about the uncertainty of jobs for workers after the war and the move of the torpedo station to Coddington Cove. He comments on the role of women at NTS and describes some of his coworkers. He briefly mentions damage from the Hurricane of 1938.

File 04.005: George West, June 10 1985

In this oral history interview, George West recollects his childhood in Jamestown and his career at the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station (NTS). His father owned a livery stable with 30 horses on Clinton Avenue and operated horse drawn carriages that served as taxis to bring people to the ferries. Eventually he worked as a freight clerk in Newport for the Jamestown Ferry. As a child, West remembers the Thorndike Hotel burning in 1912 as well as the burning of the Conanicut Steam Ferry in 1914. He attended the Carr School until the age of 16, when he left to work for Archie Saunders on the Saunderstown Ferry. In 1934 a friend brought him an application for the NTS, and he was hired as an assistant machinist. He later became a tool setter and worked in Shop 23. He describes inspections, which some workers felt were unfair, and he discusses the role of the Machinist Union. He recounts some of the problems with torpedo testing that resulted in accidents, particularly the sinking of a fishing boat owned by George Grimes. He discusses the activities of large tankers, battleships, dirigibles and seaplanes on Narragansett Bay prior to the war. After the war until 1954, West operated a water taxi that transported sailors from ship to shore. For fourteen years he was Captain of the Viking, a co-op owned ferry that took workers from Newport to Quonset Point.