

**ISLE AU HAUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Transcript of Oral History Interview with Dan Ellis**

*Interviewer: Richard (Dick) Marks*

*Other attendee: Tom Guglielmo*

*Interview date: August 15, 2012*

*Location: Isle au Haut summer home of Dan Ellis at Point Lookout*

*Written transcription completed by: Kristen Carlson-Lewis*

**Dick:** This is August the 15<sup>th</sup> and I am here with Dr. Dan Ellis at his house with Tom Guglielmo. I am Dick Marks and we are doing an oral history on Dan for the historical society records. We are going to ask Dan some questions about his boyhood, his education, his medical career and something about his family and so forth. Then, we are going to ask about his experiences on Isle au Haut and we are going to start now.

Dan, where were you born?

**Dan:** Born in Blue Field, West Virginia.

**Dick:** In what year?

**Dan:** 1913.

**Dick:** 1913, and so I know at one point you lived in Richmond. Is that true?

**Dan:** Yeah, my father was selling life insurance in West Virginia and he moved back to Richmond and he entered the public school system there. He was the principal of several schools and in the Richmond City school system.

**Dick:** So, how old were you when you moved back to Richmond?

**Dan:** I was a youngster. As far as I know, I lived in Richmond ever since I was 3 or 4 years old.

**Dick:** How many brothers and sisters do you have?

**Dan:** One brother.

**Dick:** Is he younger?

**Dan:** Younger, 13 months younger.

**Dick:** Is he alive?

**Dan:** No, no. He died several years ago.

**Dick:** Your father was the principal primarily of the public schools in Richmond?

**Dan:** Yes.

**Dick:** So you were educated there through high school?

**Dan:** I was educated mostly in public schools in Richmond. We had two years in New York. My father went to Columbia University and Teacher's College for graduate degrees. Once in 1920 and again in 1930...I meant 1929. I graduated from high school at George Washington High School in New York City.

**Dick:** I'm sure Tom probably knows where that is...

**Tom:** Where in New York City did you live?

**Dan:** We lived around Columbia University... on Claremont Avenue and Riverside Drive near Grant's tomb.

**Tom:** Yes, beautiful area.

**Dick:** Tell me a little about your mother. Did she ever work or did she just take care of you and your brother?

**Dan:** She took care of me and my brother. Mother was born in Petersburg, Virginia which was 25 miles south of Richmond. Her name was Emily Jones. She was a lovely lady, a great mother.

**Dick:** We might be related by marriage because my daughter, Ann is married to Sam Jones who came from Petersburg. His great grandfather was also called Sam Jones and he was in the building business. He just died recently; he was about 95-96 [years old]. So, I betcha we are related in some way.

**Dick:** So your mother grew up in Petersburg and your father then was a principal all his life once he left Blue Field. He was a principal.

**Dan:** He originally sold life insurance. Let's see 1918 was World War I...1917-18. That's when he moved into Richmond into the public school system.

**Dick:** He didn't have to go [serve] in WWI?

**Dan:** No, I forget now why but maybe because he was in the school system. So, he wasn't drafted.

**Dick:** Could be! In the great depression, you would have been a teenager.

**Dan:** Yes.

**Dick:** In your 20's, right? When you were in New York?

**Dan:** I was in New York when I was 16...graduated from high school in New York City. That was June of 1930.

**Dick:** After you finished high school in New York, did you move back to Richmond?

**Dan:** Yes, I went back to Richmond. My father was a principal of the Richmond City Normal School which was a teacher training institution in Richmond and I went to Duke University.

**Dick:** Okay. Were you there with John Stanbury? Did you know him when you went to Duke?

**Dan:** John is my oldest living friend. His older brother, Albert was the president of the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) fraternity which I joined and John came along two years later. John was also a member of the ATO. At the end of my third year, the family finances didn't permit me to go back for my senior year. So, I went to work. I joined the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) and I helped build the Skyline Drive.

**Dick:** That would have been in 1936?

**Dan:** No, that would have been 1934.

**Dick:** '34.

**Dan:** '33 and '34. And then after a year of that, I went back to Richmond and worked in the Federal Reserve Bank. Out of the graciousness of Albert Sydney Johnson who was a friend of my family's, he let me take time off on my lunch hour from my bank job to go to the Medical College of Virginia and get all the necessary prerequisites to enter medical school. In 1935, I resigned from my bank job. So, I went back and finished my last two years in medicine at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.

**Dick:** So, you finished there in '38-39?

**Dan:** No, at the end of my second year under the aegis of my friend and mentor, Dr. Chester Jones from Boston urged me to transfer to the Harvard Medical School. So in the fall of 1937, I transferred from the Medical College of Virginia to the Harvard Medical School.

**Dick:** Did you have to go two years at Harvard then or one?

**Dan:** I finished my last two years and graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1939.

**Dick:** Did John Stanbury follow you up there?

**Dan:** Interestingly enough, John was two years younger than I was so when I transferred from the Medical College of Virginia, I had been out two years. So as I walked into my dormitory in Boston who should I meet but John Stanbury. So, John and I were classmates in medical school at Harvard.

**Dick:** When did you decide you wanted to go to medical school and be a doctor? That while you were working for the CCC or working at the bank?

**Dan:** No, no...I always knew I wanted to study medicine.

**Dick:** Okay.

**Dan:** I was interested in the biological sciences. My grandfather who died before I was born was a physician.

**Dick:** Did he practice in Virginia?

**Dan:** He practiced in Ashland, Virginia. He was the college physician at Randolph Macon College.

**Dick:** My father went to Randolph Macon.

**Dan:** My father was a graduate of Randolph Macon.

**Dick:** My father was born in 1910.

**Dan:** Well, Grandfather died in 1906.

**Dick:** My father went to Randolph Macon and then he went to MCV [Medical College of Virginia], we called it the pharmacy school. He never practiced pharmacy because when he got out, he couldn't get a job. So, he worked for the WPA [Works Progress Administration] instead of the CCC [Civilian Conservation Commission]. It was tough times then.

**Dan:** It was the time of the depression.

**Dick:** When you were growing up, what were your hobbies as far as sports and things like that?

**Dan:** I was never much of a sportsman. In 1920, my mother got a job as camp mother on Sebago Lake, Maine at Camp Pokomoke. And there, I was 10 years old at that time. I learned to swim and I became pretty good at swimming. Eventually, I ended up teaching swimming at boy's camps. I was a senior counselor at Camp Pokomoke and I was also a counselor and taught swimming at the Keewaydin Camps at Lake Dunmore, Vermont. So swimming was my hobby and I played tennis. But, I was never much of a sportsman other than those two sports.

**Dick:** When you finished at Harvard, did you do a regular rotating internship in those days?

**Dan:** No, I had a medical internship at the Massachusetts General [Hospital] for 18 months and then I went out to the University of Wisconsin in Madison for a residency in medicine, in internal medicine. In December, war broke out.

**Tom:** '41 or so...

**Dan:** '41. So, when war broke out, again my friend, Dr. Jones gave me the opportunity to join the Massachusetts General Hospital Unit. So, I resigned from my residency job in medicine at Wisconsin General [Hospital] and went back. I joined the 6<sup>th</sup> General Hospital which was stationed at Camp Blanding, Florida.

**Dick:** When you did your medical residency, did people do just a straight medical residency and then decide afterwards whether they wanted to go into cardiology or gastroenterology?

**Dan:** Most of them took a medical residency...and then you decided on your specialty.

**Dick:** Did you specialize at all by the time you went in the army or not?

**Dan:** No, I went into the army as a general medical officer and I served in the army for 3 years, in Africa, Italy, France and Germany. Then, I went back to Boston in 1945 and entered the practice of medicine in internal medicine - gastroenterology with Dr. Jones in Boston.

**Dick:** Was that a private practice then or was it Massachusetts General [Hospital]?

**Dan:** We were in private practice but stationed at the Mass. General.

**Dick:** At Mass. General. So, the rest of your life, you did gastroenterology?

**Dan:** Dr. Jones always reminded me first of all you were a doctor. So, I did internal medicine but specialized in gastroenterology.

**Dick:** I know at the time...I went to the University of Virginia. Some of my faculty did the same thing that you did and went as a group [during WW II] and served in Italy. Did you know Julian Beckwith? He was a gastroenterologist, one of my professors.

**Dan:** Yes, yes.

**Dick:** And Dr. Respus? He was another one, he was a little younger.

**Dan:** I knew Beckwith but I didn't know Respice.

**Dick:** All my professors, not all of them, were with a group in Italy too. You probably knew who they were when you were there.

**Dan:** From Blanding, we went to Casablanca and we were there 14 months. And then I got restless. My friends were being transferred and I asked for a transfer. I wanted to join a shock team. But, I ended up in a battalion of surgeons in the 133<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery. We served in Italy and then went into southern France. We then went up France and across the Rhine into Worms [Germany]. I ended up at Dachau prison camp, south of Munich. Then, in late 1945 when the war in Germany ended, or wound down, I went home on leave to Richmond. While I was there, the war [in Europe] ended and I went back for reassignment thinking I was going to the Pacific.

**Dick:** For Japan.

**Dan:** And an officer pointed out to me, "Well, let's see, you have so many points. Would you like to get out of the army?" I said, "What did you say?" He said, "You have enough points to retire." I said, "File my papers." So, I retired and then I went back to Boston to practice.

**Dick:** Did you stay in the reserves then? Did you have to?

**Dan:** No, no, I got out. That was it.

**Tom:** When you went to Dachau, were you one of the first in the camp?

**Dan:** The 45<sup>th</sup> Division went in Dachau and took it over. My hospital unit went in the day after the 45<sup>th</sup> Division went there.

**Tom:** So, what did you see?

**Dan:** They were dying at, about 2,000 people there, dying at a rate of 300 a day. Carloads of dead were stacked around the unit, being transferred from the northern parts of Germany where the war ended and transported there. So, it was a terrible scene but my hospital unit served for about three weeks. And then, we turned it over to the German prisoners of war to take care of the rest of the people who survived.

**Dick:** Were you stationed at a first line hospital out in the field or were you back in a larger hospital?

**Dan:** The general hospitals were [further] back. Those were first aid stations...field hospitals, evacuation hospitals, and then the general hospitals.

**Dick:** So, in those days, you had to take care of whatever came along?

**Dan:** Most of our patients in the general hospital were transferred back from the forward hospitals to the general hospitals. At the general hospitals, they were either sent back to duty or transferred to the States. When I was transferred from the general hospital to the field artillery, we were moving in the front line with the 36<sup>th</sup> division.

**Dick:** Are there any memorable experiences, obviously other than Dachau was a great experience you'll never forget...other things in the war in Africa and Italy that you remember distinctly?

**Dan:** No, my time in Africa...my experience was just like my time as a resident or intern...I was with my friends and former teachers. After I transferred from the field artillery to the evacuation hospitals, we were taking care of acute illness mostly.

**Dick:** When you started practice in '45 in Boston, what changes have taken place during your lifetime that were very significant as far as gastroenterology is concerned? What things came along that were significant?

**Dan:** Well, I have to do some thinking there. But the outstanding things when I entered the service, first there was the time of the sulfonamides and Penicillin had just come in.

**Dick:** Right.

**Dan:** By the end of the war, then, Penicillin was freely available and after that, I don't remember any...oh, the endoscopes, the gastroscopes and all were a great advance.

**Dick:** Do you remember approximately what year you were able to do colonoscopies?

**Dan:** When I went into practice, I did the colonoscopies.

**Dick:** Okay. That's a pretty universal thing now.

**Dan:** Actually, when I was there, we did mostly sigmoidoscopies. We didn't do the whole colon. It wasn't until later that we were able to do the whole colon.

**Dick:** I was taught you could get fifty percent of the cancer with a good sigmoidoscopy. You had to depend on a GI series for the rest of it. I started in radiology so I did a lot of GI series. They were pretty crude though.

**Dan:** That was a long time ago. I have been out of it for twenty years now. It's been twenty years since I retired and things have changed. It's a different ball game entirely today.

**Dick:** When did you meet Eloise?

**Dan:** When I was working in Richmond at the Federal Reserve Bank. She was a medical technician for my mother and father's doctor and I met her then.

**Dick:** How long did you date her before you got married?

**Dan:** Well, that was in 1937. We got married in 1939 when I graduated from medical school.

**Dick:** So, she was with you in Wisconsin during your residency?

**Dan:** Yes.

**Dick:** She was home while you were in the service?

**Dan:** Right. Dan, Jr. was born six weeks before I went overseas.

**Dick:** That was like '43, I guess or '42?

**Dan:** '42.

**Dick:** Okay, let's see now. We know what happened up to '45. And know about practicing a little bit. Now we'll ask some questions. How did you happen to come to Isle au Haut? When was your first visit up here?

**Dan:** That's a long story. I mentioned Dr. Chester Jones. Dr. Jones had a summer home on Sebago Lake, Maine where I was a boy camper. I met Dr. Jones there when my mother was 'camp mother' and used to play bridge with the Joneses. That was when I finished high school or at the end of my time at Duke. By that time, I had risen to be head counselor at Camp Pokomoke. I went down to thank Dr. Jones for helping me with some sick kids.

And he asked me, 'Are you going back to school?' I said, "No, Dr Jones, I haven't got money to go back to Duke. I am going to go to work." Dr. Jones asked, "What are you going to do eventually?" I said, "I had always hoped, that I wanted to study medicine." He put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Well,

Dan, don't give it up and when you go back, let me know." Dr. Jones at that time was professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

So, I worked for two years and I went back to medical college and when I went back to medical college in Virginia, Dr. Jones said, "Send me your grades." So, I took him up on his word and sent him my grades. And at the end of my second year, he said, "You ought to transfer to the Harvard Medical School." I said, "I don't have money to go away to medical school. I can finish medical school here in Richmond and live at home." He said, "You apply for transfer, we'll see, we'll get you there." He then lent me the money to come to Boston to medical school. Then, as I've already told you, he was instrumental in, after my term in Wisconsin, in joining the 6<sup>th</sup> General Hospital.

And then, after I got out of the army, I expected to go back to Richmond to practice. But Dr. Jones said, "Come to Boston and practice with me." So, I did and by that time, I owed him some money for my two years in Boston. And he said, "Well, we haven't given you a wedding present." But, he had already torn up the promissory note and said, "This is your wedding present."

**Dick:** He was a nice guy.

**Dan:** He was a great guy.

**Dick:** We have to keep on. But, I wanted to ask you. Do you remember what your tuition would have been then at Boston...at Harvard?

**Dan:** Well, I remember my tuition at Duke was \$900 a year.

**Dick:** Was that room and board, too?

**Dan:** I worked for room and board. I worked in the dining room for my room and board. I forget exactly what medical school tuition would have been.

**Dick:** Mine was \$250 a semester at Virginia.

**Dan:** I would say about it was about a \$1,000 a year.

**Dick:** So, you went into practice at Mass. General and with Dr. Jones in '45. Then, you have to tell us how you got up here.

**Dan:** I would take my family back to [Lake] Sebago for summer vacations. I invited Bob Linton to come see us at Sebago one summer. And he came, he and Emma and he said, "Well, you ought to come to Isle au Haut." I said, "Well, Bob, I have had my vacation. I can't come to Isle au Haut now. Gotta go back to work." And he said, "You come for a week." So, in 1955, Eloise, the kids, and I came up and spent a week with the Lintons in the Linton house before I went back to practice. Well, we loved it.

**Tom:** Would you like me to get you some water? You're doing all the talking.

**Dan:** Would you like some water? No, no I'm fine. Let's see...Where was I?



**Dick:** You were staying here a week.

**Dan:** Oh, we stayed a week. The next summer, we came and had our vacation in the Linton cottage. That was 1956. Well at the end, the Lintons came back. And Mrs. Eustis said, "Well, why don't you stay in the Frye cottage for a week?" So we came over here. This was the Frye Cottage. At that time, it was owned by Mrs. Eustis who bought it from Miss Frye. We fell in love with it and bought it from Mrs. Eustis in 1956. So, 1957 was really our first summer here.

**Dick:** So at that time, the John Stanburys were renting a place?

**Dan:** The Stanburys came to Isle au Haut through the aegis of Dr. Howard Means who had a place down in town. The Stanburys had been looking around in various places and trying to buy a place. But, they rented the clubhouse one summer and then eventually, they bought the place down on the east side.

**Dick:** Dr. Linton was a doctor.

**Dan:** Linton was a great doctor. He was a great surgeon.

**Dick:** He had four daughters, right?

**Dan:** Yes, he had four daughters.

**Dick:** Was Dr. Knox here then too?

**Dan:** Yes. Well, I want to tell you at that time, the Bowditch-Eustis enclave had established this community here on Point Lookout. Mrs. Eustis was Elizabeth Bowditch. Her brother, Dick Bowditch owned the Linton, what is now the Linton cottage. I don't know who preceded Sally Bowditch (Elizabeth's sister) who owned what is now the Nelson house. The Point Lookout Club was owned by Betsy Eustis but was run as a summer club. Mrs. Eustis, Betsy Eustis...when property changed hands here, the major houses were controlled by Mrs. Eustis. Her idea was to maintain it as a summer colony for friends, not as a real estate investment...and she doled it out to people whom she thought would continue to maintain it that way for their friends. There were the Eustis's, the Stiflers from Baltimore, the Kennards from Boston. Sally Bowditch owned the Nelson house and eventually sold it to the Nelsons. Bob Linton bought his house from Dick Bowditch. Bob Bradford, former governor of Massachusetts, owned what is now the Millspaugh's house. But, this was a close knit group of friends who came up here to have a vacation in this lovely spot. But then, things began to change and my generation began to die off and it transferred to the next generation. Originally, at the time we came in 1957, there were only about 12 families; it was a close knit group. Very soon by the time the next generation below me came on, it got to be 64 people.

The atmosphere changed completely...it no longer was a group of friends. Ownership was transferred to those friends who Mrs. Eustis thought would continue to keep it what it was. The younger generation put price tags on it to see how much money they could make. And that's what's happened now. It's changed entirely. As I said, there are about 64 different people making decisions as to who takes on the next house. When getting ready to unload it, they put outrageous price tags on it.

**Dick:** When you first came here, Dan was a teenager. Right?

**Dan:** Dan got work from George Donnelly who was the caretaker.

**Dick:** What did you...what did you like about the island when you first came? Other than the friendships and nice people here? What else did you like to do here on the island?

**Dan:** That's what I liked primarily about it. It was a lovely spot away from practice. I would come and spend a month's time here for my vacation. We sailed, we had a boat, we went swimming in the lake, we climbed the mountains.

**Dick:** You hiked all the trails?

**Dan:** Yup, we cleared and blazed many trails ourselves back then.

**Dick:** You played tennis?

**Dan:** Yup.

**Tom:** What do you remember about some of the old timers here? Like Gooden Grant? Do you remember any stories about these fellows? Was there any interaction between people like Gooden and Les Grant? Did you know them personally?

**Dan:** Only by name. There wasn't much intercourse at that time with the Gooden Grant generation.

**Tom:** Were any of the local people...was it more or less a separate, independent and largely insulated community from the full time community?

**Dan:** It was when I first came here.

**Tom:** I see.

**Dick:** Who was the preacher then? Was Ted's father the preacher?

**Dan:** Ted followed his father. His father was the original pastor.

**Dick:** When you came, his father was the preacher?

**Dan:** No, as I remember it, Ted has always been the minister here as far as I remember it.

**Tom:** Was his style more or less like his father's style?

**Dan:** I never knew his father.

**Tom:** Oh, you never knew his father.

**Dick:** Did you have to do a lot of work on this house when you bought it?

**Dan:** Well, we did do a lot of work. The porch went all the way around and we enclosed the porch and built what is now our dining room. That's the work we did on it.

**Dick:** You did that a long time ago. You just had to maintain it since then.

**Dan:** Yeah well. If you really want the dates... (silence as walks off)

**Tom:** Is this a diary of the house?

**Dan:** Yeah.

**Tom:** Is it possible... could we make a copy of that?

**Dan:** You could but this a diary and our guestbook.

**Dick:** There's a whole lot of stuff in there.

**Dan:** First summer in Isle au Haut was 1954, first summer in new house...1957, the big news of 1959 was we had a new boat...let's see, I was trying to think of...George Donnelly retired in August of '72.

**Dick:** When you first came, who was running the mail boat then?

**Dan:** There was no official mail boat. Stanley Dodge was a lobster man. We wanted to get from Stonington to here, we'd contact Stanley Dodge. As I remember, his fee was something like 25 cents.

**Tom:** How did you contact Stan Dodge?

**Dan:** Either through people that were here or wrote him a line. There was a post office here then at the clubhouse.

**Dick:** In those days, did Mrs. Eustis have a caretaker or more than one caretaker like you do now?

**Dan:** No, George Donnelly was the caretaker. George Donnelly was the caretaker and he retired in 1972 and Bob Turner took over.

**Dick:** Do you remember when it went from just an operation by lobstermen until when the mail boat began a regular schedule?

**Dan:** No, I don't. I might find it in here.

**Dick:** Did you think Fred was responsible from the beginning? Fred Eustis? Was he responsible for running the boat?

**Dan:** To tell the truth Dick, I'm not sure.

**Dick:** Okay. That was a long time ago.

**Dan:** Fred would know.

**Dick:** Was there a store when you come here or did you have to bring all your food over?

**Dan:** Well, there was a store but I forget when Marie Noel took it over.

**Dick:** Okay.

**Tom:** What are some of your fondest memories here?

**Dan:** Well, that's a hard question. It's been a glorious time. My wife was with me until 1999. My memories are of the friendships we had...we had a closely knit group... Bob Linton was senior surgeon at the Mass. General. He was instrumental in my coming here. Soon thereafter about 1957.... Butch Donaldson bought the clubhouse from Mrs. Eustis and he had five kids and his wife. The Stiflers were from Baltimore and they were ensconced down there. The Knoxes were in their house, and uh...

**Dick:** Was Dr. Myers here then, too?

**Dan:** The Meyers came later. The Meyers were friends of ours and the Donaldsons. And they acquired the farm from Mrs. Eustis. I forget just what year that was.

**Dick:** He was on the staff at Mass General?

**Dan:** Yes.

**Dick:** He was a cardiologist.

**Dan:** Yes.

**Dick:** So, obviously, did you even think of not coming here every summer for a month? Would you ever go somewhere else for that month or would you always want to come here?

**Dan:** Always come here.

**Dick:** And look forward to it?

**Dan:** Yeah. By that time, I owned the house and this was vacation.

**Dick:** It was vacation.

**Dan:** To get back to your question, there isn't any one thing that stands out. This was a lovely grand place to come and be with my close friends in a lovely spot. I loved to play tennis and I loved...we had a boat.

**Tom:** And you worked with some of these people, right?

**Dan:** In the winter time.

**Tom:** In the winter time.

**Dan:** Sure.

**Tom:** These were very close friends of yours, professionally and personally. You spent time with them in the summer? And their family, their wives and children.

**Dan:** The Meyers, the Stanburys, the Donaldsons, the Lintons...we were close friends the year round.

**Tom:** Wow, that's wonderful.

**Dan:** That's the way things have changed. In those days, we were close friends. And then we made friends with the Knoxes and the Stiflers. They were from Baltimore but now it is different, very different.

**Tom:** Were the children also very close year round? And have they remained friends?

**Dan:** Not as much. Well, you take the Donaldsons, they had five kids and they all married and have kids now. And the same is true of the Nelsons. And the Lintons have four daughters and they have grand children and great grandchildren.

**Tom:** It's complicated.

**Dan:** It's complicated. It's no longer the close knit group that was meaningful for us the first years we were here.

**Dick:** Now, would you say the majority of the people who go to that church here are summer people?

**Dan:** Yes.

**Dick:** Was it always like that?

**Dan:** No ....well you ask if it was always like that. I don't know what it was before we came.

**Dick:** In your life time here on the island?

**Dan:** That's a problem now you know. Ted's not going to be here any longer. They have to find somebody to replace Ted. They've never paid Ted anything. He's always given his services. He has always been a mainstay in maintaining the island group and I don't know what is going to happen now to the church. Last Sunday, you know, most of the people there were summer people.

**Dick:** Right. So, you think that's one of the things we have to worry about down the road? Do you see other problems here? Do you think the boat's is going to be maintained forever, the store and all those things?

**Dan:** Marie Noel came along and ran the store and put a lot of her own money in it. Now, she's given that up. I have grave concern about what's going to happen. At one time, I don't know how many natives were living here year round and lobstering here. But that's all changed now. There are only 5 or 6 people winter year round whom still lobster here. The rest of them have moved to Stonington and I don't know how long the community is going to be able to maintain itself.

**Dick:** Tom, do you have anything else you want to ask?

**Tom:** No.

**Dick:** This has been very enlightening. I have really enjoyed it. I've been waiting to do it a long time.

**Dan:** I told you how I happened to come here. The Bowditches originated and maintained the community and Point Lookout and ran the club as a vacation spot. You find out from Fred who was the lady who ran the clubhouse. I can't remember her name before the Donaldsons bought it. The thing that was most meaningful was, it was a spot where my close friends and colleagues in the winter time came and had vacation here.

**Tom:** it must have been wonderful.

**Dick:** Do you remember when Mr. Bowditch or whoever gave the land for the park, for Acadia Park?

**Dan:** No.

**Dick:** Was it like that when you came? Or did that happen later?

**Dan:** It's always been that way ever since I've been here.

**Tom:** Would you like to add anything in conclusion to this statement here, to this interview any memories, anything you would like to share with posterity here?

**Dick:** Any suggestions to improve things?

**Dan:** What I feel most keenly is what I've already alluded to...the philosophy of the Bowditch/Eustis clan. This was a community of friends and they wanted to maintain it that way. When they transferred ownership to friends, they invited friends and transferred ownership to those people who they felt would maintain it, what we had. That has now changed. You take the Sprague house on sale for over a million dollars and prices on places for sale down in town for members of the club, over a million dollars. I hate to tell you what Mrs. Eustis gave me this house for...\$ 3,000. When it came time to pass papers, Gus Eustis, Mrs. Eustis's husband said, "You don't want to do that, that's giving it away; you don't want to do that. You ought to charge twice that much." Mrs. Eustis said, "I told him that was what it was and that is what it will be." I am sure that's what she sold the clubhouse for and I am sure that is what the Knox house went for. Peanuts! Now, these kids when they sell, they want to sell it for how much money they make...it's a very different philosophy.

**Tom:** Well, there's a lot more people involved too like you were saying.

**Dick:** Dan, we surely thank you very much. We appreciate it.

**Dan:** You were great to do this.

**Dick:** It's fun for us.

**Dan:** Somehow you can instill in people you talk to that this change in philosophy of rather than selling it to friends who would maintain it, what the Bowditch and Eustis hope would be maintained, is different now...they need to get over this idea of how much money they can make with this.

**Dick:** Well, Dan, I think the economy has answered some of your fears because things are not selling for what people ask for them. Most of them are selling for less than half. ..

**Dan:** I am sure of that.

**Dick:** Thank you again.

**Tom:** Thanks for sharing those war time experiences. They were really quite wonderful.

**Dan:** I had an easy time during the war even when I joined the field artillery of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division. We were fighting our way up through Italy and southern France. The 36<sup>th</sup> Division was having a pretty easy time. In the field artillery and most of the things I had to take care of were first aid or bad colds or malaria or things like that.

**Tom:** Not at Dachau?

**Dan:** No, not at Dachau, that was a different proposition, that was a terrible experience.

[This concludes the oral history interview with Dr. Dan Ellis.]