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Behind the Apron Project: William Bourne Interview, April 15, 1997

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WEBVTT

00:09:39.000 --> 00:09:43.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: And, what are the jobs that you have besides on the farm and tobacco work?

00:09:43.000 --> 00:09:44.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: None.

00:09:44.000 --> 00:09:45.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: That's it?

<i>William Bourne</i>: That's it.

00:09:45.000 --> 00:09:53.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Okay. [[laughs]] What do your children think about you shucking oysters? Have they ever--

00:09:53.000 --> 00:10:06.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: Well, no. No.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: -- gone with you to shuck oysters?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Um, now let me say, I took care of 'em all my life by shucking oysters and workin on the farm. But, now adays, they'd rather for me to cut 'em up and eat.

00:10:06.000 --> 00:10:12.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK

<i>William Bourne</i>: And they'd rather not do it.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Did any of them shuck?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Ah, no.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: No. OK

00:10:12.000 --> 00:10:18.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: But they've had shucked 'em.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: They had?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Yeah. [[?]] shucked oysters

00:10:18.000 --> 00:10:30.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK. Ah. Where did you shuck oysters at? What was your first job at the Oyster House?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Magninet

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Magninet?

00:10:30.000 --> 00:10:38.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: Magninet at Parker Wharf

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Parkers Wharf?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Parkers Wharf.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK. How many oyster houses in the area now?

00:10:38.000 --> 00:10:46.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: Only one

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: That's

<i>William Bourne</i>: That's the s...

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Denton's

<i>William Bourne</i>: Yeah,

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Denton's

<i>William Bourne</i>: Denton's

00:10:46.000 --> 00:10:54.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK. Was it more than one when you first started?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Yeah. Two

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Two. Was that Denton's and...

<i>William Bourne</i>: Denton's and Magninet over at Parker Wharf

00:10:54.000 --> 00:11:07.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK. When you, ah, shuck oysters each day, what do, I mean, what do you do first? What do you need in order to shuck oysters?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Huh?

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: What do you need in order to shuck oysters? What type of tool or equipment?

00:11:07.000 --> 00:11:14.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: Well, you need a knife, apron, that's all.

00:11:14.000 --> 00:11:19.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK. When you shuck do you stand, sit, or what?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Stand.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: OK. What's your hours?

00:11:19.000 --> 00:11:26.000

<i>William Bourne</i>: Ah, we only do four hours now.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Four hours.

<i>William Bourne</i>: About four hours.

00:11:26.000 --> 00:11:33.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Why's that?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Well, ah, we used to shuck all day, say 'bout ten hours a day.

00:11:33.000 --> 00:11:46.000

They finally got too much on the shelves, span that and all, so they cut it back to half a day. And now we only doin four hours, cause we don't get

that many oysters. For us it's [[?]].

00:11:46.000 --> 00:11:53.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: What's the racial make up? Is it all black, white or? What's the racial make up?

00:11:53.000 --> 00:12:06.070

<i>William Bourne</i>: Well, now, it's Mexicans. First it was mixed, white and black.

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: When you first started, how many black shukers was there?

<i>William Bourne</i>: Oh, my God



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