

Oral History Interview - Marshall McBean

Isle au Haut Historical Society

Date: August 18, 2013

Location: summer residence of Marshall and Jean McBean in Head Harbor

Interviewer: Richard 'Dick' Marks, summer resident of Isle au Haut

Dick: This is Dick Marks and I'm doing an oral history on Dr. Marshall McBean. This is August 18, 2013 and I am in Marshall's living room. We will start with questions...we have about 100 questions or maybe 200 but I'm not going to ask all of them. So, we will start off...

Marshall when were you born and where?

Marshall: 1942. Summit, New Jersey, USA. March 10th.

Dick: March the 10th. And your parents, at that time, where were they from?

Marshall: They lived in Chatham, New Jersey. My Dad was born in Scotland and came over in the early 20's. My mother probably is a descendant of the Hessian soldiers because she told me once she could be a member of the DAR which would place her as Revolutionary time in terms of her heritage.

Dick: So, she had been around a long time. What year did your father come over?

Marshall: I would say '23.

Dick: What are the best things you remember about both of your parents?

Marshall: I think about my father is his trust, trusting everybody. Something I don't do nearly as well. But, I think that's the main characteristic I would have of him. My mother was probably diligence, working, keeping things going...and working hard, working hard all the time.

Dick: What did your father do for a living?

Marshall: He was an accountant after the depression. During the depression, he lost his job and my mother was a secretary and that was how they survived. He finally became an accountant in New York City. We lived in the suburbs.

Dick: So, he lived in the same place for a long time then.

Marshall: They bought their house after the Depression, so probably in '33...in 1933. So, they lived there until we bought this house here which was 1971. So, they lived there for that whole time period.

Dick: So, he bought this house?

Marshall: No, that's one thing we need to get very clear. This house here was bought by Jean and me. And there's a story there. But, we'll get to that maybe. Jean and I bought the house. We invited them to spend the summer here because at that time, we were living in Georgia and were planning to move to Africa for the Public Health Service. So, we knew we wouldn't use it that much. They had such a good time here that all they did after they spent their first summer here was go home to put their house on the market, sell it, and move to Stonington. So, they lived in Stonington beginning the time after we bought the house here. But then, they spent literally, five or six months here every year.

Dick: Well, see that gets it straight. I thought it was your house but Thomas said no, your parents bought the house. You bought it. They used it more than you did for a number of years.

Marshall: Without getting sappy, I feel that was my gift to my parents.

Dick: And she was a gardener, they started all these trees.

Marshall: They were the maintainers for sure...I think we were the initiators. They embraced what we started.

Dick: So, all those years that they spent 5 or 6 months over here and y'all came to visit, how long would you normally stay?

Marshall: We have been here at least a month every year since we bought it. And so, as Duncan, our older son said about 5 years ago, when he got here with his brother, 'We're home.' To the next generation, this is kind of our home.

Dick: How many siblings did you have?

Marshall: I had zero.

Dick: Were your parents strict? Were they hard on you? Or were they very liberal?

Marshall: They were very liberal. When you said strict, I was thinking about their abstinence. They were strict teetotalers which put them in a certain category on Isle au Haut if you will. No, no...I lived a very spoiled childhood within reason. With a modest income, how spoiled can you be? But within their means, I was spoiled.

Dick: Were they religious?

Marshall: Yeah, they were. They both taught Sunday school before I was born, and off and on, my Dad would teach Sunday school even after that.

Dick: You went to church quite a bit then?

Marshall: We did and I was in the church choir. I was confirmed.

Dick: What denomination?

Marshall: That was Congregational.

Dick: Congregational...you understand Ted and this kind of service here because...

Marshall: It was my own church basically.

Dick: Presbyterian where we are was similar. Do you remember the first day you went to school?

Marshall: I do not...but yet we lived in a rural area even though we were 25 miles from New York City. But it was rural and it was a school bus I'm sure and I was obviously the youngest kid on the bus. Anything else would be making it up.

Dick: When you were young, what did you think you were going to be when you grew up? What were you interested in?

Marshall: Marine biology was one as a teen. I guess that would be the one I thought about the most was doing science, marine biology.

Dick: Were you interested in sports?

Marshall: I was... I wasn't that good. I did play varsity tennis and basketball in high school but I wasn't good enough in college. Plus the laboratory sessions I was doing two labs and there was no time. But, I think it was more skill than anything else.

Dick: What do you remember about vacations, Christmas, Thanksgiving and all? What were the traditions around your house such as Thanksgiving or Christmas?

Marshall: Well, my mother was one of thirteen although several of them died in childhood. There were about six of her sisters and one brother who lived within an hour of each other. So, holidays were always a gathering of those multi-generational families.

Dick: You had a lot of cousins?

Marshall: I had a lot of cousins. So, it was family, family, family. And then vacations...my Dad had two weeks of vacation and we generally went away, perhaps to New Hampshire. There was a Bible camp up there or church camp. Or the Jersey shore sometimes.

Dick: When you first came here, you were 30 or in your 20's?

Marshall: No, when I first came here, I was in my assistant resident years, so PGY2, so I would have been 28.

Dick: Did you ever play a musical instrument?

Marshall: I did...I played; I guess it was only elementary school band, trumpet and played the piano a little bit. That's stretching again.

Dick: Did you go to public or private school?

Marshall: Definitely public school.

Dick: Was it big, small, medium size?

Marshall: We graduated 120 in our high school class. That's under 500 for four years. There were four levels in New Jersey. It was level two. But small enough that you knew everybody in your class. And the feeder school into that or the feeder town into the bigger school, we had about 41 or 2 classes.

Dick: When you were in high school, what were your favorite subjects? What did you enjoy doing the most?

Marshall: Subjects were probably the sciences so biology, chemistry. I probably never was a liberal arts person. I think part of that reminds me of my spelling adventures in sixth grade when we had spelling bees. I don't know if they do them anymore because they can be embarrassing.

Dick: I know exactly.

Marshall: I was first person to sit down. I graduated valedictorian in my 8th grade and my 12th grade...no, salutatorian in high school. So, I was second best in my high school and in my grade school. But I was the first one to sit down in spelling class.

Dick: I was exactly like you. I was second salutatorian in my high school. I couldn't spell. When I got to college, I got all F's on my all my themes and book reports because I couldn't spell.

Marshall: It sounds like we are the same. My mother, now a typical mother would say, when I was growing up, 'Go look it up in the dictionary.' I would say, 'How do you spell washer?' And my mother would say, 'w-a-s-h-e-r.' So, when I say I was spoiled.

Dick: I was an only child so I was spoiled too and I didn't read a lot like you were supposed to. Apparently, that's the way you learn to spell and that's the way you learn to write, is to read. My grandkids now read all the time. I didn't do that.

Marshall: It wasn't that I absolutely never read because I did enjoy the Russian authors when I was in high school. But, reading those long words which were the proper names became person A and person B. It was pattern recognition but never an attempt to speak them or spell them. Were you ever called dyslexic? Did you ever have a...

Dick: I did...I got 'saw' and 'was' mixed up.

Marshall: And the p and b?

Dick: I would write backwards. I could never remember p before c or e after... things like that.

You don't remember Pearl Harbor obviously?

Marshall: I don't but I remember ration stamps for sugar and things like that.

Dick: And did your father have to go in the service?

Marshall: No, he was born in 1900. So, he had actually volunteered in the British Army for the Irish Rebellion.

Dick: So, he was over there.

Marshall: My father was 41 when the war [World War II] broke out. That was border line between drafting if you had a family. He went and had to have a physical but he never had to go in.

Dick: What year did you graduate from high school?

Marshall: '60.

Dick: 1960. Where did you go to college undergraduate?

Marshall: To Yale.

Dick: Yale? What was the good thing about it? How did you like it?

Marshall: I worked very hard. We talked about the dyslexia a minute ago which meant lots of time studying. Truly, lots of time. I remember we got our first mid-semester grades and my average was 60. My parents had struggled and I was on scholarship but they contributed and had always contributed and that was just not what I was used to.

Dick: Did things improve after that?

Marshall: Yeah, I graduated magna cum laude.

Dick: So, they did improve.

Marshall: They improved dramatically. Whether the grades, like in our chemistry class, there were tests where the average was 5, you know, before the curve. Things got better but I worked hard. The thing I remember the most was having the chance to learn a lot. It was a learning time.

Dick: I had a very poor high school education. When I was in chemistry class, there were 500 of us in class and the professor said, 'for the first assignment, just review the periodic table and I will give you a quiz on it.' I didn't know what he was talking about. I had never heard of the periodic table. So, you know where I was. I got a 'C' in chemistry and a 'D' in English my freshman year, first semester. That was the only semester I didn't make the Dean's list through college and med school. So, that was the same thing, it just took me awhile to get my bearings.

Four years at Yale, were you in a fraternity?

Marshall: No.

Dick: And you didn't play sports there?

Marshall: Sounds pretty boring.

Dick: Did you have a scholarship or did your parents have to foot the bill?

Marshall: I was a National Merit Scholar.

Dick: Great. What was the tuition in those days?

Marshall: \$4,000 a year for everything: tuition, room and board.

Dick: I lived at home. My parents moved to Charlottesville so I could stay at home and go to school. My father traveled and my mother was a welfare superintendent. She got a better job by moving one county to Charlottesville. So, I lived at home and the tuition was \$250 a semester. I didn't have to pay room and board. I could have a car 'cause the guys couldn't have a car the first two years.

Dick: Could you have a car at Yale?

Marshall: I think probably in your last year. But, I don't remember the rules.

Dick: So, you didn't join a fraternity and you worked hard. And did you know in college you wanted to go to med. school?

Marshall: No, I was still on the marine biology trajectory. And a lot of what I did was to be a biology major and take courses. Yale has an oceanography laboratory which is one of the reasons I went there. And I spent time in the lab. But then junior year, I went to Africa and worked in a mission hospital.

Dick: For how long?

Marshall: For the summer, for two months and decided I could make a bigger contribution whether that's right or wrong, in medicine than doing marine biology. And so that's where I switched and I was fortunate because I had done essentially all the prerequisite sciences. So, that was between my junior and senior year so it very easy for me to switch.

Dick: Other than sciences, did you have major like psychology?

Marshall: Well, it was biology.

Dick: So, you took a lot of biology. So, then where did you go to med school?

Marshall: To Harvard.

Dick: Did you have to go in the service?

Marshall: We were graduated during Vietnam and there were several choices. One was the Berry plan where people would sign up and do their residency and then go into the military as essentially a board eligible position. One of the other choices was to be selected to work in the Public Health Service. So,

people like myself who were interested in population health and epidemiology could go to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and those interested in laboratory work could go to NIH (National Institute of Health) and there were probably 30 or 20 of us at CDC and probably about 40 or so at NIH. I think the Indian Health Service was another option. So, people did as a military equivalent the U.S. Public Health Service, So, we were commissioned officers in the Public Health Service.

Dick: So, you did two years?

Marshall: So I did two year's obligation and we were in Atlanta. But then, the program I went in was the Smallpox Eradication Program. So, after a year and a half, we were sent to Central Africa and we worked on smallpox, measles, yellow fever and cholera.

Dick: For how long?

Marshall: Three and a half years. And that was a great assignment.

Dick: But, that was elective that wasn't required.

Marshall: Once you went past the two-year mark, it was elective.

Dick: Right. I had the same problem with the Korean War when I finished. I graduated high school the 6th of June and the Korean War broke out the 10th of June. So, I had a choice to go in the reserve or when I went to college, I'd join the ROTC same like the Berry plan. So, I had to serve two years after college or go to med school and serve two years after med school.

So, when you were in med. school, you made a decision then obviously that you wanted to go into public health work or medical research or something like that.

Marshall: We had a field assignment if you will, to do a project in public health preventive medicine and I went to the Bahamas, not difficult duty. Cause a friend of mine had a house down there. And we were going to do a study of rheumatic fever, no German measles. There had been an outbreak of German measles. And we were going to look at the consequences or sequelae. I remember we were sitting one day waiting for a surgeon to come out of his surgery. He was an obstetrician. We waited and we waited. At noontime, which was fine, we finally got to meet him. But, I realized all morning he had worked with just 2 people. To me, to have an impact, it needed to be more than 2 people a morning. That's just the way I was thinking and I am not saying everyone should do that but obviously, no that... That was the thing that said to me that I would be happier working in population health and therefore, public health than working as an individual clinician.

Dick: After you did the public health service in Africa, what was the next step in your career?

Marshall: I stayed in the public health service because after 4 years or so then, they were willing to send you off for training. I went to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. And I did my M.Sc., Master's of Science in Social Medicine and then came back here after that and worked for the Public Health Service for a total of 28 years. But, they were very kind to me because they let me do different

kinds of assignments. So, the first assignment was as the Vermont State Health Commissioner and that was a fantastically fine job.

Dick: How long was that?

Marshall: Well, it was short; it was less than 2 years because it's a gubernatorial appointment.

Dick: Where did you live in Vermont?

Marshall: In South Burlington.

Dick: You had a great assignment.

Marshall: Very fine assignment, great health department. I was hired because it was the time of swine flu. I was an infectious disease expert and knew influenza and so got the job. But, then the governorship changed from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. And, I hung on by my fingernails for about a year before the governor decided he'd had enough of me. From there, I went to Johns Hopkins. Again, the public health service willing to let me be seconded this time to Hopkins.

I was at Johns Hopkins for about 10 years, at the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins as a regular faculty member. There, I was able to do a fair amount of vaccine research as well as I ran the program in preventive medicine which was the biggest program. We had over 30 people in our program which was basically unheard of at that time.

Dick: That definitely was, it was unheard of when I was in school; it was a part-time job. And we learned how to how deep to dig privies and how long your septic drain fields had to be. That's about all I learned in public health when I was in school.

Marshall: It has certainly changed with the environmental health things and the strong realization about the role of behavior in disease.

Dick: They didn't have any vaccines when I was in med school. They got the Salk vaccine and I missed taking it for some reason when they gave it and it was in my senior in med school. So, I went to my internship at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. But, my first rotation was pediatrics. The first child, a two year-old I saw in the emergency room had polio. Golly was I scared. I went the next day and got the vaccine.

Marshall: That's a real generational thing...

Dick: I think I had polio when I was about eight or nine [years old] because I had flu symptoms and I was sick to my stomach and I woke up one morning and I couldn't move. I just couldn't get out of bed and I'd fall. My father had to take me to the bathroom. My parents said, 'If you aren't better in two or three days, we'll go to the doctor.' I gradually got better. So, I really think I had it, it was a brief episode. Anyhow, that's water over the dam, thank God.

When did you meet Jean and where?

Marshall: That's a good story. I was a fourth year medical student and it was Christmas vacation. So, I drove from Boston down to New Jersey. I stopped to see my best high school friend in New York City and stayed overnight with him and his wife. His mother happened to be there, too. But I announced to them that I was getting married. And they said 'When?' 'Sometime between now and June.' 'To whom?' And I said, 'I don't know'. After they stopped laughing, they said, 'let's give you this person's name.' And that was Jean. That's the short version of the story.

The slightly longer version was I did call her up in January after I got back to Boston. She was living in Cambridge. And as I remember she was too busy to talk the first time. At the second call, she was willing to let me take her out.

Dick: What was she doing at that time?

Marshall: Actually, when I met her she was working in a botany lab at Harvard. She had moved up the young graduate ladder by then. But, she was in Cambridge. So, we went out. We did folk dancing which is what she likes to do a lot. And which was my test. If a woman couldn't go folk dancing, I wasn't interested because they were too fancy for me.

Then, three weeks later we decided to get married. I think I asked her to get married. So we decided three weeks later. Then, I went to Guatemala for a month because I had been committed to do some small research.

Dick: And you were in medical school?

Marshall: I was in medical school. I was in an elective period. I got back and we were married on April 6th. End of story...

Dick: What year of school were you then?

Marshall: Fourth year.

Dick: Fourth year. So she was with you at CDC [Centers for Disease Control]?

Marshall: She was with me PGY1, PGY2 [post graduate year].

Dick: She went to Africa...

Marshall: ...went to CDC, went to Africa.

Dick: Did she work during those times?

Marshall: The first year we were married she got a Master's in Education at Tufts. The next year she taught in the Newton system...Newton, MA system middle school science and then we moved to Atlanta. Then, she didn't work again until the boys, our children were in school. She didn't work in Africa.

Dick: How long were you married when you had the first pregnancy?

Marshall: It was four years 'cause we were married in '68 and Duncan was born in '72.

Dick: Duncan your youngest?

Marshall: The oldest.

Dick: The oldest, okay.

Marshall: Three plus years.

Dick: Do you remember getting your first TV?

Marshall: As a child, yes because in order to watch TV, I had to go to someone else's house and we could watch TV at her house. But, I can't remember exactly what year...probably 1950, 50-51.

Dick: That's about when we got one. I was living at home at Charlottesville and all the fraternity would come over to my house to watch fights. We got only one channel.

Marshall: Oh, yeah the fights and the wrestling.

Dick: the wrestling and the fights. Who was the first President you voted for?

Marshall: Not Eisenhower so I would say Kennedy was probably the first.

Dick: He came after Ford, right? It was Eisenhower and then Carter.

Marshall: Umm...umm.

Dick: No, I went back, Nixon before Eisenhower.

Marshall: Umm, no Nixon was Eisenhower's vice president. So, it was Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, Ford...

Dick: That's right and then Carter. Where was your first plane ride?

Marshall: It was from Newark to Miami. I had a summer scholarship when I was a junior in high school to work in the laboratory at the marine biological station at the University of Miami.

Dick: So, you did a lot of plane rides after that?

Marshall: Oh, yeah.

Dick: Do you remember the day, what you were doing the day that Kennedy was shot?

Marshall: I don't. He was shot in '63.

Nope, I don't.

Dick: After you left Johns Hopkins, you went to Minnesota?

Marshall: No, then I went, I was still in the Public Health Service. I went to work at what was called HCFA, the Health Care Finance Administration which was also in Baltimore. Then, I stayed there about ten years. Then, I went to Minnesota in 1993.

Dick: You were in Minnesota for twenty years?

Marshall: I've been in Minnesota...this will be the 20th year.

Dick: Twenty years. When did you first acquire property at Jackson Hole?

Marshall: Jackson Hole was probably 1997, 1998.

Dick: So after you went to Minnesota?

Marshall: Yes, after I went to Minnesota. In fact, it might have been before that. Yeah, probably 1997.

Dick: When you first came to Isle au Haut, did you have children then?

Marshall: No, it was in 1969 that we first saw Isle au Haut. We had been camping with my parents in Acadia National Park. They had a wall tent. We were on my two, or one-week vacation. It rained every day. And Jean had had enough of her mother-in-law. So, we left Acadia and came to the other green spot on the map which was Acadia and we camped at Duck Harbor which was totally unimproved at that time. But, we met on the mailboat, Bisty Donaldson. Gordon was one of the clinical faculty for Harvard. I am not sure I am answering your question. When we got back in the wintertime, we said gee, we are going to be going to Africa probably or we don't know where we are going to be. So, we know where we would like to be in the summer. Let's see if here are any places for sale. And your question was, "Did we have children when we came here?" The answer is 'no,' we didn't have children. We didn't have children for another three years.

Dick: Who did you acquire this house from?

Marshall: From Virgil Gross and Louise. Both of them being real princes, real heroes. Virgil being very, very nice. And developed a relationship with him and my parents. They were my parents' best friends in Stonington when my parents moved to Stonington. Virgil was very kind to us when we bought. Tom's house was for sale and I don't think the Woollen house was for sale at that time. The Wilson's house was for sale. We chose this one because it had a generator that was working. The kerosene stove had a hot water heater and it had dishes.

Dick: You had a pretty good amount of land too?

Marshall: It's under two acres but it's nice alluvial.

Dick: But Tom didn't have but one acre?

Marshall: I think Tom only got the land around his house, that's it.

Dick: So, you all came around the same time.

Marshall: Within a year.

Dick: We have a picture at home that we got out of the Parade magazine.

Marshall: Oh, yes the famous picture.

Dick: All in a pickup truck, 28 people in a pick-up truck. We have that in our catalog with all the memorabilia from the times we came up here.

Marshall: That's a good one.

Dick: That was in '68 I think when that picture was...

Marshall: Probably a little bit later. No, it wouldn't have been '68 because we didn't buy until '70 and move until '72.

Dick: It was '82 then.

Marshall: Duncan looks about seven or eight so, about '80.

Dick: About thirty some years ago. I remember looking. Okay, let's see...

Marshall: No children when we got here but then they came.

Dick: Once you got this property and your parents moved to Stonington, was this your primary vacation then? Did you go anywhere else much or you always come here?

Marshall: We basically always came here.

Dick: We've done the same thing.

Marshall: And part of it was because I thought...my vision was that one could essentially survive here as a subsistence farmer. You'd have the fish, etc. from the water. You could grow your vegetables and fruit. You had to buy your sugar, flour and milk. But I always thought of it as a homestead and came to keep building on that.

Dick: When you came, you lived through the time when the town, the community and the park were having problems.

Marshall: Well, if they were, we weren't that involved.

Dick: Okay

Marshall: Yeah.

Dick: Reading in Harold's book, he talks about the controversy about who was going to keep the roads up, and about allowing the camping, some regulations for camping.

Marshall: We were here again because we were only in the summer. My parents tended to let that kind of thing go. I think the major issue here and I'd have go to Harold's book was and talk to Fred Eustis because Fred I think feels fairly strongly that it was the people at the Point that kept the park from taking Head Harbor. Again that was before we were here. But, I guess there was serious discussion as to whether this should all become park land. But, there were people living here. Virgil was living here essentially fulltime. People were actively fishing. I think the right decision was made and we benefited from it.

Dick: We came two years ago and I remember how bad the park roads were then. They are much better now. What are the main things that have gotten better or gotten worse since you've been coming to the Island? You can take either one of them.

Marshall: I suppose you could duck by saying it's changed. I think one negative would be the decreased number of fisherman at this end of the island that have an interest in the island. The people who fish off Head Harbor are all from Stonington. They are descendants of the people from Head Harbor. But they fish...they don't think of the island.

Dick: Right.

Marshall: So, that's one piece. Certainly, the better side is we have better boat service. We have things because of what certain people have committed themselves to more sustainable institutions. Certainly, Ted has kept the church going. People have been very important in keeping the store going. The boat is on better footing because of Fred and Bill and I'm sure other people too. So, it's more stable. From my perspective, I think the town and summer people relationships are still pretty good. I come up in May and I will continue to do that even though we live in Washington [state]. I'm pretty sure because it gives me a week when I can see some of the winter people. Not that I see them that often because I am planting the garden. I think things like the talent show, even the pie auction tonight where people are committed to seeing the kids go off and you know have their trip. I would say generally things are better. I don't know any of the truth about drugs and alcohol. My guess is that it is as bad as it ever was or as good as it ever was and there is just more of it. From a percentage perspective, I doubt it has changed.

I doubt it. What is going to happen when Geordie quits coming, Bill retires, Ted's not going to be here, Marie Noel put \$300,000 in the store. Nobody else is going do that. So, what is going to happen to those 4 things, you think in the next decade?

Well, an unrealistic comment is there are probably enough people with enough resources. That a couple of those will continue. I think the boat will continue whether it's Geordie or someone else. The store... I personally have minority opinions of. There are other ways, there is working with Burnt Cove Market. That's only because I don't compulsively shop. I don't go running for an ice cream sandwich and I grow most of my vegetables. My parents worked with Gene who maybe still is running the Burnt Cove Market. There are ways. Simon delivers on the mainland. There are ways people could place their orders that could be brought here. We would lose the social part. I don't want to at all put down what Tina and others do but people would get on without the store. I think having the library and the town hall and all

the things that go on there are maybe as important as the store. So you asked about boat, store. Boat continues, the store...church was the other one. I have no idea about the church.

Dick: What would you like to see happen? Do you think, in other words, would it be reasonable that we would hire a minister for two months? Try to get some retired minister. We have a place for him to live. The collections would maybe pay a reasonable salary. I think that would be better than having a different person every week. Anyhow, what do you think?

Marshall: If there were a way of having somebody who could be committed to the island, not to the extent that Ted has been. The other thing is: How churchy should the church be? If you look at the congregants, I don't know where they sit. There are probably some pretty good Episcopal families there who would love more churchy and there other people who are on the other fringe.

Dick: This morning there were three island people there, I think three people from the island, year round residents there. It's going to be the summer people who are going to support the church, the part-time people.

Marshall: Obviously, we've become, in spite of the voting and the politics of religious groups having power, it's a more secular society and I would think that's going to have an impact here. Although, you know, the Sunbeam comes in. I don't know. I guess one question could be: will the ICDC [Island Community Development Corporation] as a secular organization replace the church in what it would have done for individuals or the whole island? And there might be in fact more energy that could be generated about ICDC because it's nondenominational and not religious.

Dick: You think from the stand point of benevolency and fund-raising, or are you talking about building more houses?

Marshall: I think the ICDC could, and I haven't really given it any thought to this until you asked the question, but the ICDC can become anything it wants and to the extent that it could then support social services if they were felt to be needed here. Do things for community members. It could. You think about something like the EMS which comes out of a different route like Diane and those people who really are enthusiastic and do a great job. In a sense, when you ask what is going to happen with things. Sometimes things just happen and there becomes a need and it may not be answered in the same way it always was answered but someone or some group responds.

Dick: Do you think it important that we keep the school?

Marshall: I probably don't if I am honest. I probably that would be a tremendous minority opinion. I don't think it's terribly important. I think though I can contradict myself because for most of the kids that have grown up here. It really is the Hilary Clinton...it takes a community to raise a kid. It isn't just the year round kids but it is the summer kids too where everybody participates and I can't speak too broadly. But, if someone is not doing what they should do, anyone of us would intervene. We are all helping to raise the kids. That might sound negative but it's also the positive like the pie sale or whatever. I in fact like knowing Payson has a child, Jason has a child, all of these kids even though I don't

know them that well give me a relationship to the island. While I don't think it is essential, it's quite important. Certainly, if we are going to attract young people, then it is absolutely essential. If the ICDC is going to continue in its efforts...

Dick: Right now, it hasn't done anything because the two families here probably aren't going to have children.

Marshall: Is that right? Well, that's...

Dick: They are at the age I don't they aren't going to have children. Anyhow, I am not sure you are in the minority opinion there. Because when you look at the \$65,000 it costs each child to go to school here. As Robert Lingley says, they could buy a boat for that and they could all be sent over to Stonington to go to school over there and they would be in a bigger and better school and everything. Anyhow, we'll see what happens. Is there anything that could be done right now to improve things on the island or we doing as good as we could do what the community and the summer people have to work with?

Marshall: As you know, I am a bit of a, not a hermit or recluse but I spend 90 percent of my time at the Head Harbor end of the island so I don't interact on a daily basis with the store. We haven't been to Stonington all summer. Certainly, the library, the town functions...the functions are important, the socials whether it's Bernie's dances or whatever. And as much that can be intergenerational is good, we don't go volleyball 'cause I don't want to get hurt. I gather that is a bit intergenerational. Anything that can be done to keep or promote exchanges between generations is good. Because, in our other lives, whether we were to winter here or Stonington or Isle au Haut or someplace else, I am sure there is a separation of generations. I think that is one of the great strengths of this place, there is a vertical integration of respect across the age spectrum.

Dick: Do you see yourself continuing to do what you've done in the past coming in May and staying a good bit of the year?

Marshall: I hope so. As you know, we are living in Washington state now.

Dick: You can't drive here.

Marshall: I can't drive here. My guess we had been coming for two months when we lived in Minnesota. My guess at least until the grandchildren in Washington get to be teenagers and need us less or perceived to want us less, we will probably cut it back to a month. That may change again and at some point, we might spend the whole summer here meaning May to November. But, I doubt it only because this is silly. The fishing isn't that great, let's be honest. I like to fish and I like to garden. I battle the voles and the squirrels and everything else. And so I like to fish in Massachusetts. I like to go other places and that'll keep me away from here fulltime but you never know. We're ready. We could be here. My parents were here from May through October. That would be a long time away from family. You are at that point. You come in June.

Dick: We probably won't come as much. We'll probably cut back to two months next year or two. I feel like I am missing my grandkids growing up. I don't see them to go to ball games and programs and

things. The older ones are away anyhow in college and prep school. I got two more that are in the 6th grade and 8th grade. I've got three or four more years of their life. I think they will probably go to college close by. I think they'll go to Virginia or Clemson or somewhere like that. I don't know why Margie's kids all decided to go everywhere. So, I don't get to see them much except on holidays. One is in Minnesota, one's in Arizona and ones in Delaware. The one in Delaware is probably going to go to either Williams or Bates or Carlton. Those are her three choices. They will be far away. Although Bates will be nice, it'll be close if she goes there.

Marshall: It's sound like you are maybe like me. I don't do well with. I don't think I would do well if I only saw people on holidays or things like that where everybody is supposed to be nice to Grandpa and Grandpa is supposed to behave. It's the spontaneous things because maybe when you raised children, you saw the same thing. You never know what's going to be the memory. What is that thing that creates the memory and it's often just the hanging together. And something happens...it's not going to Disney World or something special.

Dick: I agree.

Marshall: Well, you're hanging with the grandchildren as you're describing or as I am thinking will keep us away from Isle au Haut. Hopefully, they will come because we would like them to have good memories.

Dick: And they can come with you. They don't have to come when their parents can come.

Marshall: That's a little early now. Have you done that? Has Weezie or...

Dick: No, we never have. We have talked about it. But, they have never done that. Because there is always something going on...camps and other things they are doing. Right now, it seems lucky to get anyone here for a week. It's hard to do.

Marshall: I don't know what the answer is or whatever. But, I think because we bought this place and it was our place that we came. If my parents had bought this, we would probably be behaving as our children behave.

Dick: Well, I think that's going to end this now. We certainly go, or whoever wants to read this later on will get the flavor of someone who lives like a hermit part of the time.

Transcribed by: Kristen Carlson-Lewis, IAH Historical Society member