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Behind the Apron Project: Christine Gray Interview, 1997

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WEBVTT

00:02:38.000 --> 00:02:51.000

<i>Christine Gray</i>: Well, the different is, [[laughs]] they're all very fast shuckers. They'll keep you on your toes. But there's no way that we can keep up with them.

00:02:51.000 --> 00:03:08.000

And one thing that I like about it, I think they saved our jobs because if it was just dependent on a few of the African-American [[?]] men he wouldn't have been able to fill his orders. So I have no problem with them being there.

00:03:08.000 --> 00:03:16.000

The only problem I have I can't talk Spanish![[laughs]]

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Okay. What's the age range of the workers?

00:03:16.000 --> 00:03:30.000

<i>Christine Gray</i>: Let's see I'm a think the youngest would be about 20 and the oldest I think is 80-something. There's one woman there who's in her eighties.

00:03:30.000 --> 00:03:35.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Is that Mrs.--Chase?

<i>Christine Gray</i>: --Sorelle, Hannah.

00:03:35.000 --> 00:03:40.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Okay. Are there many young people there?

<i>Christine Gray</i>: No.

00:03:40.000 --> 00:03:53.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Why do you think there's not a lot of [[tape cuts out]]

[SILENCE]

00:03:53.000 --> 00:03:58.000

Okay, you ready Denzelle?

<i>Denzelle</i>: [[little child]]Huh

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: You ready?

<i>Denzelle</i>: [[little child]] Aha.

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

00:03:58.000 --> 00:04:01.000

<i>Christine Gray</i>: She says sit still.

00:04:01.000 --> 00:04:14.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Okay. Who's the fastest shucker at the oyster house?

<i>Christine Gray</i>: Oysters? On oysters?

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: At the oysters or clams.

00:04:14.000 --> 00:04:23.000

<i>Christine Gray</i>: Well, now, now that the Mexicans are there, the fastest girl went back home. She gone back to Mexico.

00:04:23.000 --> 00:04:28.000

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

<i>Christine Gray</i>: She got to at home, back there in the winter.

00:04:28.000 --> 00:04:35.000

And she got married in February. So her husband sent for her to come back home. He need somebody there to cook and clean for him.

00:04:35.000 --> 00:04:48.000

And she made \$25,000 last year shucking clams. I guess with clams and picking crabs together. And. But it's now that some of the other girls are--beginning to be just as fast as she was.

00:04:48.000 --> 00:04:51.000

They all very fast. I don't know how they move their hands so fast.

00:04:51.000 --> 00:04:55.000

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Who taught them how to shuck?

<i>Christine Gray</i>: Norman.

00:04:55.000 --> 00:05:01.549

<i>Shelia Montague Parker</i>: Okay. He taught one and they just taught the others, or--?

<i>Christine Gray</i>: No, he came round and worked with each one of them.



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