“Graveyard at the Castle Harbour Golf Course, Mr. Chauncey Smith & Others”

Oda Mallory (OM), Bishop Chauncey Smith (CS), Mr. Frasier (MF), David Ralston (DR)

**Side 1**

*Sounds of vehicle*

OM: *laughing*. I got myself a bloody toy

…huh? Hit the brake? Oh I see. Okay.

Oh this is it right here, I see it right here. You’ve got to get your camera on.

Right here.

Looks like it.

No, I know what I’m going to, I’m going to learn to play golf. I’m gonna learn to play golf. I’m gonna learn to play golf, that’s it.

It won’t roll anywhere? Yes it will.

Look you’ve got somebody up there.

Nothing to pull up. They don’t pull anything up for the brake, isn’t that something.

MF: Actually you do, as you step up.

OM: Nice. I’m going to learn to play golf, that’s it. Stop smoking, and take the money and learn to play golf.

Now he’s going down.

MF: Well the boundary of the graveyard is rather small.

OM: Oh, that’s the whole boundary?

MF: Yeah, this is it.

OM: So how wide do you think it is?

MF: About twenty yards wide…

OM: Twenty?

MF: About 15-20 yards wide, I would say.

OM: And this must be a good 100…

MF: This is about 120ft…

OM: 120 ft, yes I thought it was.

MF: And there’s probably about, I think there’s 15 graves, we can count them exactly.

OM: Yes there are, 15, 15…

MF: Now, back prior to ’84, I really came in to the golf side maybe for a week. When the hotel was closed we had some time to do a few little things that you wouldn’t usually do, quietly. And one of the things we did is we came down here and just put a machine through here, and cleaned out, it was all overgrown. Trees were grown up… So we cut it back. And you know the tornado that came through and the hurricane that came through..So we really chopped everything back. We keep it like this, we have no reason to but…

OM: Yes, Castle Harbour are the people who do keep it…

MF: We keep it like this because, it’s hallowed ground and I think that it should be kept like that.

OM: Well, what it looks like to me, is, that these were the old fashioned tombs. They’re above ground. Right? And they had tops on them.

CS: They all had tops on them…but you see that one...

OM: But from the hurricane…

CS: You see that one down there?

OM: Yes.

CS: I believe that that would have been the height. This seems to have been built up at least one quart, to me. Seems to have been…Perhaps this would have been the height!

MF: I don’t know much about, old graves. Hmm the golf balls…

OM: Oh I’m sure you get plenty of those…

CS: Now when grandpa was buried…

OM: Your grandpa was buried to the north

CS: Pardon?

OM: Your grandpa was buried to the north of the graveyard, around the corner here.

CS: He would have to be in this area here.

OM: I see. Now what was your grandpa’s name?

CS: We used to call him Grandpa Tommy.

OM: Tommy?

CS: See, but I think his name was probably could have been Thomas.

OM: Alright. Umm…

CS: Now seemingly, um, with the exception of this broken in, whatever happens the folks have kept their promise in keeping this place…

OM: Mowed.

CS: Mowed.

OM: Yes…but so who is responsible for the graves?

CS: For the graves, seemingly, there was some sort of agreement with the…

OM: With the church.

CS: With the church and the government and seemingly, that we, that when we was transferred from here to Harris Bay, as we call it now. And they had promised to keep it. For instance, now the tops is gone, I don’t know what happened to the tops, but they were supposed to keep it in good repair…

OM: Yes, I would think…

CS: And I’m almost sure that the Bermuda Development Company built these walls around here…

OM: Oh did they?

CS: Because we had no walls to show our outward boundary there.

OM: I see.

CS: Yeah.

OM: So, so , what it appears to me is that over the years, hurricanes, mini storms, tornadoes have in fact blown the tops of the tombs in. That’s what it looks like to me. Do you understand?

CS: That could be…

OM: For instance, you have a big tree, if a big tree falls down on top of the tombs then it would break the top in…

CS: Break the top in.

OM: Okay?

MF: There must have been cedar trees down here.

CS: Um…

OM: Yes, huge cedar trees was down in here, look at that.

MF: This is all solid ground here, this is…

CS: That’s solid

OM: Yes

MF: I think this is the extent of the graves, I don’t think there’s any back up in here. It’s too solid.

CS: No I don’t think it was either. Because I kept looking to see if I could definitely identify Grandpa’s tomb, and it certainly had to be, there.

OM: Mmm…

MF: Yes…

OM: Um, so tell me this Mr. Frasier, these tombs cannot be made to look like real tombs? Is there anything against the, the…

MF: Well I can’t speak to that. I would think that, since the…

OM: It’s one of two things the way I see it. It’s either they completely take them away or, make them look like…

MF: I don’t think so, hallowed ground is hallowed ground. Probably what should happen here is they should be kept as they are. I think they should be kept as they are. Uh, whether you go and put tops on them or not, I don’t know. But as I was saying, the property situation here is a little bit complex, I don’t know an awful lot about it, from the time that the Furness Withy people took over the development. But somewhere in those agreements, I don’t know I’ve never seen one, I’ve seen a lot of paper but I’ve never seen any agreements, but our position as far as the golf course is concerned is that we would keep these…

OM: Would keep the grounds…

MF: To the best of our ability. I would love to see a plaque or something up here. Stating that it…

OM: You would like to see…?

MF: Oh yeah, I’d like to see…You know we don’t have a lot of places marked out as historical sites in Bermuda. This is what, tourist like this kind of thing.

OM: People like historical sites…

MF: Yeah tourists like these kinds of sites. And you see people just now stopped…

OM: They’re wondering…

MF: Yeah and they love that. And we’re getting short of these kind of places in Bermuda. And I think we should keep it like this. And whether or not it’s brought back – and I don’t think anyone would object to the graves being brought back to their original state -- but I don’t know what it means at this point, I don’t know…As I was saying before, some of our people who have been here a long time claim that during the war this area was a camping ground. It’s uh sheltered on all sides, so people had tents down here…

OM: I see…

MF: People lived down here, and they probably had a few drinks and they came down here and a grave was cracked already or something, so they decided to poke around with it. You know how people get.

OM: Yes.

MF: And we’re left with this. But I see no reason why it can’t be properly, and brought back to the best of its ability…

OM: Right…

MF: If my mother and father were buried down here, or my grandfather was down here, I’d probably be down here tomorrow putting a roof on it, you know?

OM: Exactly, that’s the way I feel about it.

MF: Sure.

OM: Um I understand that it’s about 120 years old.

MF: Is that right?

CS: It must be all of that because…

OM: He’s 80…

CS: I will be 80 in November and as far back as I can remember it was here.

MF: So it’s at least 80 years old.

*laughter*

CS: I’m sure of that. It may be at least 120 years old.

MF: There must be an old ordinance map or something that it’s on, going back that far. Our property maps are pretty recent.

OM: Mhmm

MF: I guess they’re…

OM: Well, because I don’t know this but I’ll ask you this, and if you can’t answer, you can’t-- on your map is there, are the graveyards designated? Is it shown on any…

MF: It’s not designated as a graveyard.

OM: It’s not…

MF: No, it’s…

OM: Show it as a graveyard…

MF: This particular area that you’re in now, this whole bit out here, is designated as a preserved open space…

OM: Aha, a preserved…

MF: You know, so there’s no way anything could be built out here anyway.

OM: Yes, mhm.

MF: But I, think things like this should be removed. Who does it I don’t know. I would think the Church could make some representation to the owners of the property. There should be some kind of agreement where the Church takes on certain responsibilities and we do our bit. Certainly as long as I’m here, we’ll keep it like this. I mean, this is not pristine, but there are a lot of graveyards in a lot worse state than this in Bermuda.

OM: Hey…that’s right…

MF: The Royal Naval Graveyards, up there, they don’t keep them as well as they should.

OM: Yeah…But, but, the tops are on. The tops are on the graves up there. You know to have, I think, to have an open grave…

MF: Mhm

OM: To me boarders on being somewhat sacrilege.

MF: No one seems to know when the tops came off these graves.

OM: No.

MF: I’ve never found anybody yet who can tell me when the tops were on and when they weren’t on.

OM: I see.

MF: But I get the impression from the boys that are older around here and who have been working around here for a long time, that there was some, certainly was somebody messed with the graves back in the ‘40s.

OM: I see.

MF: I don’t know…when was the last time you were over here back in those days? Do you remember anything?

CS: Back in the ‘40s… I’m trying to…

MF: Did you live down here?

CS: Oh yes, I’m going to show you where I was born.

OM: You were born down here.

CS: Oh yes, I’m going to show you when we go back where I was born…

MF: You were over this way were you?

CS: No my people lived right in the immediate, the very next house across there, my people lived there. And Blondell’s husband’s mother was born just on the hill here.

MF: Yep, well I’ll be darned. *Laughs*

CS: That’s why I wanted to come out here, because I have a first-hand memory…

MF: I personally, my people came here in the 40’s. My mother and father came here after the war. And um, David’s been out here since the 50’s, late 50’s. And I remember Bermuda being a lot more characters. And a lot more memories, and a lot more people.

OM: Yes…

MF: And I see we’re getting a shortage of those, and I think that’s why we need to keep these things…Dave, we’re on the camera here. David Ralston…

OM: Hi, Mr. Ralston…

MF: David…

OM: David, David, I see. Hi, I’m Blondell

DR: I know that.

*Laughter*

CS: I’m Bishop Smith.

DR: Are you any relation to Tussy and all these guys?

CS: Tussy…

DR: Cuban Smith? He was moved out of here a long time ago, or his family was…

[Static on tape]

OM:[inaudible] named after famous musicians. Like George, and how many…Jim Woolridge.

DR: When it comes to my guys, you know the guys that have been round here a long time. I’ve been here 26 years with Castle Harbour…

OM: I see, okay….

DR: You know Gilbert and Pookie and Cecil Burgess, you know Cecil? Cecil was born over by the little stables right there.

CS: There was a little cottage, had to work there for his father. Forman of the stable.

DR: That’s right, that’s right. Well Cecil always told me a story about Aunt Dinna. You heard about Aunt Dinna?

CS: I’ve definitely heard the story about Aunt Dinna, because she was really my auntie.

DR: Oh she was? Okay, alright yeah.

OM: Your blood aunt.

CS: My blood aunt yes.

OM: Aunt Dinna.

DR: Well she left a curse on here…

CS: Well…

OM: Did she?

*Laughter*

MF: Uh-oh…

OM: Did she?

DR: You don’t know about it?

CS: Well they say that, but I’m religious and I don’t believe in certain things.

DR: Oh okay, alright, but you did hear that there was a curse at some point?

CS: Yes…

OM: But you can tell me about it…

DR: Well Cecil used to tell me about it. Cecil always used to say to me, David if you don’t keep that graveyard clean, then Aunt Dinna is going to put a curse, you know, or a curse is going to come to pass, for Bermuda Properties. And the curse was, and it wasn’t Bermuda Properties then it was…

OM: Furness Withy…

DR: Bermuda Development Company…

OM & CS: Bermuda Development Company…

DR: So what they said was, if you don’t keep it clean David, anything bad that befalls Bermuda Properties today will be your fault.

*Laughter*

DR: That’s right…

OM: So, hence…

DR: I’ve taken it literally all these years. Can’t sleep some nights…

OM: That’s right, so you make sure and keep it tidy…

DR: I also said to Cecil, that it is my intention, if it is slaves that are buried here right, you know…

CS: I don’t think it was slaves buried here…

DR: if it was, it’s my intention to be buried here too, because I’ve been a slave at Castle Harbour for twenty six years.

*laughter*

MF: I’m going in next to him…

*Laughter*

MF: Seventeen years so I’m not far behind him.

OM: I see, I see…

MF: But anyway, the tops on these…

DR: See that’s what I was telling you, you see my guys say to me that during the war, you know when the troops were stationed in the hotel right, you know? They tell me, and you know this is second hand right, they tell me, they say that some of the service men exhumed the graves. I don’t know what for, or why they would do it. Maybe it was pranks, maybe it was anything, I don’t know. This is what they tell me…

OM: Mhm

DR: I suppose it’s a possibility…because some of them are kind of low down. If you take the ones over there for example...

OM: Yes, I see that…

DR: The ones up here, you know, but I don’t know. I’m not quite sure on the legality of finding out what’s in there.

CS: Yes…

OM: Yeah…

DR: You with me? So we don’t touch them, we just, kinda…

MF: Go around them…

DR: We just keep the stones about them and kept them reasonably clean. That was all that was done to them…

CS: All those coffins were cedar.

OM: They were cedar coffins, I’m sure, yeah, in those days.

DR: Well they wouldn’t take the cedar then because there was plenty cedar then. You didn’t need to steal cedar then. But today you need to steal cedar.

*Laughter*

OM: Yes, yes…If anyone wants to buy them I have two huge cedar trees laying in my yard and they won’t give me any bids for them. But I don’t need them, because you’ve got to get them milled…

DR: That’s where the expense comes in…

CS: That’s right…

OM: So you might as well let them go as is. Beautiful cedar trees. Give me a bid…

MF: And there’s no numbers or anything on these...

OM: No I see that, I’ve been looking for numbers…No numbers.

MF: It looks to me like they were finished at one time. Because that looks like it’s…

OM: Yes. This is a finishing. Definitely a finishing…Yeah this is a finishing, got to be.

DR: But yeah, looking at them, I mean you guys are not disappointed, am I right. Apart from the graves…

CS: Well no…

OM: No, I’m disappointed, I’m not disappointed about the…I’m pleased that the Castle Harbour have seen fit to mow the lawns. I am pleased about that. But what I’m disappointed about is, that these are human beings that were buried here. You understand? I mean for instance if you had a pet dog, and you had him for twenty years, and he died and somebody came to visit your home and they said, “Well where’s Rover?”, and “Well he died, I buried him over there”…. Do you understand what I’m saying?

DR: I understand…

OM: Well in this case, someone somewhere is saying, oh my grandmother and grandfather, I don’t know I think they’re buried *over there* somewhere. You know, to me it’s not the way you treat human beings…

DR: My only counteract to that is that we…

OM: You’ve kept your side of the bargain…

DR: No we’ve also tried to find out who was in there, right, you know?

OM: Oh have you?

DR: Do you know Jimmy?

OM: Jimmy Smith?

DR: The writer. You know he’s a school teacher at…

OM: Yes, I know Jimmy. Yes, yes…

DR: Because Jimmy and I used to play soccer together. You know, twenty years ago, and I talked to Jimmy about it. And there was one other person who did some research on this…I’m not sure if it was Eva…

OM: No it’s not her, because she didn’t know anything.

DR: The Chained on the Rocks person?

OM: Chained on the Rocks, did he?

CS: It could be Cyril because Cyril has something in his Chained on the Rocks, and I said if I had been with Cyril I would have helped him with his writing.

OM: That’s right. I see, well I have that book, I’ll check it.

DR: Well Jimmy did a little bit of research on it, and he told me the best place to find it was down in the Archive. Like look you know, that’s not my thing right?

OM: Not you’re department…

OM: I do think the tops should have been put on them

CS: As far as I’m concerned, with the exception of the tops not being put on here, these folks have kept their side of the bargain.

OM: I think, I think, sure they have…

CS: And that hedge they have planted…

DR: Sorry?

OM: Oh the hedge is new?

CS: The hedge, the hedge too. We didn’t have a hedge here.

DR: Well there’s always been a hedge here as long as I’ve been here, 26 years.

OM: Really? Oh I see.

DR: There’s always been a hedge and all we’ve done is just…

OM: Trimmed…

DR: Trimmed back, yeah.

OM: But one other thing too: don’t you think they could have put a nice gate across here?

DR: That’s true yeah…

OM: A nice wrought iron, a nice wrought gate, with a little sign saying, whatever it is…

DR: I must confess that we had plans to put something, because you’ve got a lot of people passing here, a lot of golf balls in here…

OM: And wondering what it is, right…

DR: I mean it’s not unique in a golf course you take some jollies it’s the same thing (???) But there is this small piece down here. And about two or three years ago I was supposed to put a plaque up…I didn’t want to put a plaque up if I didn’t know what I was talking about.

OM: Yes that’s true…

DR: And I didn’t want to put a plaque up if it wasn’t accurate.

OM: That’s right…

DR: So therefore , what I tried to do, I tried to research it. I went to see a couple of old, an old lady down in Devil’s Hole, right because everything is by word of the mouth…

OM: That’s right…

DR: You see there’s nothing. Now if there’s something concrete, now someone told me, now who was it…Spooky, Lionel Paynter, you know Lionel Paynter? You know Evadni Paynte?

CS: Oh yes I know Evadni…

DR: Evadni’s husband

OM: Lionel…

DR: He’s not like Evadni…

CS: Lionel he wouldn’t know. But Evadni probably… You see Lionel came from St. George’s…

OM: Oh okay…

DR: That’s right. If you look at, Spooky told me something about, he wouldn’t be surprised if there’s some person down here, an old guy who has records from the church, under his floor boards…

OM: Uhuh…

DR: You know how you get all these stories, you must know…

OM: Under the floor boards, I get enough of those stories…

*Laughter*

DR: I mean there’s a possibility that somebody somewhere might have records from the Church, right you know, that would date that far back.

CS: We have friends, forgot his name, but he’s been going into the Archives and he’s got a beautiful list of the names of people that were here…

OM: Yes, oh he does?

CS: Yes

OM: He’s got the list?

CS: He’s got a list of the people that he’s been able, to go into the library or someplace. He may not have a list of the people who are buried here, what I would have to do…

OM: You told me that you have an Aunt…

CS: Aunt Dinna…

OM: Aunt Dinna buried here, who else was buried here?

CS: Jonathan, Jonathan Smith.

OM: Jonathan Smith, yes…

CS: And there’s another, IJ Smith…

OM: Aunt Ellen.

CS: Yes…

OM: Your father is buried here? No…

CS: No my grandfather…

OM: Tommy Smith was buried here…

CS: That was my grandfather…

OM: Okay, Tommy Smith. Israel, which is IJ Smith…

CS: Yes…

OM: And Jonathan Smith…

CS: Jonathan Smith.

OM: So we’ve established three people so far.

CS: And before I get home …

OM: And you’re aunt Ellen

CS: Aunt Ellen yes…

OM: Who was a Talbot…

CS: No no…

OM: Who was she?

CS: Formally a Talbot, but married a Smith…

OM: Right she was a Talbot, married Smith…

CS: Yes.

OM: Uhuh.

DR: That’s a lot, because you know the ones that moved- excuse the expression, moved, were moved-

CS: Yes, were moved, that’s proper…

DR: From Tucker’s Town to Harris Bay, right. These are the ones, most of them are Smiths and Talbots weren’t they?

OM: That’s right, or Burgesses…

DR: Or Burgesses…

CS: Smiths, Talbots or Burgesses.

MF: We probably have a lot of people working in the hotel that are relatives around here…

DR: What’s her, Kristy, Kristy Stevens

CS: Who’s in the hospital right now…

DR: But Kristy didn’t stay down here longer than anyone else did she?

CS: No… Tony Trott.

OM: Tony Trott.

MF: But they still keep their boats in Tucker’s Town. We’ve got a lot of moorings…

DR: Yeah they’ve still got them here

CS: Kristy used to go backwards and forwards; he used to stay down here but he lives next to me now…

MF: He okay? He’s a good friend of mine. He taught me how to fish.

CS: Oh is that right? Now I go to see him at least twice a month, and he doesn’t know me now, but he’s my next door neighbor.

MF: Oh, how old is he now?

CS: I think he must be hitting 90.

OM: Oh really…

CS: He must be hitting 90 because he’s much older than me…

MF: I’ve got pictures of him…

DR: You know who might know, Charlie Armstrong…

CS: Oh yeah, Charlie might know him.

DR: *whistles*

CS: But there’s another man who might have some good information is Charlie Moniz.

DR: Charlie Moniz that’s right.

OM: Yes…

CS: Charlie Moniz because he did a lot of work down here, as a contractor at the Mid Ocean Club in these houses around here.

OM: Did he?

MF: It sounds like you’re getting to this just in time.

OM: Sounds like it doesn’t it…

MF: A couple more years and there wouldn’t be anyone around to talk about it.

OM: That’s right. Fine.

DR: There’s one old lady just opposite the Mars, just opposite the Marsden Church right?

CS: Mini Parker?

OM: Yes, I want to have her, talk about her…

DR: She, she’s quite old now…

CS: Well she’s nearly 90 too.

OM: And is she able to…

DR: I went to see her a couple of times…

OM: Yes…

DR: But both times I was there something happened and I couldn’t, you know… I got in the door right, and there was nobody there…

CS: I see…

DR: So you know…

OM: There was nobody else there?

DR: You see I think she’s in England now isn’t she?

CS: Well the last time I was to Church there with them…

DR: She was there?

CS: Less than a year ago, she was at service. But she walked slow, I think her sight is failing her…

OM: Oh I see…

DR: Sits on the porch most of the time. The last time I couldn’t, you know the last time I went…

CS: But I think her memory is still, still functioning…

DR: Look I must admit…

OM: Look out, don’t fall into that grave, I mean really…

DR: I might be a foreigner here Blondell right now, it must be really interesting, you have all these guys telling you these super stories…

OM: Let me tell you something, after 26 years, there is absolutely no way Jose, if I’ve lived somewhere for 26 years, that they’re going to tell me I’m a foreigner, you know what I’m saying.

DR: Let me tell you something, Bruce called me, and said “Call Blondell”. I said you want me to call Blondell with my accent, after 26 years they’re going to say…

MF: And we were a little nervous about talking to you because, you can get on the air and say things…and people take them wrong…

OM: Yeah, yes it can be mis-

MF: So it’s better to get your facts straight before you start talking about it. And I think well David can take her round here and show her…

OM: In reality the lady who did call, and balled me out, I think she had gotten a bull by the tail. In other words, I didn’t say that I was going to gather up all my friends and relatives and march down here and do something. What I said I would do was simply assist. I’d research it and assist the Marsden Methodist Church to go about whatever it’s all about. That’s the correct way to do it... Boy, but she was an-gry…

MF: Oh there’s another grave there…

OM: I think this is, yes see, see there’s a whole line. See that line along there?

DR: What you should find out from me Blondell, if you wanted me to help, and I’d be quite willing to help right, you know…

OM: You will?

DR: Yeah because…

OM: Give me your full name again…

DR: You don’t need my full name, just David that’s all you need, no full…

MF: Ralston, I’ll know how to find him…

DR: You just say David; you don’t worry about the names

OM: Now what I plan to do tomorrow morning is, thank you, and Dave, and I need your occupation title. I’m sure it’s director of environmental affairs for the, [laughs], for the Marriot Castle Harbour, some big…

*Laughter*

OM: Oh, he’s the golf director; I told you he was a director of something. That is the biggest you can, the highest you can go. Especially when…

DR: You want my card?

OM: Sure what’s yours?

MF: It’s probably a one dollar bill…

OM: Director of Golf, yes. Which means that you are responsible for all of the grounds and everybody. You have a staff of how many under you?

MF: We have 24 on the grounds staff…

OM: Yes...

MF: And about another 10 in the golf shop area, in the golf operations area.

OM: Really …

MF: There’s about 40 people that work directly, that associate, we don’t quite work that way, we work under what’s called man-hours. I borrow his man hours. He charges me a lot of money…

OM: He does…

MF: This gets paid for by the golfers that come to play out here.

OM: Oh I see.

MF: The money goes back in the pot and it gets paid for. So tell them all to come play golf and their paying for it.

OM: Yes…

DR: See I was just going to say, if you wanted me to help, right you know, and it was a possibility that there was nothing illegal about it, right, you know. And you wanted us to select say one, eh, site and say okay is there something in here. I don’t mean…

OM: Okay…

DR: I don’t mean exhumation. What I’m talking about is exploration, right?

OM: Right.

DR: Okay.

OM: Well I now have to go, to the Marsden Methodist Church…

MF: Yeah…

OM: To find out from the Trustees what information they’ve found. I won’t be able to get to them today.

MF & DR: No…

OM: But I’m sure I’ll be able to pick up a lot of information tomorrow morning…

MF: You can get them going tomorrow…

OM: Yeah I think I’m going to get them going in the morning.

MF: Let’s just show you a few things over here…

OM: Fine.

MF: Dave why don’t you drive the car through.

CS: Isn’t it some ruins of a building here?

MF: Not over on that side…

CS: No no, I remember when we used to come by here, oh yes, and there used to be a lovely grape vine. I remember when the place was occupied. We used to pass through here. Coming over in this area. Pass through here…

MF: You’re sure he doesn’t mean the house over there?

CS: No no, I lived in that house over there, what you’re talking about.

DR: Did you? There’s one over there too…

MF: The one that’s a ruin now beside the little house…

CS: Yeah, the one that’s a ruin now; the one that they built onto…

DR: You’re talking about, ah, there’s another one just like that…

OM: So you say there’s a hole over there?

DR: There’s another one over there outside of the fairway, with two foundation like things.

CS: Yes…

MF: There’s a lot of foundations…

OM: So there must have been little buildings.

MF: Lots of them around here.

CS: Yes, small buildings!

OM: I see. Well let’s face it now those people, probably, they were probably inhabited. Because in those days they didn’t have much money. So they could build a one room place.

DR: That’s right, yeah…

OM: You understand? Because you had a one room school house down here…

DR: That’s right.

OM: So, more than likely, a man would probably, his father would probably give him a patch of land and he would build a one room place.

DR: Didn’t Cecil’s mother, she was a school teacher right?

CS: She was a school teacher yes.

DR: She taught down here or…

CS: She taught, no she didn’t teach down here. No we had, down here in the 20s, early 20s. Andy/Amy Burchall, we had Oslington Francis, which is a nephew of…Oslington Francis…

OM: We’re not in the way are we, of balls?

MF: You never know…

CS: Um, Dean Furbert’s. Dean Furbert’s uncle taught school down here.

OM: Yes. Did he? Okay…Do you know something, I don’t know if anyone else has noticed this. But nowhere else on the golf course did we pass little flies. Have you noticed we have flies just hanging here in this spot.

CS: If you stood over there a little longer perhaps you’d find…

MF Blondell, you see that plant? That attracts flies…

OM: Yes, oh it does?

MF: The flowers in that plant are very very very….

OM: But we always used to call these flies that are hanging around here, graveyard flies.

MF: Oh yeah? Could be yeah…

DR: No, there’s flies all over this place…

OM: Oh, mmm…

MF: It’s the first real warm day.

OM: That’s true, that’s true. Yes, yes.

DR: Let’s just go around the back…

OM: Alright Mr. Ralston, I mean David.

MF: Take the key out of it…

DR: I don’t need the key out, this is like the olden days.

OM: Yeah. Oh, there is a key on there! I was driving this you know…

DR: Really, you enjoy it?

OM: I loved it. I loved it. I didn’t know it made a reverse. *Laughs*. I love it. And you’re the pro. Who’s the pro?

DR: Kevin Benevides. I look after the golf course…

OM: Okay you can go ahead…

DR: No go on, drive it. I’ll follow behind and make sure you’re alright. That’s the brake and that’s the gas.

OM: He told me, he told me. [engine starting]. Okay where is it?

[talking muffled by engine]

MF: …there was a roof on this place. You know, somebody was in there, cooking up baked beans or something… There’s two of them here.

That’s the old church there.

OM: [remembering she left tape recorder in the golf cart] My tape recorder. He didn’t tell me what this building was.

[rustling noises as OM rejoins group]

CS: We was just on the other side of the road, just across here. Now, Blondell…

OM: What was up there?

CS: You told me that Iris(??) Burgess…

OM: Yes…

CS: Mother…

OM: Her grandson is my son.

CS: Is your son?

OM: I was married to her younger son.

CS: Well this is where she lived. In this area right here.

OM: Really?

CS: Iris(??) Burgess…

OM: There was a house up there too?

CS: Oh yeah.

MF: There was a ruin up there until about seven or eight years ago.

OM: And she was born there?

CS: She was born there. She lived there…

OM: Isn’t that something …

MF: The foundation is still up there. We had to knock it down because it was dangerous.

OM: Yes yes yes.

CS: Let me see if I can give you some of the names, there was um, Georgie Burgess. Maybe you don’t remember…

OM: How about George Woodson Burgess?

CS: No he’s a different fellow altogether.

OM: A different fellow, okay.

CS: And I know him quite well too. Or I did know him quite well.

OM: What was this building down here in the trees?

DR: Was that an outhouse?

CS: That was…

OM: Was that another house?

CS: Yes but that’s what I was trying to tell you about Burgess; his name was Clarkson Burgess…

OM: Yes…

CS: And he had, a son named Georgie Burgess, which is deceased, but um um, Clark Burgess…Lionel Darrell…Let me get it straight so I can give it to you.

OM: Right, I’m going to get all the information from you.

CS: Clarky Burgess, and his son…Georgie… And Denny Darrell and Wida Smith.

OM: Yes…

CS: Wida Smith…

OM: I’m heard that name.

CS: Yes, Wida Smith. If you go back now, Wida Smith she has a son now, we call him Pond Chick. He fishes out of Flatts. His name is Wesley.

OM: Okay.

MF: Pond Chick…

CS: He’s a fisherman. He’s got a boat off of, that fishes out of Flatts here.

DR: Did he hand in his pot?

CS: No, I don’t know.

DR: Is he one of the six? *Laughs*

CS: I can tell you a little better – a little more not a little better – there is Hazel, Hazel Darrell…I’m just trying to think of something…

OM: I’m going to tell you what I’m going to do now. Mr. Frasier is really doing me a favour. And has to take people to the airport…

MF: Yes I’ve got to go to the airport…

OM: So we’re going to go is go back to the yard and pick up my car, and come back. On the public road; this is public road over here?

MF: Yeah don’t worry, just come down on the other side…

OM: And we can just follow the signs, and then I can give all my questions…

MF: You can show her where the chapel was.

OM: Yes, but in the meantime, Mr. Frasier has to go back. And I mean, he is a VIP…

MF: Oh no I’m not…

OM: V-I-P…

MF: I’m just a worker.

OM: And when you come at him – oh look can you tell me, Mister, before we go, what is this here?

CS: That is something that we had to hold the telephone pole…

OM: Years and years and years ago?

CS: No that’s not years ago, that’s recent. That’s recent.

MF: Nice try, Blondell…

CS: Blondell, we had no electricity down here…

MF: That’s right…

*Laughter*

*[end of tape.]*

**Side 2**

OM: …his little shop, where is his little grocery shop?

CS: Underneath the…

OM: Underneath the house…

CS: Yes.

OM: Okay, fine, yes, yes.

CS: Yes. Now if you hear me talk about the place where I was born…

OM: Yes…

CS: That place right there; that’s the place where I was born. Right there.

OM: Right there, yes…

CS: Now that place was built for a parsonage for the African Methodist Church, which hsd been demolished just behind there., you know…

OM: Yes, behind there?

CS: Just behind there…

OM: Okay. What was that other little building right there?

CS: Now that is something that’s been brought in and it is a pump house for the…

OM: Oh I see, so that wasn’t a part of the

CS: No no, it wasn’t a part of that…

OM: Okay, fine.

CS: The water from that big white catch…

OM: Catchment, yes…

CS: It comes right down as far with gravity, and then it’s pumped and dispersed all over Tucker’s Town…

OM: Okay, tell me something, are those original buildings right there?

CS: No.

OM: They’re not original?

CS: No, no, those building have been built since the Bermuda Development Company came in.

OM: Oh okay.

CS: But now up where they told you that David lives…

OM: Yes…

CS: That used to belong to my uncle Henry.

OM: Yes.

CS: Yes…

OM: I see…

CS: Now but he lost that. When they built this church over here, he put up his property as a…

OM: Collateral…

CS: Collateral. And they was too slow, paying the money back, and as a result…

OM: He lost it…

CS: He lost it.

OM: Okay. Alright, I’m with you. I understand that.

[car doors close]

CS: If you look up here you’ll see a house on the hill…

OM: Tell me something. Is this a public road right here?

CS: Oh yes. Yes. Oh yes.

OM: Now this Benjamin Talbot, he had a shop and he hired two thirds of the people…

CS: Just about…

OM: Yeah I’m got “about”…And he had a shop, and it was a grocery shop.

CS: A grocery shop… I think he sold, no he didn’t sell dried goods here.

OM: Okay.

CS: Because we had a merchant…

OM: Like groceries and haberdasheries?

CS: Yes, yes. Small wares.

OM: Right. Okay. Anything else you want to tell me about this…

CS: Can you see the house on the hill there to the right?

OM: Right here, yeah…

CS: He owned that – you know they have been enlargened –

OM: Oh yes, I understand that

CS: Now this place here, how I came to be born there…

OM: Now you were born at the…

CS: Parsonage, yes…

OM: Um, okay…

CS: The African Methodist Parsonage…

OM: Oh, you were?

CS: Yes…

OM: Okay, why were you born at the parsonage?

CS: Well because, my grandfather…

OM: Yes…

CS: Built- was a mason there…

OM: Yes…

CS: Assisted by my father.

OM: Yes…

CS: And um, it wasn’t quite finished but when my mother was pregnant with me, they let her live there and help to pay for the, you know, they didn’t pay my grandfather all the money he had charged, but my father was able to live there, to have to work that…I don’t know how to say that…

OM: To work out the debt I guess…

CS: Yes, work out the debt…

OM: Okay fine, no problem, got it…

CS: Now I was born 1910, November the 5th.

OM: 1910, November 5th…

CS: Yes…

OM: Would you believe that my mother was born two days after you?

CS: Is that right?

OM: November 7th, 1910…

CS: Isn’t that something.

OM: Yes. So you were born the 5th of November, 1910. That’s right. She’s born the 7th of November 1910.

CS: Isn’t that something…

OM: She’ll be 80 this year…

CS: And so will I. Isn’t that something

OM: Mhm, two days…

CS: Now who were you before you got married?

OM: I was a Rattery.

CS: Rattery?

OM: Rattery. My father was Fred Rattery. They used to call him Red Billy.

CS: There was a Rattery, a Reverend Rattery…

OM: Yes, well Reverend Rattery was an uncle…

CS: An uncle…

OM: Yes he was a great, great, great uncle…Yes, yes. Alright, here we go. Now we’re off and running…

CS: We can speed on now.

OM: Okay. Now I’ll tell you what I’m going to do, I’m going to come back, because there’s only so much that I can do in one particular day.

CS: Yes. Mhm…

OM: You understand? So I will come back after I, say Monday or Tuesday, I’ll come back Monday or Tuesday, and we will do what we have to do.

CS: Do what we have to do. I will try to make a note, if we can get together, and we will try to set a time that would be convenient…

OM: Okay, because is there anymore out here for me to know about or that’s about it isn’t it…

CS: Maybe, maybe…

OM: I feel like I’ve got to turn around here and come back.

CS: I was going to say maybe in the next ten minutes you can know about as much as you’re interested in…

OM: Right, okay. What I know, I don’t think I will because I’m running. I’ve got to go to this wedding, this young lady; I’ve got to go to this child’s wedding.

CS: Mhm, okay, well we can go…

OM: Or else I’m going to be really, really, really…

CS: Don’t get…

OM: Mmm, yeah…

CS: Because right in this immediate area, this is really historical here…

OM: Where?

CS: Right in this immediate area.

OM: Oh, yes? What do you want to tell me about it? Is that the bridge?

CS: Well I’ll come back with you – that’s the bridge… I’ll come back…

OM: Wait, wait a minute now, let’s see…

CS: He missed the shot…

OM: Did he miss it? *laughter*

CS: I have some fond memories of my childhood…

OM: Yes, I’m sure you do! Yes indeed. I know…the disappointing part for me is these people [tape cuts out]